Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
HIST 1301.005 – U.S. History to 1865
MW 3:30-4:45 p.m., OCNR 258

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COURSE DELIVERY
This course is designed as a hybrid course. One portion of the class will meet in-class on Monday, while the second group will meet in class on Wednesday. On days that students do not physically attend class, they will either view/participate via a live stream OR watch a recorded lecture covering the same material presented in class. All exams will be completed online via Blackboard. On days that students attend class, they are expected to conform to university and state guidelines for social distancing, masks, etc. Also note that students who are ill are encouraged to stay home and participate virtually.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A country without its history is like a person without a sense of self; it does not who it is or where it is going. As part of understanding America’s identity, this course will cover the political, social, economic, and cultural evolution of the United States from European-Indian contact through the close of the Civil War. Moving beyond the basic collection of names and dates, we will assess the multiple and often contrasting views of history as we examine the people and events of the period. Key themes include the reasons for European colonization and colonial development; the ideologies that influenced the American Revolution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution; the growth and changes during the national period; and the background, conflicts, and legacies of the Civil War.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Through exams, writing assignments, discussions, and short activities, students 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS
You are expected to read the assigned material outline in the attached course schedule. This will include a combination of short articles (available on blackboard) and material from an open access, online textbook called the American Yawp (http://americanyawp.com/). This textbook is free for students, but you may purchase a print copy from their website if you desire.

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED EVENTS
Exams (70%) – There will be three exams (Exam I: 20%, Exam II: 25%, and the Final Exam: 25%) in this course. Exam II and the Final Exam are not cumulative. Exam I is weighted lower to allow you to become accustomed to the format and expectations. Exams will consist of materials from lecture and the assigned readings. An essay drawn from a bank of 4-6 questions will constitute half of the exam. A review guide will be provided at least two weeks before the exam. See the review guide for more information on format; how exams will be deployed on blackboard, etc.

Daily Work and Participation (15%) – Over the course of the semester, students will complete short daily work or participation activities either in class or via blackboard. More information to come.
Critical Assessments (15%) – Over the course of the semester you will write three sets of critical assessment posts over readings supplied on blackboard. The posts are multi-part assignments that ask the students to 1) assess an assigned article by determining its purpose/argument; address how the author presented their argument; and evaluate the success of the article. 2) Students will write a response to a student who read a different argument. For details see the “Critical Assessment Posts” guidelines provided. Critical Posts are due on the dates specified on the schedule, but students may turn them in late for a reduced grade.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance – The most successful students are those who attend class, pay close attention, and take good notes while they are here. Because of the hybrid nature of the course, students will alternate between in-class attendance and virtual attendance (either livestream or recorded lectures).

Note-taking – Compiling effective notes is a vital aspect of the classroom experience. Your notes are your reference for the content supplied in class, and the more detailed they are the better you will be able to recall the material as you synthesize the information, study, and prep for exams. Despite the help of PowerPoint slides to guide you, taking notes is not always easy in a lecture setting. The slides are merely an aid and copying them will not supply enough information to do well on the exams. Please ask me for assistance and guidance with taking notes. Audio recordings can also be used in class, and students are welcome to re-watch livestreams and/or recorded lectures.

Blackboard – Blackboard is our primary electronic resource. It is where I will post a copy of this syllabus, a record of your grades, class handouts, and exam reviews. It is also where you will submit your critical assessment posts.

Communication via Email - Per university policy, I will only contact you via your university email. Remember to check it often or at least set up the forwarding feature so that you do note miss important messages. I will check my messages frequently and respond in a timely matter. Please compose emails like you would in a work setting with an appropriate salutation and closing that includes your full name. It is also good form to put your name and class time in the subject line.

Assistance – My office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. Feel free to come by during posted hours. If you cannot make these times, ask to make an appointment. I am more than willing to discuss difficulties, read draft exam materials or papers, offer guidance on reading, note-taking, and studying. You may also request to schedule a virtual office hour appointment.

Freedom of Speech – Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment during lecture. Reducing confusion, providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service by asking.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND 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 or plagiarism (passing off some else’s language, ideas, or other original material (not common knowledge) was your own). Examples of academic misconduct include:

- illicit possession of examinations or examination materials,
- falsification or forgery,
- complicity in misconduct,
- 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, their organization, and/or their language without quotation marks and proper citations,
- 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.
In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in (a zero for the assignment and a report to university).

**DISABILITY 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.

**CLASSROOM AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**
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.

**STATEMENT OF CIVILITY**
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.

**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.

**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 Thursday, November 5th.

**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
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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.

**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.

**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

**SCHEDULE***

*AY = American Yawp*

**Section I: Foundations of the United States**

| Aug 19 | Course Intro |
| Aug 24 | Clash of Civilizations |
***Syllabus Subject to Change Bases on the Evolving Covid-19 Situation***

Required Reading: *AY* Ch. 1, Ch 2, parts I, II, and III

26 Europe and the New World
Required Reading: Cullen, “James’ Town”; *AY* Ch 3, part II; Ch. 4, part III
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 2, part IV, V

31 English Colonization
Required Reading: Newcomb, “Anne Hutchinson Versus Massachusetts;” *AY* Ch. 4, part IV, V,
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 2, part VI; Ch. 3, part II, III, IV;

Sept 2 Empire Under Strain
Required Reading: Hollitz, “Price of Patriotism: Jonathan Sewall and John Adams;”
Optional *AY* Ch. 5, part II, III, IV

7 Labor Day – No Classes

9 Road to Revolution
**Due: Section 1 Critical Assessment Posts before 11:59p.m.**

14 American Revolution
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 5, part V, VI

16 Summing Up, Section I

21 Exam I – No Class Complete Exam on Blackboard

**Section II: Maturing America**

23 Forging a Nation
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 6, part II, III, IV, V

28 A Functioning Government
Required Reading: Gragg, “American History: Passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts;”
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 6, part VI, VII, VIII, X

30 America’s First Political Parties
Required Reading: *AY* Ch. 7, part II
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 7, part III-VII

Oct 5 The Democratic Republicans
Required Reading: Hollitz, “Resistance and Western Expansion: Tecumseh and William Henry Harrison”
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 8, part II, III, V

7 An American Republic
Required Reading: Rynder, “All Men and Women Are Created Equal;” *AY* Ch. 10

12 End of the Era of Good Feelings
Optional Reading: *AY* Ch. 9

14 Jacksonian America, I
Required Reading: Brown, “The Trail of Tears”

19 Jacksonian America, II
**Due: Section II Critical Assessment Posts by 11:59p.m.**
21  Summing Up, Section II  

26  Exam II – No Class – Complete Exam on Blackboard  

Section III: America in Crisis  

28  American Slavery  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 11  

Nov.  2  Western Expansion  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 12  

4  Deepening Sectional Tensions  
    Required Reading: Hollitz, “Yankees and ‘Border Ruffians’ in ‘Bleeding Kansas’: David Atchinson and Sara Robinson”  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 13, part III, IV  

5  Last Day to Drop A Course  

9  The Breaking Point  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 13, part V; Ch. 14, part II  

11  America’s Bloodiest War  
    Required Reading: Talbot, “Combat Trauma in the American Civil War”  

16  The War Drags On  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 14, part III  

18  Emancipation, Lincoln, and the War  
    Required Reading: Wickenden, “Lincoln and Douglass: Dismantling the Peculiar Institution”  
    Optional Reading: AY Ch. 14, part IV  

23  Union Triumphant; Section III Critical Assessment Posts are due before 11:59 p.m.  

25  Summing Up, Section III  

26-29  Thanksgiving Break – No School – Be Safe  

30  Reading Day, No Classes  

Dec.  2  Final Exams on Blackboard  

*The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus and the schedule of events as necessary