

Department of Humanities  
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Hours of Availability:  
Monday-Thursday, 2-4:30p



## America: 1600-1783

Fall 2020

Mondays – online, Wednesdays – live video class – 4:30-5:45p

### 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 powers and policies, the English colonies in America, 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 and blackboard for communications for this class and all of SRSU.

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. Remember that the live class day in this course is on Wednesday.

### Grading

Teach-a-Topic 1	50 points
Teach-a-Topic 2	50 points
Discussions	100 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 630 points among the assignments that is 630 divided by 700 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 for the Wednesday session. I will give talks for students to watch for the Monday session, and the Wednesday session will primarily take the form of a discussion. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

### Teach-a-Topic

This is an opportunity for you to explore a topic of interest and then create a video to explain it to your fellow class members. The goal is for all of our various interests to add to the material we are learning together.

### Research Project

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. 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. (The breakdown of points for this assignment will be: Ideas 10 – Source List 20 – Check In 20 – Discussion/Presentation 50 – Paper 100)

### 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.

### Blackboard Help

If you run into trouble using Blackboard (accessing resources, submitting assignments, etc.) the best source of help is the Online Blackboard Support Desk. It is staffed 24/7. Please contact them at 888-837-6055 or via email at [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu).

### Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will

be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook>

### 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](mailto:kbiddick@sulross.edu).

## Class Meetings and Assignments

### Week 1

Monday – August 24<sup>th</sup>

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

Wednesday – August 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**

### Week 2

Monday – August 31<sup>st</sup>

- **North American West – Central Plains – East Coast Geography**

Wednesday – September 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **Discussion**

### Week 3

Monday – September 7<sup>th</sup>

- **Great Lakes Indians - English Colonization – Jamestown**

Wednesday – September 9<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Topic Ideas for semester project due at noon

#### Week 4

Monday – September 14<sup>th</sup>

- **Pilgrims – Puritans – Massachusetts**

Wednesday – September 16<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Teach-a-Topic 1 due at noon

#### Week 5

Monday – September 21<sup>st</sup>

- **Australia? – New York – Bacon's Rebellion**

Wednesday – September 23<sup>rd</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Exam 1 available after class

#### Week 6

Monday – September 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Indian War Massachusetts – Glorious Revolution – Pennsylvania**

Wednesday – September 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Exam 1 due at noon

#### Week 7

Monday – October 5<sup>th</sup>

- **Immigration**

Wednesday – October 7<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Source List for semester project due at noon

#### Week 8

Monday – October 12<sup>th</sup>

- **The Middle Colonies – Carolina Colonies – Georgia Colony – Slavery**

Wednesday – October 14<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**

**Week 9**

Monday – October 19<sup>th</sup>

- **Colonial Interaction with Britain – Money – Tobacco**

Wednesday – October 21<sup>st</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Exam 2 available after class

**Week 10**

Monday – October 26<sup>th</sup>

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

Wednesday – October 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Exam 2 due at noon

**Week 11**

Monday – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

Wednesday – November 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**
- Teach-a-Topic 2 due at noon

**Week 12**

Monday – November 9<sup>th</sup>

- **American Revolution – Part 1**
- Semester project check in due – How is it going? What adjustments are needed?

Wednesday – November 11<sup>th</sup>

- **Veterans Day – No Class**

**Week 13**

Monday – November 16<sup>th</sup>

- **American Revolution – Part 2**

Wednesday – November 18<sup>th</sup>

- **Discussion**

**Week 14**

Monday – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

- **Founding a Nation – George Washington and the First Presidency**
- Exam 3 available after class

Wednesday – November 25<sup>th</sup>

- **Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. 25-27)**

**Week 15**

Monday – November 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Semester Project Work Day – Individual Consultations**
- Exam 3 due at noon

Wednesday – December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **Semester Project Discussions**
- Submit visual aids by noon
- Final paper for semester project due at noon