

History 1301.005  
History of the US to 1877  
Fall 2016  
Sul Ross State University  
Tuesday, 6-8:50pm, LH 300

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to a university-level course in U.S. History. The focus will be on the geographic, social, political, military, economic, racial, ethnic, and demographic components of the American mosaic, but will also put the American “story” in context by integrating it with the broader themes of history.

**TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED):** Shaller, et al. *AMERICAN HORIZONS*, Concise. – VOL. I.  
ISBN: 9780199740154

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

At the end of this course, the student should have a greater understanding of the history of the United States and be prepared to move on to the study of the history of the United States, post-Civil War. Upon completion of the History 1301 course, the student should have acquired the following competencies and have demonstrated them via research paper and exams:

1. Be familiar with the major geographical features in North America.
2. Comprehend the social variety present in America before the European arrival.
3. Evaluate the diversity and major causes of immigration in North America.
4. Recognize the factors leading to the emergence of a national culture.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the causes and impacts of European exploration and settlement of the North American continent.
6. Explain the institutions and structures of colonial society, and the relationships among the colonies.
7. Summarize the primary principle causes of the Revolutionary War and the major developments documents relating to the creation of the United States.
8. Recognize the significance of the westward expansion of the United States and the political, social, cultural and economic consequences of this expansion.
9. Understand the American Romanticism literary movement.
10. Appreciate the origins and key events leading up to the Civil War.
11. Explain the impact of the Civil War on the United States.
12. Comprehend the debate over Presidential versus Congressional Reconstruction, how Reconstruction worked in the New South, and how it ended.
13. Develop an awareness of museums and historic sites as places to experience history.

## **OBJECTIVES TO MEET Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) REQUIREMENTS**

By the end of the semester, any student with an 80% attendance record and a passing grade will have, via class participation, class projects, and class exams, demonstrate the following skills:

01. An understanding of the major historical points of reference in Texas, US and World History.
02. Knowledge of how individuals, events and issues helped change history.
03. Similarities and differences in Native American culture prior to European contact.
04. Causes of and effects from European contact with the New World.
05. How social, political, economic, geographical, scientific and military advances can impact society, both at large and in the daily life of the individual.
06. How cultures can change and adapt over time.
07. How historical knowledge relates to other disciplines.
08. How to ask historical questions.
09. How to locate, gather, organize, analyze, prioritize, save and communicate historical research data, not limited only to written matter but also maps, photographs, museum artifacts, oral histories and other historical primary and secondary sources.
10. Understand the difference between and the relevancy of primary and secondary research documents and material.
11. Analyze historical data, using methods such as compare and contrast, making generalizations, drawing inferences, and coming to conclusions.
12. Use historical chronology to place historical events in context.
13. Understand how different frames of reference can lead to different historical interpretations.
14. Demonstrate an understanding of the major events shaping Texas and US history: settlement, wars of Independence, the challenges of establishing representative government and writing state and federal constitutions, westward geographical expansion, slavery and sectionalism, the US Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era and the various accompanying social movements such as temperance and women's suffrage, the impact of wars such as the Spanish-American War, World War One, World War II, and the Cold War on Texan and American societies.
15. Use historical knowledge to understand and evaluate contemporary society.

### **SEMESTER OUTLINE:**

- a.) This semester will consist of 14 meetings, as well as a meeting to complete the final exam.
- b.) There will be three exams during the semester.
- c.) There will be one THREE to FOUR PAGE research paper.
- d.) There will be a COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM.

### **AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:**

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services, Contact Mary Schwartze (Office: Ferguson Hall 112) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You are expected to attend every class! If you are going to be absent from class while traveling on a university-sponsored trip, you must complete a travel authorization form and turn that in to your sponsor or coach at least three days prior to the actual trip; this is required so that you may be listed on the “Explained Absence List” which the Student Life Office prepares and sends out to all faculty. If you miss class due to illness, car trouble, a death in the family, etc., you must contact me directly **via email or in person** with an explanation of your absence. Students with excessive unexplained absences (more than three) are subject to be dropped from the course with a grade of “F”.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All work that you submit must be your own work. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated and students that are caught using the words or work of others as their own will be dropped from the class. Students that are caught cheating on exams will be given a zero for the exam.

**STUDENT CONDUCT:** By enrolling at Sul Ross State University and this class, you are assuming the responsibility for your personal and social conduct while on campus in class. In order to prevent student distraction within the classroom, electronic devices, including laptops and iPads, will not be allowed in the classroom. Cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, etc., must be turned off and kept out of sight during class. In the event of an emergency, please step outside of the classroom to make a call.

**CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR:** If you need to contact me for any reason, including missing class or missing an exam, please use the following email address: [escown@sulross.edu](mailto:escown@sulross.edu). This is the preferred method of contact. An office phone number is provided in the case of an emergency, but a student’s phone message will normal not be returned, due to the problem of “phone tag”. In an email, please include your name, the class title and a simple message stating the reason for contact. Your email will normally be answered within 24 hours; however, questions such as “what did we cover in class” will normally not be answered.

**SHORT ANSWER ASSIGNMENT:** In this course, you will have an out of class short essay assignment. Later in the semester, I will give you questions to take home and answer. I expect each answer to be at least a page in length. **NOTE:** The paper must be formatted using Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1 inch margins and must be double-spaced. **DUE NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

**GRADING:**

In this course there will be a total of THREE exams, worth 50 points each, for a total of 150 points, ONE short answer assignment, worth 100 points and a Final Exam, worth 100 points total.

The final grade total is broken down as follows:

- A: 315-350 points
- B: 280-314 points
- C: 245-279 points
- D: 210-244 points
- F: 209 points or less

## **WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Assignments/Reading:</b>
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Introduction to Course
August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 1& 2
September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 3
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5/Exam #1
September 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9/Exam #2
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 11
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 12/Short Answer Assignment is due
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 13/Exam #3
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 14
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 15

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>: Comprehensive Final Exam!**

\* Please read the assigned weekly chapter and be prepared to discuss the material in class.

\*\* The dates on the syllabus are subject to change.