

Department of Humanities
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Summer Availability:
Please email, and I will typically
respond within 24 hours.



Americas: 1600-1783

HST 4314
Online Course – Summer I 2020

Course Description

This course, as a short semester, will focus on one aspect of the period – the development of the North American English colonies. It will explore why colonies were established as well as how they differed in dramatic ways. In addition the course will examine how those colonies changed over time to influence the path of the United States once it formed.

Course Style

Activities will focus on reading, writing, and short teaching segments.

Importance of Communication

In a short semester it is vital that you stay in touch – especially if you run into any roadblocks. Our schedule and assignments are necessarily compressed, so falling behind is not an option. Contact me immediately if you hit a point of struggle.

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.

Resources

This course does not use a specific textbook. See the folder under the Blackboard weekly resources tab that corresponds with the class week listed on the syllabus.

All 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 revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know via a class announcement. Students are responsible for knowledge of all class announcements.

Participation

As a short semester online class, it is important for students to maintain focus on completing assignments. It is best to check your SRSU email and Blackboard daily to stay current.

Grading

Weekly Responses	100 points
Teach-a-Topics	100 points
Semester Video Research	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 675 points among the assignments that is 675 divided by 750 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 no 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.

Writing Assignments

This class will have five weekly write-up assignments—each 2-3 pages long. 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 along with a rubric to see how to succeed.

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 five-minute video explaining the topic to your fellow students. Please do not provide an overview video on surface information. It is better to choose a small detailed topic to give fellow students more depth of understanding. More information will be provided on these assignments along with a rubric.

Semester Video Research Project

This assignment blends elements from a research paper and a Teach-a-Topic. You will, early in the semester, select a topic to explore in depth. With this topic you will find academic resources (journal articles and books from university publishers) to read more on it. Then you will develop a research project video, like a teach-a-topic, to explain what you have learned to your classmates. See the assignment in blackboard for more detail.

Blackboard Support

The Support Desk is where you can direct technical questions regarding Blackboard. For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk:

- By calling 888.837.6055
- Via email blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard
- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

As always, academic questions about course assignments, due dates and general course questions should be directed to me (instructor).

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

Week 1

May 20 – May 26

- **Why Establish Colonies?**
 - Weekly Write-Up 1 – due May 26

Week 2

May 27 – June 2

- **Establishing the Colonies**
 - Weekly Write-Up 2 – due June 2
 - Teach-a-Topic 1 due – due June 2
 - Topic Ideas – Semester Project – due June 2

Week 3

June 3 – June 9

- **Development of the Colonies**
 - Weekly Write-Up 3 – due June 9

Week 4

June 10 – June 16

- **Colonial Relationship with Britain**
 - Weekly Write-Up 4 – due June 16
 - Teach-a-topic 2 – due June 16

Week 5

June 17 – June 23

- **The Colonies “Grow Up”**
 - Weekly Write-Up 5 – due June 23
 - Semester Video Research Project – due June 23