

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 I 2020

Course Description

This course will focus on colonial British America. 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 and pre-Revolutionary events. 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.

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)	100 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 360 points among the assignments that is 360 divided by 400 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.

Weekly Responses

This class will have four 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.

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 and Assignments

Week 1

May 20 – May 26

- **North American Native American Cultures and European Influx**
 - Weekly Write-Up 1 – due May 26

Week 2

May 27 – June 2

- **North American English Colonies 1**
 - Weekly Write-Up 2 – due June 2
 - Teach-a-Topic 1 – due June 2
 - Topic Choices – Semester Project – due June 2

Week 3

June 3 – June 9

- **North American English Colonies 2**

- Weekly Write-Up 3 – due June 9

Week 4

June 10 – June 16

- **Foundations of Government**
 - Weekly Write-Up 4 – due June 16
 - Teach-a-topic 2 – due June 16

Week 5

June 17 – June 23

- **Road to Revolution**
 - Semester Project Due – June 23