

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST 1301.25

CRN#: 84105

American History to 1876

Credit Hours: 3.0

Fall Semester 2017

Instructor: Dr. Thomas H. Cox

Classroom and Class Time: ABI 204, 11:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m., TUES/THURS

Office and Office Hours: AB4 473, 3:00-4:00 p.m. TUES/THURS or by appointment

Contact Info: Phone: 936-294-4804, FAX: 936-294-3938, thc001@shsu.edu

Course Description: This course examines American history from the 1780s to the Civil War. Major topics for the course include: the founding generation, political struggles of the 1790s, gender roles in the Early Republic, Settler-Indian relations, religious and social reform, slavery and the Old South, westward expansion, and the coming of the Civil War. Over the course of the semester students will complete three in-class exams, attend class and participate in class discussions.

Course Objectives: Throughout this semester, our course goals are as follows:

A) Critical Thinking: Students will be taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and culture, integrating and synthesizing knowledge they gain in the course, forming conclusions, and building an informed belief system from the complex of information presented in the course content.

B) Communication Skills: Communication skills will be addressed in this class through the reading and discussion of historical texts, participating in discussions, and question/answer periods during class. Readings and class discussion will be used during presentation of the course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these material originated.

C) Personal Responsibility: Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course as students articulate the values shared broadly by Americans as a result of experience gained through our shared history.

D) Social Responsibility: Social responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn about the origins and development of American society and its stated goals of liberty, equality and creating a "more perfect union."

Readings: David Goldfield's *The American Journey, Volume I* (any edition) is required reading for this course. You may rent or purchase print, kindle, or e-book copies through the campus bookstore or at www.amazon.com or similar websites. Whichever option you pursue, make certain you have a textbook by the first day of class. As your exams will draw heavily from the assigned readings, it is important to complete the readings before each lecture. The professor will also post shorter readings on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Class Format (Attendance): This is an intensive class. Students will need to attend all classes, participate in class discussions, and keep up with all assigned readings. As life can get complicated at times, you may miss three classes without penalty.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on three exams (25% each) and class attendance (12.5%) and class participation (12.5%). Students will also have the option of completing an extra credit writing assignment. My grading scale is as follows: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72, D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower. Pluses and minuses will be dropped on your final grade for the course.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for

the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. Contact me as soon as possible if you feel that you will be unable to complete assignments or exams by the due dates due to religious reasons.

Academic Honesty: In accordance with Sam Houston State University's Academic Policy Statement 810213, "all students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives 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 which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials." See <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf> for more information.

Keeping On Top of Assignments: Every week throughout the semester, I will post assignments and course updates for the upcoming week in the announcement section of Blackboard. I will also send you these announcements via email. Be certain to consult the course website frequently for updates and changes to the semester schedule.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not he/she will be allowed to remain.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete an online course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Assignments: Your course assignments are as follows:

1. Assigned Readings: Students must complete the assigned readings by the assigned due dates. Your exam questions will be drawn from the classroom lectures.
2. Exams: Students will also complete three in-class exams throughout the semester. Your exams will consist of short answer/identification terms and two essays.
3. Class Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions.

Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom: As members of the classroom community all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of life in our society; however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive.

Students are to turn off cell phones, pagers, and other similar electronic equipment while in the classroom. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled class-time is prohibited unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor.

Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices during a test period is prohibited. Even the visible presence of a cell phone or other device during the test period will result in a zero for that test. Use of a cell phone during a test could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct reference below). During the test these instruments should be left at home or stored securely in such a

way that they cannot be seen or used by the student.

For further information on student conduct in and out of the classroom see <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Running Into Problems: Over the course of the semester, you may run into problems that range from falling behind in the course to medical or family related emergencies. If you find yourself in such a situation, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may address the matter directly.

Module, Assigned Readings, Lectures	Classes
Introduction and Welcome to Class Readings: Syllabus and course website	Aug. 24
Module 1: Worlds Apart Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 1	Aug. 29, 31
Module 2: Transplantation and Adaptation, 1600–1680 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 2	Sept. 5, 7
Module 3: A Meeting of Cultures Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 3	Sept. 12, 14
Module 4: English Colonies in an Age of Empire, 1660s–1763 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 4	Sept. 19, 21
Module 5: Imperial Breakdown, 1763–1774 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 5 First Exam, Thurs. Sept. 28	Sept. 26, 28
Module 6: The War for Independence, 1774–1783 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 6	Oct. 3, 5
Module 7: The First Republic, 1776–1789 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 7	Oct. 10, 12
Module 8: A New Republic and the Rise of Parties, 1789–1800 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 8	Oct. 17, 19
Module 9: The Triumph and Collapse of Jeffersonian Republicanism, 1800– 1824 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 9	Oct. 24, 26
Module 10: The Jacksonian Era, 1824–1845 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 10 Second Exam, Thurs. Nov. 2	Oct. 31, Nov. 2
Module 11: Slavery and the Old South, 1800–1860 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 11	Nov. 7, 9
Module 12: The Market Revolution and Social Reform, 1815–1850 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 12	Nov. 14, 16
Module 13: The Way West, 1815-1850 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 13	Nov. 21, 23
Module 14: The Politics of Sectionalism, 1846-1861 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 14	Nov. 28, 30
Module 15: Battles Cries of Freedom: The Civil War, 1861-1865 Readings: Goldfield, Chapter 15	Dec. 5, 7
Third Exam	To be announced