

Department of Humanities  
Dr. Christopher B. Davis  
Email: cdavis@sulross.edu  
Phone: 830.703.4845  
Office: Del Rio, F215  
Hours of Availability:  
M and W, 12p-4p  
F, 12p-2p



## American Diplomatic History

HST 4302  
Spring Semester 2016  
T/H – 12:30pm to 1:45pm

### Course Description

A survey of American foreign relations from the American Revolution to the present.

### Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, class discussion, and writing.

### Importance of Communication

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat.

If you cannot meet during my hours of availability you can request another time when you are available. Please just email me to set up a time.

### Readings

For this course your readings will be made available on blackboard under the course resources tab. See the day folder that corresponds with the class day listed on the syllabus.

The resources provided are for your use only for this class. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Please do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

### Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any major revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know when to obtain an updated syllabus from Blackboard.

### Grading

Reading Quizzes	75 points (15 total – 5pts each)
Writing	150 points (75 pts each – 25 for draft and 50 for final version)
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points

Your semester grade will be the number of points you receive on the items listed above divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you receive 420 points among the assignments that is 420 divided by 525 equals 0.8 or 80%. That is the minimum needed for a B in the class.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course. It is best to keep up with your scores on assignments to know how you are doing.

## Participation

This class will be interactive. I will give talks on certain subjects, but we will also discuss topics quite a lot. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

## Reading Quizzes

Roughly once per week there will be a quiz associated with the assigned readings. There will be 15 quizzes total throughout the semester. The purpose of the quiz is to encourage accountability in reading. It will not be difficult, but students will need to read the material to be able to answer the questions. Think of it as an opportunity to help your overall semester grade if you just do the reading for each class. But also remember that quizzes can hurt your grade if you do not take them seriously. I will announce which days will have quizzes.

## Writing Assignments

This class will have two writing assignments—each five pages long. Each writing assignment will be a two-week process. One week after you receive the assignment a draft will be due. Then one week later the final version will be due. For the final product your work is your own, but I encourage you to take advantage of the resources the college has available to help you with writing.

## Exams

The exams in this course will each cover approximately 1/3 of the material. Each test will be available on Blackboard one week before the due date/time. These are at-home tests that will focus on understanding rather than memorization. Please see the tests for instructions.

## Participation / Attendance

Our classes are small, so your participation is key. Please attend and be prepared for class.

## ADA Statement

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain

confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Counseling and Accessibility Services.

## Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1

January 19, 2016

- **Introduction: What is Diplomatic History?**

Week 1

January 21, 2016

- **Diplomatic Inheritance**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 2

January 26, 2016

- **Preparing for Revolution**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 2

January 28, 2016

- **Revolution and Peace**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 3

February 2, 2016

- **Forming the Republic**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - See Blackboard after class for Writing Assignment 1

Week 3

February 4, 2016

- **Young Republic in a Big World**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 4

February 9, 2016

- **New Republic Threatened I**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
    - Writing Assignment 1 – Draft Due before class

Week 4

February 11, 2016

- **New Republic Threatened II**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 5

February 16, 2016

- **First Major International Efforts I**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
    - Writing Assignment 1 – Final Version Due before class

Week 5

February 18, 2016

- **First Major International Efforts II**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Exam 1 available on Blackboard following class – due February 25th

Week 6

February 23, 2016

- **Expansionism I**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 6

February 25, 2016

- **Expansionism II**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - EXAM 1
    - Exam 1 covering topics through February 18th will be available on Blackboard following class. The exam will be due on February 25<sup>th</sup> before class.

Week 7

March 1, 2016

- **Slavery, Sectionalism, and Civil War I**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Writing Assignment 2 available on blackboard after class

Week 7

March 3, 2016

- **Slavery, Sectionalism, and Civil War II**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 8

March 8, 2016

- **Gilded Age**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Writing Assignment 2 – Draft due before class

Week 8

March 10, 2016

- **Desire for Empire**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 9

March 15, 2016

- **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

Week 9

March 17, 2016

- **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

Week 10

March 22, 2016

- **Beginning the Twentieth Century**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 10

March 24, 2016

- **World War I**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Writing Assignment 2 – Final Version due before class

Week 11

March 29, 2016

- **Post-War Dreams**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 11

March 31, 2016

- **Depression, Transformation, and Isolationism**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Exam 2 available on Blackboard following class – due April 7<sup>th</sup>

Week 12

April 5, 2016

- **Delicate Dance of Non-Intervention**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 12

April 7, 2016

- **World War II part 1**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard
- EXAM 2
  - Exam 2 covering topics through March 31st will be available on Blackboard following class. The exam will be due on April 7th before class.

Week 13

April 12, 2016

- **World War II part 2**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard

Week 13

April 14, 2016

- **Post World War II Efforts**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard

Week 14

April 19, 2016

- **Global Leadership**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard

Week 14

April 21, 2016

- **Cold War and Interventionism**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard

Week 15

April 26, 2016

- **Cold War II**

- Readings:
  - See Blackboard

Week 15

April 28, 2016



- **Late Cold War era**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard

Week 16

May 3, 2016

- **Recent US Relations**
  - Readings:
    - See Blackboard
  - Exam 3 available on Blackboard following class – due May 10<sup>th</sup>

Week 17

May 10, 2016

- **Exam 3**
  - Exam 3 will be available on Blackboard after class on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The exam will be due on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:45pm.