

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

HIST 3377.01

CRN#: 21201

America at Mid-Passage, 1784-1877

Credit Hours: 3.0

Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Thomas H. Cox

Online Office Hours: I am available via phone and email at any time and will usually respond within 48 hours.

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 and Reconstruction. Major topics for the course include: the creation of the U.S. Constitution, the political struggles of the 1790s, changing status of women in the early republic, settler-Indian conflicts, the U.S.-Mexican War, rise of capitalism, old south and slavery, and the road to disunion. Students will be required to complete three in-class essay 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 and participating in on-line discussions, and question/answer periods. 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: The readings for this course include the two assigned books listed below. The books may be purchased or rented on-line through websites such as www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com or through the campus bookstore. You may use any editions of the works listed below. These books are easily obtainable on-line and students are required to secure copies of the assigned books before the course begins. In addition to these books students will read shorter primary and secondary sources posted by the professor to the course website throughout the semester.

Joseph J. Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*

Sean Wilentz, *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*

Class Format (Attendance): As this is an online course, you have a class participation rather than a class attendance grade. Students are expected to log onto the course website at least once a week to access course materials and participate in online discussions. Students must post at least two comments per module. As with an actual seminar discussion such comments should demonstrate both an understanding of the course material and an ability to think critically about the historical issues involved.

Grading: The final grade for this course will be based on three take home exam (30% each) and class participation (10%). 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.

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 www.shsu.edu/syllabus/ 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.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. See www.shsu.edu/syllabus/ for more information.

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.

Visitors in the Classroom: As the course website contains private information regarding assignments, comments, and student grades, do not share your course access with others. Others wishing to observe the class should contact the professor directly.

Assignments:

1. Assigned Readings and Video Lectures: Students must complete the assigned readings and video lectures by the assigned due dates. Each lecture set will contain two video lectures and an outside video provided for historical perspective. Information for the take home exams will come directly from the assigned readings and video lectures. As this is an online course it is essential to remain up to date on assignments.

2. Take Home Exams: Students will need to complete three take home exams over the course of the semester. Each exam will consist of three essays, each of which should be roughly 500-750 words in length. The professor will post the exams on the course website. No makeup exams will be given.

3. Class Discussions: Students are expected to participate in the discussion threads for each lecture set. The professor will begin the on-line discussion threads and post additional comments as students post their responses. The class discussion lasts the entire week of the lecture set in question. You will need to participate in each week’s discussion and demonstrate an understanding of the video lectures and assigned readings to do well in this portion of the class. Discussing the assigned material with the professors and other students is an excellent way to prepare for exams.

Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom: As online students, make certain you have a working computer with a stable, reliable internet connection. Be certain to clear your cache of cookies, pop-ups, and other files

periodically throughout the semester. For further information on student conduct in and out of the classroom see the Code of Student Conduct. 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

| Module, Assigned Readings, Video Lectures | Inclusive Module Dates | Assignment Deadline |
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| Introduction and Welcome to Class <u>Video Lectures:</u> Welcome to Class <u>Readings:</u> Syllabus and course website <u>Assignments:</u> Introduce yourself on the “meet and greet” discussion | Wed. Jan 17-Sun. Jan. 21 | Midnight, Sun. Jan. 21 |
| Module 1: The Duel, The Dinner <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Ellis, Preface, Chapter 1,2 | Mon. Jan. 22-Sun. Jan. 28 | Midnight, Sun. Jan. 28 |
| Module 2: American Democracy in a Revolutionary Age <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 13-71 | Mon. Jan. 29-Sun. Feb. 4 | Midnight Sun. Feb. 4 |
| Module 3: The Silence, the Farewell <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Ellis, Chapters 3,4 | Mon. Feb. 5-Sun. Feb. 11 | Midnight, Sun. Feb. 11 |
| Module 4: The Friendship <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Ellis, Chapter 6 | Mon. Feb. 12-Sun. Feb. 18 | Midnight, Sun. Feb. 18 |
| Module 5: The Making of Jeffersonian Democracy <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 72-140 Complete First Exam | Mon. Feb. 19-Sun. Feb. 25 | Midnight, Sun. Feb. 25 |
| Module 6: Nationalism and the War of 1812 <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 141-180 | Mon. Feb. 26-Sun. Mar.4 | Midnight, Sun. Mar. 4 |
| Module 7: The Era of Bad Feelings <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 181-217 | Mon. Mar. 5-Sun. Mar. 11 | Midnight, Sun. Mar. 11 |
| Spring Break: No Classes | Mon. Mar. 12-Sun. Mar. 18 | |
| Module 8: Slavery, Compromise and Democratic Politics <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 218-253 | Mon. Mar. 19-Sun. Mar. 25 | Midnight, Sun. Mar. 25 |
| Module 9: The Politics of Moral Improvement <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 254-280 | Mon. Mar. 26-Sun. Apr. 1 | Midnight, Sun. Apr. 1 |
| Module 10: The Aristocracy and Democracy of America <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 281-329 Complete Second Exam | Mon. Apr. 2-Sun. Apr. 8 | Midnight, Sun. Apr. 8 |
| Module 11: Radical Democracies <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 330-390 | Mon. Apr. 9-Sun. Apr. 15 | Midnight, Sun. Apr. 15 |
| Module 12: Banks, Abolitionists, and the Equal Rights Democracy <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 391-424 | Mon. Apr. 16-Sun. Apr. 22 | Midnight, Sun. Apr. 22 |

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| Module 13: Whigs, Democrats, and Democracy <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 482-520 | Mon. Apr. 23-Sun. Apr. 29 | Midnight, Apr. 29 |
| Module 14: Antislavery, Annexation and the Advent of Young Hickory <u>Video Lectures:</u> Lecture I, Lecture II <u>Readings:</u> Wilentz, pgs. 547-632 Complete Third Exam | Mon. Apr. 30-Sun. May 6 | Midnight, May 6 |