

Department of Humanities  
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Hours of Availability:  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 12a-4p  
Thursday, 12p-2p



## Americas: 1600-1783

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:45pm  
Teleconference

### Course Description

This course explores the history of America before the formation of the United States up through the American Revolution. Topics will include the status of native American groups, colonial structures and policies, sentiments leading to the American revolution, and the early formation of the United States.

### Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, small teaching assignments, lectures, 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. Remember to check your email.

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

### Resources

Students will receive all relevant materials via Blackboard, so please check in online regularly to keep up to date with the class. See the folder under the resources tab that corresponds with the class week listed on the syllabus.

The resources provided are for your use in this class only. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. 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.

### Absences

You are expected to attend class. Class attendance is critical to doing well on the assignments and succeeding in the course. If you have to miss a class, be sure to work with another student to obtain good notes for that day.

### Grading

Teach-a-Topic 1	50 points
Teach-a-Topic 2	50 points
Research Project	200 points
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 540 points among the assignments that is 540 divided by 600 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A 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. This is especially important in a class that only meets once a week. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

### Writing Assignments

This class will have a research project. We will spend time in class to workshop ideas and structure. The goal is to begin early on and build the project throughout the semester. You will be expected to turn in a rough draft so I can help you craft the last version. 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.

### Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

### ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

# Class Meetings and Assignments

## Week 1

Wednesday – August 29<sup>th</sup>

- **The Americas in 1600 – Spanish America**

## Week 2

Wednesday – September 5<sup>th</sup>

- **North American West and Central**

## Week 3

Wednesday – September 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Great Lakes Region – East Coast**

## Week 4

Wednesday – September 19<sup>th</sup>

- **East Coast Geography - Establishing the Colonies – Jamestown – The Pilgrims**
- Exam 1 available after class

## Week 5

Wednesday – September 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Massachusetts Colony and Northeast – Restoration - Australia**
- Exam 1 due before class

## Week 6

Wednesday – October 3<sup>rd</sup>

- **Virginia Colony – Bacon’s Rebellion**

## Week 7

Wednesday – October 10<sup>th</sup>

- **Native American Resistance – Seeing Colonial History Locally**

## Week 8

Wednesday – October 17<sup>th</sup>

- **TBA**

## Week 9

Wednesday – October 24<sup>th</sup>

- **The Carolina Colonies – Georgia Colony**
- Exam 2 available after class

#### **Week 10**

Wednesday – October 31<sup>st</sup>

- **Colonial Interaction with Britain**
- Exam 2 due before class

#### **Week 11**

Wednesday – November 7<sup>th</sup>

- **Colonies in a Larger World System - Seven Years War (French and Indian War)**

#### **Week 12**

Wednesday – November 14<sup>th</sup>

- **Pre-Revolution Sentiments – Pre-Revolution Resistance**

#### **Week 13**

Wednesday – November 21<sup>st</sup>

- **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

#### **Week 14**

Wednesday – November 28<sup>th</sup>

- **American Revolution**
- Exam 3 available after class

#### **Week 15**

Wednesday – December 5<sup>th</sup>

- **Semester Project Presentations**
- Exam 3 due before class