Instructor: Dr. Beth Robinson  
Class meetings: T/TH 12:30-1:45pm // EN 107  
Office Location: Faculty Center 253A  
Office Telephone: 361.825.3385  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: beth.robinson@tamucc.edu  

- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please also use professional language and include your full name, section number, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in nonresponse.  
- Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.  
- Please address emails to “Dr. Robinson.”  
- Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 24 hours, but between the regular business hours of 9am-5pm. If you do not receive an email within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email inquiry. If you email over the weekend, I will respond on Monday morning.  
- Please keep copies of e-mails that are sent and received for records purposes.

Grader: Shelby Kasberger // skasberger@islander.tamucc.edu  

NOTE: In October, instruction of the course will shift to Dr. Chris McKinny.  
Email: charles.mckinny@tamucc.edu // Office Hours: TBA

Course Description  
This course is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States from colonial settlement to the end of the Civil War. This course is not concerned with the memorization of dates, the names of (in)famous Presidents or even what to think about America’s past, but rather one that seeks to help you learn how to think about the past. We will try to understand what history means to citizens of the 21st century: how do we understand it, why does it matter, and can our understanding of our own past change the present and possibly our future?

The course will explore several themes within the history of the United States, but will center on the overarching idea of freedom. What is this idea of freedom and what is the story of its evolution? People have not always viewed freedom as a principal value for a society or a government to possess, but now we think of it as essential. What is the story of freedom? How have various peoples been involved in the struggle for freedom? How have they altered its meanings over time? In following the course of these struggles, we will examine how Americans chose to define this idea
as well as how they left a difficult and mixed legacy that we must understand if we are to make sense of freedom in our own lives.

Several alternate themes will also emerge concerning America’s promise of freedom: the connection between national politics and everyday life; the intriguing and often perplexing relationship between slavery and freedom; freedom’s role in U.S. foreign relations as well as the conquest and settlement of “frontier” regions on the North American continent.

It is important for you to know that the story of U.S. history is not always an attractive one; additionally, it is rarely, if ever, a simple narrative. And yet, we live in the world that this story created. We should know how this story began.

**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 writing, 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.

**Required Texts**

3) Additional sources will be posted on the course Blackboard page.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance.** One or two absences for serious illness or other genuine emergency may be unavoidable, but more than two absences can be severely disruptive both to your own learning and to the intellectual development of the other members of the class. The material covered in lecture is essential to doing well on the exams. I do not post or share notes or PowerPoint slides. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. You are responsible for signing in during each class.

**Participation.** You are expected to have read material closely and to come to class prepared to raise and answer questions, to contribute thoughtfully to discussions, and to listen and respond to the contributions of others in a respectful manner. Occasionally, you will work with small groups on minor assignments. These will be collected and factored into your attendance grade. They cannot be made up.
**Reading:** The goal is to read material closely and carefully. I have deliberately kept the amount of assigned reading reasonable with the expectation that the reading is done thoroughly and thoughtfully.

**Graded work:**
- Reading Responses: You will turn in short “response papers” most weeks that analyze primary sources. Responses are typically due by 11:59pm CST on Wednesdays. These must be submitted as .doc/x or .pdf files to Blackboard. Shelby Kasberger will grade these.
- Quizzes: Most weeks, you will complete multiple choice quizzes for the assigned chapter(s) of *Give Me Liberty* covered that week. These are typically due by 11:59pm CST on Mondays via Blackboard.
- Exams: You will take three multiple-choice exams testing your mastery of the assigned readings, films, and lectures. These will be administered through Blackboard.

**Grade Breakdown (out of 400):**
- Attendance/Participation (40 points)
- Reading Responses (100 points)
- Reading quizzes (50 points)
- Midterm 1 (60 points)
- Midterm 2 (70 points)
- Final Exam (80 points)

**Late Work/Make Ups**
I will not accept any late assignments, though you are welcome to submit them early. Please give yourself plenty of time to familiarize yourself with Blackboard before the first due date. If you need an extension due to an emergency, you must email me your request at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the instructor or as mandated by law or university policy.

**Academic Integrity**
By enrolling in the university, students are automatically agreeing to abide by its policies, including those on academic misconduct. Academic integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the TAMUCC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are serious academic offenses. Penalties include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow citation practices. For more information, consult the Student Code of Conduct: [http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/handbook.html](http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/handbook.html)

**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).

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**
The schedule is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

*Give Me Liberty!* (Foner) // *Voices of Freedom* (VOF) // *Blackboard readings* (BB)

**Week 1: August 28 & 30 // Introduction to the course // “A New World”**
READ: Foner, Ch. 1
- VOF, Father Jean de Brébeuf on the Customs and Beliefs of the Hurons
- VOF, *Adam Smith, The Results of Colonization*
- BB, *de las Casas on Spanish Treatment of the Indians* (film clip)
**Week 2: September 4 & 6 // Creating an Anglo America**
READ: Foner, Ch. 2 & 3
  - VOF, Nathaniel Bacon on Bacon’s Rebellion
  - VOF, Women in the Household Economy
  - VOF, Gottlieb Mittelberger on the Trade in Indentured Servants

**Week 3: September 11 & 13 // Freedom and Slavery**
READ: Foner, Ch. 4
  - VOF, Olaudah Equiano on Slavery
  - VOF, Advertisements for Runaway Slaves and Servants

**Week 4: September 18 & 20 // The Revolution, Part 1**
READ: Foner, Ch. 5
  - VOF, Association of the New York Sons of Liberty
  - VOF, Samuel Seabury’s Argument against Independence
  - BB, Martin “Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier”

**Week 5: September 25 & 27 // The Revolution, Part 2**
READ: Foner, Ch. 6
  - VOF, Liberating Indentured Servants
  - VOF, Rush, Thoughts Upon Female Education
  - VOF, Petition of Slaves to the Massachusetts Legislature

**Week 6: October 2 & 4**
Tuesday: Review
**Thursday: Midterm exam 1**

**Week 7: October 7 & 9 // Early Republic**
READ: Foner, Ch. 7 & 8
  - VOF, Address of the Democratic-Republican Society of Pennsylvania
  - VOF, Murray, “The Equality of the Sexes”
  - VOF, Grundy, Battle Cry of the War Hawks

**Week 8: October 16 & 18 // The Market and a New American Culture**
READ: Foner, Ch. 9
  - VOF, A Woman in the Westward Movement
  - VOF, Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The American Scholar”
  - VOF, Henry David Thoreau, Walden

**Week 9: October 23 & 25 // Limits of Democracy**
READ: Foner, Ch. 10
  - VOF, Appeal of the Cherokee Nation
  - BB, Andrew Jackson on Indian Removal

**Week 10: October 28 & 30 // The Coming Storm**
READ: Foner, Ch. 11
Thursday: Midterm exam 2

Week 11: // Women and Reform Movements
READ: Foner, Ch. 12
   VOF, Angelina Grimké on Women's Rights
   VOF, Declaration of Sentiments of the Seneca Falls Convention
   BB, Marriage Protest of Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell

Week 12: November 13 & 15 // Rising Sectional Tensions
READ: Foner, Ch. 13
   VOF, John L. O'Sullivan, Manifest Destiny
   VOF, Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government” OR BB, Mark Ruffalo reading Thoreau
   BB, Desertion Handbill from St. Patricio Battalion

Week 13: November 20 // Secession
   VOF, William Henry Seward, “The Irrepressible Conflict”
   VOF, The Lincoln-Douglas Debates
   VOF, Stephens, Cornerstone Speech
   BB, Texas Statement of Secession

No class on Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving

Week 14: November 27
The US Civil War
READ: Foner, Ch. 14
   VOF, Stephens, Cornerstone Speech
   VOF, Frederick Douglass on Black Soldiers
   VOF, Lincoln, Address at Sanitary Fair BB, Accounts from Shiloh

Week 15: December 4
Course Conclusion