History 1301.005 – U.S. History to 1865

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Office Hours MWF 11:30-12:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An educated citizenry is crucial to the success of our nation. In order to better understand the present, educated persons must have an understanding of the past, of where they have come from, of how they have lived, and of why things developed the way they did. Historian Henry Steele Commager put it this way: “A people without history is like a man without memory: each generation would have to learn everything anew -- make the same discoveries, invent the same tools and techniques, wrestle with the same problems, commit the same errors.” As such, this course seeks to provide you with a basic knowledge of the roots and development of American history through the end of the Civil War. Key ideas will include notions of citizenship; war; power and oppression; resistance and revolt; equality, liberty, and order; and how writing has made things happen.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

• demonstrate critical thinking by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information, gathering and assessing information relevant to a question, and analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information;

• develop communication skills by interpreting and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication;

• demonstrate personal responsibility by evaluating historical choices and actions, and relating consequences to decision making;

• develop social responsibility by identifying intercultural competence and civic responsibility in past regional, national, and global communities.

Course Materials

Document reader: Foner,Eric, Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History Vol 1

Additional readings and documents will be provided on Black Board.
Graded Assignments

**Document Analysis: 15%**

**Book Analysis 15%**

**Participation 5%**

EXAM 1 15%

EXAM 2 20%

EXAM 3 30%

Document Analysis: You will read five primary documents from *Voices of Freedom* and write a page analysis. You will be provided with a separate handout that outlines the specific instructions and requirements. These five short papers will make up 10% of your total grade.

Book Analysis: You will read the book *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs. This book is easily accessible for free online. I will provide you with a link to a site where you can download or read on your computer or mobile device. You will write a five-page paper analyzing this book and connecting the content to important themes and points we will discuss over the course of the semester. You will be provided with a separate handout that outlines the specific instructions. This assignment will count for 15% of your total grade.

Participation: You are all adults and responsible for attending the lectures and keeping up with readings and assignments. Attendance will not be recorded. However, throughout the semester you will participate in unannounced small group activities. These activities will require you to turn in an assignment that can only be completed in class. These assignments will count for 5% of your total grade.

Exams:

Most of this course’s points are earned through three exams. All three exams will consist of the following format, matching and essay.

Matching items will consist of ten brief definitions pertaining to significant, people places or things discussed in lectures and readings. You will choose the correct answer that best matches the definition from a word bank of fifteen to twenty terms. The matching portion makes up 30% of your exam grade.

70% of your exam grade is based on the essay portion. Two essay prompts will appear on the exam. You will write an essay answering all parts of one prompt. To do well on these essays you must provide a detailed answer that includes critical thinking and utilizes evidence from readings and lectures to support your conclusions.

**Classroom Policies**

You are expected to treat your fellow students with all guidelines outlined by Student Code of Conduct. Please respect the professor, your fellow students and yourself.

Technology can be both beneficial and extremely distracting to your success in this class. If the professor finds that your use of electronic devices is distracting you will be asked to put away your phone, computer, tablet etc.
We will use BlackBoard for communication, posting grades, course materials and assignments. YOU MUST USE BLACKBOARD! You can access this iol.tamucc.edu

**Disabilities Accommodations**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final
grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals.* These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

Course Calendar

*GML = Assigned readings in Give me Liberty*

Week 1 Aug 27-31 Introduction GML Chap 1 Sec Pg 3-29

Week 2 Sept 3-7 England and Colonial America GML pgs 38-66

Week 3 Sept 10-14 Origins of American Slavery and Growing Tensions GML pgs 72-166

Week 4 Sept 17-21 The American Revolution Origins and First Shots GML 167-191

**EXAM 1 Friday September 21** (Bring your Bluebook)

Week 5 Sept 24-28 Founding a Nation (Growing Pains) GML 193-219

Week 6 Oct 1-5 The Early Republic GML 222-247

Week 7 Oct 8-12 The Changing American Economy GML 251-266

Week 8 Oct 15-19 309 Slavery in the Nineteenth Century GML 311-337

Week 9 Oct 22-26 Andrew Jackson GML 285-310
SECOND EXAM FRIDAY OCT 26

Week 10 Oct 29-Nov 2 Abolitionism, and American Women Raise Their Voices  GML 339-362

Week 11 Nov 5-9 Growing Country and Growing Tensions GML 364-381

Week 12 Nov 12-16 The Coming Secession Crisis GML 383-400

Week 13 Nov 19-23 Secession Cont.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS NOV 23

Week 14 Nov 26-30 America’s Bloodiest War GML 401-440

Week 15 Dec 3-7 The Civil War. And Conclusions

READING DAY NOV 5

FINAL EXAM WED DEC 12 11AM to 1:30 PM