



Sul Ross State University
HISTORY OF TEXAS

Fall 2025

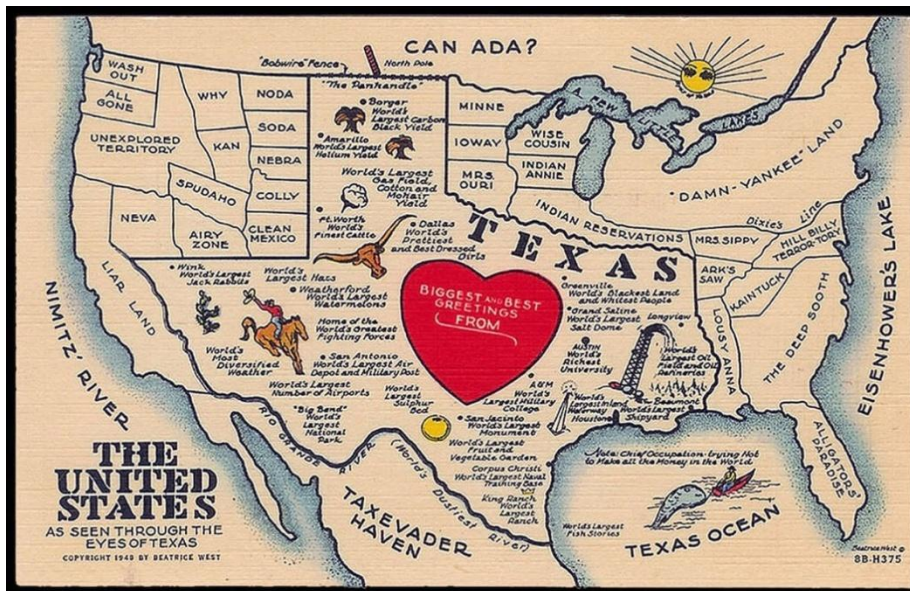
Course Syllabus

HIST 3309

Monday 6 to 8:45 PM

LH 300

non Texan : Stepping on legos
is the worst!!!!
Texan : That's cute...



Professor: Kendra K. DeHart, Ph.D.

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Office: LH 208

Office Hours: Tuesday 3 to 4:30; Wednesday 3 to 4:30; Friday by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

John Earnest Steinbeck Jr., winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, wrote, "Texas is a state of mind. Texas is an obsession." With its wide regional diversity, Texas means a lot of things to a lot of different folks. It is a unique space filled with a rich and distinct history that spans eons and still commands a larger-than-life place in American culture. This course explores the social, cultural, political, economic, and intellectual history of Texas. We will also pay close attention to how Texas influences the nation and world at large. Equally important, we will analyze the collective memory of Texas and its positive and negative effects in the contemporary world. Buckle up, y'all!

REQUIRED READINGS:

Readings will be posted on Blackboard at no cost to you.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The graduating student in history will be able to:

1. The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically-organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.
 - Marketable Skills:
 - Students will learn the importance of meeting deadlines in a successful manner.
 - Students can identify the differences between primary and secondary sources, a crucial step in developing critical thinking skills.
 - Students can learn to select and organize data in a relevant manner.
 - Students can hone their writing skills.
2. The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.
 - Marketable Skills:
 - Students can learn how ideas and interpretations change over time.
 - Students can learn how to evaluate different interpretations and ideas.
 - Students can learn how to use evidence to persuade various audiences.
3. The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.
 - Marketable Skills:
 - Students can develop a better understanding of the development of various cultures, political and economic systems, gender and race relations, and environmental change.
 - Students can develop a multicultural perspective necessary for an increasing globalized world.
 - Students can learn how to manage and absorb various perspectives and information.

The Student Learning Outcomes will be measured by the administration of book reviews and writing projects.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the physical geography of Texas.
2. Compare and contrast the diversity of the Native American tribes of Texas prior to European contact and the impact of that contact on said tribes.
3. Evaluate the history of Texas as part of the Spanish borderlands.
4. Explain the history of Texas as part of the Republic of Mexico and the Empresario Settlements that took place during this period.
5. Recognize how the Anglo settlement of Texas led to the Texas Revolution.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the full geographical extent of the Republic of Texas, as claimed by Texas and recognized by the US.
7. Describe how Texas became part of the United States and the role that Texas played in the Mexican War.
8. Explore the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas.
9. Compare and contrast the diversity of the social and economic experience in Texas during the Gilded Age.
10. Evaluate the changes in Texas society and industry during the Progressive Era, the Mexican Revolution, and World War I.

11. Analyze the impact of the Great Depression on Texas.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of Texas during WWII and the changes to Texas society associated with the war.
13. Summarize how present-day Texas emerged following WWII and the issues facing Texas at the beginning of the 21st Century.
14. Show how Texas, during the last six decades, shifted from a mostly agricultural state to become one of the most urban states in the nation.
15. Explain how Texas politics have shifted over the last century of the states' history.
16. Evaluate current Texas culture, with a focus on Texas literature, art, music, foodways, sports, leisure activities, and education.
17. Discuss some of the issues facing Texas at the beginning of the 21st century, including employment, immigration, education, politics, and urbanization.

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Contacting the Instructor:** The instructor's email is the preferred method of contact. Students should use the phone number for emergency situations only. Student phone message will normally not be returned.

All email messages to the instructor should include your name, the course you are enrolled in, and a simple message stating the reason you are contacting the instructor. During the week, emails will normally be answered within twenty-four hours. Emails that arrive late Friday afternoon, Saturday, or Sunday most likely will not receive a reply until Monday, but you may send an email at any time. Questions such as "what did we cover in class?" will normally not be answered.

2. **Make-Up Policy:** I will give make-up exams only in extreme cases. Make-up exams are allowed only in cases of documented unavoidable events that prevent attendance. Students who are unable to attend the regular exam session must notify the professor by email or phone within 48 hours and provide documentation of their emergency. Students who do not give such notification and provide documentation will not be allowed to take the missed exam.
3. **Late assignments:** Late assignments incur a 10-point penalty for every 24-hour period that passes from the due date and time until the instructor or teaching assistant receives the assignment.
4. **Your Responsibilities:** Each student has individual responsibilities that go beyond simply showing up for class and reading the assigned books.
 - a. **Mutual courtesy and respect:** Courtesy and respect for others are essential elements of the academic culture. The academic environment welcomes a difference of opinion, discourse, and debate within a civil environment, and we will all engage in mutual courtesy and respect for one another. To that end, address comments to the entire class rather than to adjacent students, and remember the Golden Rule—treat others as you would like to be treated.
 - b. **Adherence to technology policies:** In this twenty-first-century world, I recognize that many students use technology in their learning endeavors, and I welcome the use of it in the classroom for educational purposes only. That said,
 1. **PLEASE** silence all cellphones before class. If your phone disrupts class, I reserve the right to ask you to leave.

2. Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices used to send and receive calls or text messages, to check or update your status on a social network, or to surf the web, etc. is absolutely forbidden in this class. If I find a student using technology for entertainment or other purposes, I will ask that student to leave class for the day, and that student will receive an absence. I also reserve the right to ban the use of all technology in the classroom should I find students abusing the privilege.
 3. You may use a personal computer, but only if you are using the computer to take notes or access the information on the Blackboard website for this course. Students deemed not to be using a computer effectively will lose their computer privilege.
 - c. **Academic calendar and course information:** Students also have a responsibility to be familiar with the key dates on the academic calendar (such as deadlines for dropping the course and the first and last days of class) in addition to course-specific information (such as exam dates and all other course requirements as outlined in the syllabus).
 - d. **Student Responsibilities:** All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.
5. **Academic Integrity:** Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources ***unless permission is expressly given*** for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Statement on Academic Honesty: "The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."
—Excerpt from the Student Handbook

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **First Week Assignments:**

- **What Does Texas Mean to You?** This is an informal assignment. You are tasked with providing a brief description of what you think it means to be a Texan. You can either write a short paper, or you can make a collage/express your interpretations in another way.
 - **“Come and Write It”: The TSHA & the Alliance of Texas History.** On Blackboard, read various opinions on teaching and interpreting Texas history. Write a two-page reflection of your opinion.
2. **Talking to the Dead:** Students will use Google Gemini to talk to key figures in the Texas Revolution. A list of figures will be provided to you along with prompts. After asking these participants questions, students will write a 300-to-400-word summary of what they learned.
 3. **Book Review:** All students will select a book of their choosing and write a formal book review as well as give a presentation of their book to the class.
 4. **Midterm:** A midterm will be posted on Blackboard. This is a take home exam, and you will be allowed to use your notes.
 5. **Final Exam:** The final exam will be a reflection. You will select what you believe to be three important events in Texas History: one event each from Colonial Texas, 19th Century Texas, and 20th Century Texas. You will explain their significance. You will also consider why Texas has such a powerful influence in US History and in the 21st Century.
 6. **Participation and Attendance:** Please make every effort to be in class. We only meet once a week. If you miss a class, you are essentially missing 3 class periods. Excessive absences will negatively affect your grade. Each class will begin with a roll call in which students give one topic or idea they are interested in learning about within the given week’s topic.
 **Note: Primary and secondary readings will also be assigned on Blackboard throughout the semester. These assignments will also count toward your participation grade.
 7. **CBBS Presentations & Attendance:** Students will present at the Center of Big Bend Annual Conference on November 7th - 8th. We will be working on this together as a group during the semester.

GRADES:

Students can earn a possible 1,000 points by the end of this course.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

“What Does Texas Mean to You”	50 pts.
“Come and Write It”	50 pts.
Midterm	100 pts.
Book Review	100 pts.
Talking to the Dead	100 pts.
Participation and Attendance	100 pts.
Final Exam Essay	100 pts.
<u>CBBS Presentation</u>	<u>400 pts.</u>
Total Possible	1,000 pts.

Grade Breakdown:

1,000 to 900 pts.	A
890 to 800 pts.	B
790 to 700 pts.	C
690 to 600 pts.	D
590 <	F

A Range = Outstanding. All assignments are turned in on time and reflect thoughtful and analytical thinking with a thorough understanding of historical events and trends.

B Range = All assignments are turned in on time and are above average but are not outstanding work. They demonstrate an understanding of historical events, but the analytical thinking is weaker than that for an "A."

C Range = Average. Assignments indicate an average understanding of historical events. Work tends to be narrative rather than analytical. There is need for improvement.

D Range = Below average. Writing is mostly narrative. There is no analysis and narrowly answers the question assigned. Assignments are incomplete.

F Range = Fail. Assignments are not turned in or are late without the instructor's approval. They are substantially below average and fail to answer the questions. Plagiarizing, of course, will result in disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

COUNSELING:

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/sulross). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

STATEMENT ON 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/catalog/undergraduate-academic-regulations-2/#1605412215143-c8b265dc-3e01>

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid **using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given** for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

LIBRARY SERVICES:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

TUTORING CENTER:

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- **Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments:** Flexible options to fit your needs.
 - **Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
 - **Workshops:** Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
 - **Location:** BWML Room 128.
 - **Contact Us:** For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.
- **Looking for additional support?**
 - Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
 - Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

CLASSROOM CLIMATE OF RESPECT:

This class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT:

I am to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

****NOTICE TO STUDENTS**:** At certain times this semester, we will be discussing historical events that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to some students. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, I would be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. Likewise, if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with me individually, I welcome such discussions as an appropriate part of our classwork. If you ever feel the need to step outside during class discussion, you may always do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Note: This syllabus with its schedule is an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and anticipated student learning. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule that would result in enhanced or more effective learning on the part of the students. Students will have prior notification of any necessary changes in the schedule.

DATE**TOPICS****Introduction**

Aug. 25	Introduction & Overview
Sept. 1	No Class—Thank the Labor Movement!

Conquest & Contestation

Sept. 8	Frontera Challenges and Opportunities DUE: First Week Assignments ▪ What Does Texas Mean to You?
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- “Come and Write It” Analysis Essay—the TSHA & Alliance of Texas History
- Reading: Introduction in *Texas: An American History*

Spanish Texas

Sept. 15 Forging “Empires” in Spanish Texas
DUE: Reading on Blackboard

Mexican Texas

Sept. 22 Viva la Mexico!: Declaring Independence
DUE: Reading on Blackboard

Launching a New Nation, 1836-1848

Sept. 29 “You May Go to Hell, and I Will Go to Texas”: The Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas
DUE:

- Reading on Blackboard
- Talking to the Dead Assignment

Statehood & Secession, 1848-1865

Oct. 6 The Civil War & Reconstruction
DUE: Reading on Blackboard

The Era of Reconstruction & A Frontier Society in Transition, 1876-1895

Oct. 13 Opening the West & the Second Industrial Revolution
DUE:

- Reading on Blackboard
- CBBS Abstracts

Texas in an Age of Agrarian Discontent

Oct. 20 Sowing the Seeds of Discontent: Struggling Farmers

- Reading on Blackboard

Progressive Era Texas

Oct. 27 The Politics of Purity and the Women’s Movement
DUE: Exam I on Blackboard

Depression, War, & Prosperity

Nov. 3 WWI, The Great Depression, WWII, and Modernization

DUE: Exam I on Blackboard

Nov. 7-8 CBBS Annual Conference—Required Attendance

Texas in Transition, 1960-1986

Nov. 10 The Civil Rights Movements and Contested Political Landscapes
DUE: Exam I on Blackboard

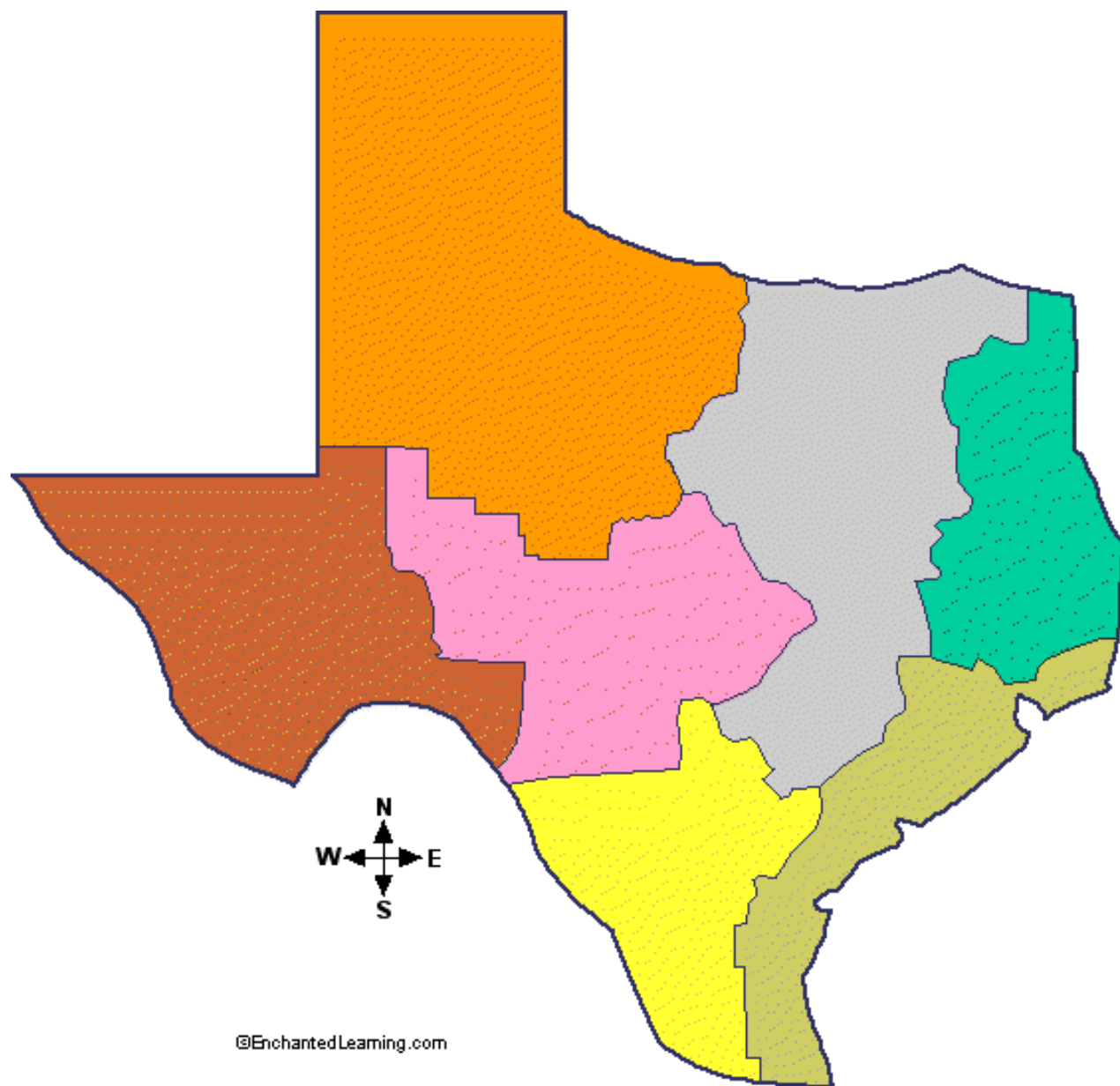
A New Texas?

Nov. 17 Modern Texas
DUE: “Lyndon, We Hardly Remember Ye: LBJ in the Memory of Modern Texas” in *Lone Star Pasts*

Nov. 24 No Class—Work on Book Review

Dec. 1 Changing Demographics and into a New Millennium!
▪ **DUE: Book Review**

Final Exam: Final Exam on BLACKBOARD



Texas Regional Worksheet