

Department of Humanities
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Please email and I will typically
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U.S. History, 1600-1865

HST 5311
Online Course – Summer II 2019

Course Description

This course will focus on colonial America and the early United States. It will begin well before the foundation of the United States with an examination of the general state of Native American groups and their interaction with incoming Europeans. Then students will study topics such as colonial development, pre-revolution events, challenges of the early republic, slavery, and the factors leading up to the Civil War. The overall goal will be to understand broad trends backed up with examination of specific moments in depth.

Course Style

Activities will focus on reading, teaching specific topics, 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. Check your email regularly.

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.

Resources

For this course your readings will be made available on Blackboard under the course week resources tab. See the folder that corresponds with the class week 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. 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.

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Responses (5)	200 points
Teach-a-Topic (2)	100 points
Semester Project	200 points

Your 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 450 points among the assignments that is 450 divided by 500 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A in the class.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments are those turned in after the due date and time on Blackboard. Do not wait until moments before an assignment is due to turn it in since an upload might take a few minutes and your clock might differ from that of the Blackboard system. Due to scheduling there is not guarantee that late assignments will be accepted.

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.

Weekly Responses

This class will have five weekly responses. The goal in each is to absorb the information you have explored during the week and develop a comprehensive exploration that is unique to you. This is not a book report where you just restate the information provided. The goal is to show what you have learned. How do the sources, as a group, help you understand the topic well? What overarching themes do you take away from the sources? What specific information helped

you understand those themes in a new way? Do you see areas that you lack understanding and need to research further? More information will be provided on these assignments.

Teach-a-Topic

The goal of a teach-a-topic assignment is for you to explore a topic of your choosing and then help other students understand it well. The process is to select a topic that you want to know more about, research the topic from multiple sources, and then produce a video explaining the topic to your fellow students. More information will be provided on these assignments.

Semester Project

The semester project will give you the opportunity to explore a specific topic of interest using academic sources. The goal will be to communicate the overall story of the topic as well as the nature of the historical work being done. The idea is to give other graduate students what they need to understand the topic in a complex way. 1) What is the overall story? 2) Describe the history done on the topic. Is it an active area? What sources do historians use? Etc. More information will be provided on the semester project.

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.

Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

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 Weeks and Assignments

Week 1

July 9 – July 15

- **Native American Cultures and European Influx**

Week 2

July 16 – July 22

- **North American English Colonies**
 - **Teach-a-Topic #1 due – July 22nd**

Week 3

July 23 – July 29

- **Foundations of Government**

Week 4

July 30 – August 5

- **Road to Revolution**
 - **Teach-a-topic #2 due – August 5th**

Week 5

August 6 – August 12

- **Revolution**
 - **Semester Project Due – August 12th at noon**