Course Description
As part of understanding America’s identity, this course will cover the political, demographic, social, economic, and cultural development of the United States from European-Indigenous pre/post-contact through the end of the American Civil War. Key themes will include the reasons for European colonization and colonial development; the ideologies that influenced the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution; growth and change in the nation; and the background, conflicts, and legacies of the Civil War. The course will assess the multiple and often contrasting views of history as we examine the people and events of this period.

This course takes these noble aspirations seriously; asking where and how Americans defined these concepts, whether or not they were met, and how the major social movements both reflected and forced the broader economic and political changes of the era. Clearly, then, the history of this era is very complex. A survey of American history moves quickly and covers only a portion of these questions. Measuring how well students learn this material is not an exact science, yet historians agree that developing certain analytical skills are essential. The graded components of this course are designed to strengthen these analytical skills.

Required Readings
The following text books are required and will be available at the university bookstore. They will also be on reserve in the library.


Foner, Eric. *Voices of Freedom, Volume One, 6th Edition*

Other relevant primary source document readings may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion. Handouts or links distributed in class, via email, or via Blackboard may also be required.

Required Supplies
This class will require consistent access to email, word processing software, the Internet, Blackboard, and other online resources. **Recommended obtaining**: *The Elements of Style / 4th Edition*. (approximate cost for the book is $5 on amazon.com)
Recommended to purchase your TWO unused Bluebooks at beginning of semester. Will have an example in class August 27th.

**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.

**Graded Assignments**
Two Exams (50% of final grade) will ask you to identify the significance of several key terms AND compose a single well argued essay answer supported by evidence. Formal exams require the use of a clean, unused BLUEBOOK. No other type of form will be accepted.

Midterm Exam =25%
Final Exam = 25%

Two Quizzes Based on Eric Foner’s Give Me Liberty! (15% of final grade) The quizzes will be based on the assigned readings in Give Me Liberty! and Contending Voices- during specified week on schedule. These are given as open book writing assignments in class to prepare for BLUEBOOK exam format.

Two book reviews based on the additional books of YOUR choice from our Mary/Jeff Bell library and my approval are (20% of final grade). These 2-page papers are due on the days indicated on the schedule. A handout will be distributed in class and/or through Blackboard with complete instructions.

**Grading Scale**
This course uses a standard grading scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60.

Class Participation (20%) (attendance, open writes in-class)
Two Exams (50%)
Two Quizzes (10%)
Two Book Reviews (20%) (each review worth 10% of grade)

**Classroom Conduct**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state
and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Attendance and Participation Policy**

Attendance and participation in our discussions counts for 20% of the course grade. In addition, covering half of American history in a semester forces us to move at a very rapid pace. Students who miss classes will fall behind and find the exams and assignments much more difficult. Participation means coming to class each class period ready to discuss that week’s reading and any documents we may read or examine in class. **I will take attendance** and we will participate in a variety of in-class writing activities in order to encourage discussion and writing practice. These activities will vary, but they will always be based on history readings and class lectures. **You must be present in class to participate in these activities and to receive attendance credit.** **NOTE:** No make-ups will be allowed. Do not submit work for anyone else. That violates the Academic Honesty rules.

**Other Things You Need to Know**

**GRADE APPEALS**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site 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).

**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. Last day to drop a class in the full term is Friday, November 5th.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
• Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Late Work
If you have a serious, documentable excuse, please contact the instructor about making up any missed in-class work. Assignments received after their due time and date will be marked down 5% for arriving after the due time (even one minute late) and 10% for each day 3 late. Electronic copies of essays will not be accepted. You will need to turn in your late essay during class or during my office hours.

Make-up exams will be offered to students who inform me before test time of an excused absence. The questions on the make-up exam will not be harder but the exam will not offer optional questions. Make-up exams will be offered for one week after the scheduled date of the exam. A student may take only one make-up exam over the span of the term. Student who fail the mid-term exam are encouraged to schedule a meeting with me within one week of the return of the exam to discuss their work and ways to improve their performance.

All assigned papers must be turned as a hard copy (printed on paper). No electronic submissions are accepted. All assigned papers will be lowered one letter grade for every calendar day that they are late. Even very late paper submissions will receive some credit. Failure to turn in any paper will result in a zero for that assignment. Individual grades can be reviewed with the instructor, grader, or seminar leader as appropriate. Always include: Your first/last name, class period, assignment name, and due date. Your work is a reflection of the commitment made in this class.

Please wait at least 24 hours after receiving your graded work before meeting with the grader to discuss graded materials. All final grading decisions are made by me; the grading assistants are not responsible for any final grade decisions in HIST-1302.

Writing Center The CASA Writing Center at TAMUCC, located in Room 112 of the Glasscock Student Success Center, provides free help for students at any stage of their writing process. Writing Consultants are trained to support writers in planning, outlining, drafting, organizing, and/or revising their writing and are also knowledgeable in citing sources in various
documentation styles used in academic writing. It offers both face-to-face and online appointments for both undergraduate and graduate students. The Writing Center works closely with faculty across the TAMUCC campus to understand writing in different disciplines and to help students meet these expectations. The Writing Center encourages students to make a 30-minute appointment; however, if Writing Consultants are available, they do accept walk-in appointments. Visit casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php to create an account using your @islander.tamucc.edu email address. Once you have an account, you can log-on to make an appointment.

**Late Work/Extensions**

If there is a crisis that prevents you from meeting a deadline or attending class, you can request an extension to turn the work in late without a penalty. The approval of an extension is entirely at my discretion and will depend on the reason for your absence, your record of completion of work, and attendance. All extensions must be confirmed by email.

**Lecture, Reading, and Assignment Schedule**

The following schedule describes the reading and writing assignments for the class as well as the lecture topics to be covered each day. In order for you to best understand the details of the lectures, each reading assignment should be completed before the class meets. The required reading load for this course averages out to about 40 to 50 pages per week. Beware of falling behind on reading. If you haven’t read the week’s reading when we discuss it in class, you won’t be able to take part in our discussion and earn participation credit. Note that the dates below are for planning purposes and may change depending on events that occur throughout the semester.

Lecture content will mirror reading content in a chronological outline below. Daily updates and any changes are always posted on blackboard. It is imperative that you keep up with reading assignments.

- **August 19th**  First day of class  Foner- Chapter One (A New World)  
- **August 21st**  Foner Chapter One (Voices of Freedom)  
- **August 24th**  Foner- Chapter Two (Beginnings of English America)  
- **August 26th**  Foner  Chapter Two (Voices of Freedom)  
- **August 28th**  Foner- Chapter Three (Creating Anglo America)  
- **August 31st**  Chapter Three (Faith and Reason)  
- **September 2nd**  Foner- Chapter 4 (Slavery, Freedom)  
- **September 4th**  Chapter 4  (The Price of Patriotism)  
- **September 7th**  (Labor Day- No Classes)
September 9th  Foner Chapter 5 (The American Revolution)

September 11th  Foner Chapter 5 (The American Revolution)

September 14th Foner Chapter 6 (The Revolution Within)

September 16th  Foner Chapter 7 (Founding a Nation)

September 18th  The Conflict over the Constitution

September 21st  The Conflict over the Constitution

September 23rd  Practice Quiz One

September 25th  Foner Chapter 8 (Securing the Republic)

September 28th Foner Chapter 9 (The Market Revolution)

September 30th  (The Fruits of the Factory System)- Capitalism

October 2nd  Foner Chapter 10 (Democracy in America)

October 5th  Chapter 10 (Morality- Abolitionist Crusade)

October 7th  PBS Film (The Abolitionists)

October 9th  (Mid-term Exam) (First Book Review Due)

October 12th  (Columbus Day- Class participation activity)

October 14th  Indigenous identity

October 16th Foner Chapter 11 (The Peculiar Institution)

October 19th  Foner Chapter 11 (The Peculiar Institution)

October 21st Foner Chapter 12 (An Age of Reform)

October 23rd  Film- (12 Years a Slave)

October 26th  Chapter 12 (The South and the Slavery Debate)

October 28th Chapter 12 (The South and the Slavery Debate)
October 30th Practice Quiz TWO

November 2nd (Tuesday Election Day on November 3rd) Class Participation Activity

November 4th Chapter 13 (Bleeding Kansas)

November 6th Foner Chapter 13 (A House Divided)

November 9th Foner Chapter 13 (A House Divided)

November 11th Foner Chapter 14 (A New Birth of Freedom)

November 13th Foner Chapter 14 (A New Birth of Freedom)

November 16th Film (Lincoln)

November 18th Chapter 14 (Mr. Lincoln's War)

November 20th Film (Death and the Civil War)

November 23rd (Last day of class) (Second Book Review Due) Final Exam Review

November 25 Reading Day- NO CLASS

November 26th (Thanksgiving Holiday- NO CLASS)

December 1-5, 7 (Final Exam) **Will review specifics times/dates in class.**

**Campus Schedule- (Reference)**

**Fall 2020**

**Academic Calendar-Updated**

**August 17** Faculty Start Date

**August 19** Classes begin Regular Fall & 1st 7-week session

**August 26** Last day to late register or add a class

**September 3** 12th Class Day Census

**September 7** Labor Day Holiday- Campus Closed

**September 15** Last day to drop for the 1st 7-week session

**October 7** Last day of classes for 1st 7-week session and final exams
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**Campus Safety Measures**

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- **Self-monitoring**—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- **Face Coverings**—**Face coverings** (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of
face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the Face Covering policy and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) available on the Provost website.

- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter). If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Student Conduct office for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.

TAMU-CC Face Coverings

TAMUCC Face Coverings Policy and FAQs:

https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/

Rule and Procedure:

https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf