

<p><b>Professor:</b> Terry D. Bilhartz</p> <p><b>Office:</b> AB4 Room 441A</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:his_tdb@shsu.edu">his_tdb@shsu.edu</a></p> <p><b>Office Phone:</b> 936-294-1483</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> MWF 8:30-10 TT 8:30am-9:30 and by appointment</p>	<p><b>HIS163:</b> U.S. History to 1876 - the most interesting course offered at SHSU!</p> <p><b>CID: 4482</b></p>	<p><b>Class Time:</b> <b>TTH 9:30-11</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> <a href="#">AB4--Olson Auditorium</a></p> <p>TA: Elizabeth Myers Office: AB4 309 Phone: 294-3752</p>
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Welcome to the web page for HIS163: U.S. History to 1876 for the Fall 2007 semester. Read over the entire syllabus, and then print it for further viewing. Please note that you are responsible for understanding all of the policies explained in this syllabus.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a three credit-hour course covering U.S. history from the nation's colonial origins through Reconstruction in 1876. Students will attend lectures, complete primary and secondary source readings and assignments, and take four exams, including the final. Finally, regular attendance is expected. All course materials, requirements, and policies are outlined below.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of this course is to increase your knowledge of American social, political, economic, and religious history from the period of colonial settlement through the Civil War and Reconstruction. At the end of this semester, you will be able to speak confidently about the settlement of colonial America, the creation of a new republic, and the difficulties of that nation that culminated in a great civil war. Moreover, by reading and reflecting upon a collection of primary sources from each period studied, you will develop the detective skills that will enable you to become your own historian. After you perfect these skills, you will never again be willing to accept uncritically anyone's version of the past—even the past so brilliantly presented to you by your history teacher. As you learn to construct the past for yourself, you will discover the secret that all historians know—that “doing history” is more fun than simply memorizing and regurgitating it.

**TEXTS:**

Source Book:

Gorn, Roberts and Bilhartz, *Constructing the American Past, Vol. 1* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition).

General Textbook:

Bilhartz and Elliott, *Currents in American History, Volume 1* (ME Sharpe, 2007)

### Optional Bonus Homework Assignment Book

Robert Bruce, ed. *Abraham Lincoln's Changing Views on Slavery* (available only in the SHSU History Department)

**NON-REQUIRED TEXTS:** If you are like most freshmen students, you probably will find Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* a useful addition to your library. In my opinion, this is the best brief guidebook for successful writing. I may refer to this book in my comments to you regarding your homework assignments.

If you are a super achiever, there's another book that you may like, too: Jules Benjamin, [\*A Student's Guide to History\*](#). This link will take you to the brief edition online that contains information for those of you who have trouble [reading the syllabus carefully and understanding what is expected of you in the course](#), retaining information when [reading your history textbook](#), taking [notes during class](#), or taking [tests with objective or short-essay questions](#), as well as a lot of other useful information.

**OFFICE HOURS:** I hold regular office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am. If you need to meet with me at other times, call me and we will try to arrange a time for an appointment. I strongly encourage you to come see me during these office hours to discuss any questions you might have about the class, study methods, and history in general.

NOTE: The moment you sense that you are falling behind, PLEASE come see me or my graduate teaching assistant. The sooner we discuss the problem the sooner you can get back on track, and the better you'll do in the class. If you just have a quick question and don't have time to stop by my office, you can always email me at [his\\_tdb@shsu.edu](mailto:his_tdb@shsu.edu).

**EXAMINATIONS:** During the semester, we will examine three periods of early American history. After we complete the discussion of each period, we will take an in-class exam over the pertinent material. Each in-class exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions and will be worth 100 points. About two-thirds of the questions on each exam will come from the lectures or from material that is in your general textbook, *Currents in American History, Volume 1*. About one-third of the questions from every exam will come from the assigned readings in *Constructing the American Past*.

The fourth in-class exam, a 100 point final, will be a comprehensive exam that will cover the larger themes discussed during the semester. You will be allowed to drop one of these four in-class exams. For every exam, you will need a Scantron Form No. 882-E or 882-ES and a #2 pencil.

**MAKE-UP EXAMS:** If you miss a test due to illness or family emergency, you MUST have documentation of your absence, such as a doctor's note, and then you will make-up the exam(s) during the regular class time on the last scheduled class day for this course, which is Thursday, December 6.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:** In addition to these exams, four times (or an optional five times) during the semester you also will turn in a homework assignment over the primary sources in *Constructing the American Past (CAP)* and the secondary sources in *Currents in American History*. Each assignment will be worth 50 points each. If you make a low score that you would like to replace, I will allow you to turn in an optional fifth homework assignment. This grade will be used to replace your lowest homework grade.

For each assignment you may choose from the options listed below.

You must post your homework assignment in the digital drop box in Blackboard by 9 a.m. on the day that the assignment is due. Be sure to keep a backup of the papers you post in Blackboard, just in case the system crashes. At the top of the assignment, type your name and the Unit Assignment number.

For example: John Doe, Homework Assignment 1

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

##### HOMEWORK UNIT 1

Option A: The year is 1700 and you live in America. You can be a fictional character or a real person who was alive at that time. Write a 600 – 1000 word creative essay in which you tell me who you are, in what part of America you live, when and why you or your descendants came to America, and what you think, good or bad, about the colony in which you live. About ten of the fifty points will be based on your creativity and how well your essay is written. Forty points, however, will be determined by how much reliable factual information about colonial history you are able to jam into less than 1000 words. Essays too short will not receive full credit owing to the lack of detail provided. Essays too long also will be deducted points for not correctly following instructions. **GROUND YOUR ANSWERS ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE “FACTS” CONTAINED IN THE PRIMARY SOURCES IN CAP, CHAPTERS 1-4.**

##### HOMEWORK UNIT 2

Option A: The year is 1787 and you recently learned about the events at the Philadelphia convention. You can be a fictional character or a real person who was alive at that time. Write a 600-1000 word creative essay in which you tell me who you are, where you live, what happened to you between 1775 and 1787, and whether or not you support the ratification of the Constitution of 1787. About ten of the fifty points will be based on your creativity and how well your essay is written. Forty points, however, will be determined by how much reliable factual information about early American history you are able to jam into less than 1000 words. Essays too short will not receive full credit owing to the lack of detail provided. Essays too long also will be deducted points for not correctly following instructions. **GROUND YOUR ANSWERS ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE “FACTS” CONTAINED IN THE PRIMARY SOURCES IN CAP, CHAPTERS 5 – 6 AND CURRENTS, CHAPTERS 1-2.**

##### HOMEWORK UNIT 3

Option A: The year is 1812 and you recently learned that the US declared war on England. You can be a fictional character of a real person who was alive at that time. Write a 600-1000 word creative essay in which you tell me who you are, where you live, what happened to you since the election of Jefferson, and whether or not you support the recent war declaration. About ten of the fifty points will be based on your creativity and how well your essay is written. Forty points, however, will be determined by how much reliable factual information about early American history you are able to jam into less than 1000 words. Essays too short will not receive full credit owing to the lack of detail provided. Essays too long also will be deducted points for not correctly following instructions. GROUND YOUR ANSWERS ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE “FACTS” CONTAINED IN THE PRIMARY SOURCES IN CAP, CHAPTERS 5 – 7 AND CURRENTS, CHAPTERS 3-4.

#### HOMEWORK UNIT 4

Option A: The year is 1846 and the U.S. is in war against Mexico. You can be a fictional character or a real person who was alive at that time. Write a 600-1000 word creative essay in which you tell me who you are, where you live, what happened to you since the election of Jackson, and whether or not you support the war with Mexico. About ten of the fifty points will be based on your creativity and how well your essay is written. Forty points, however, will be determined by how much reliable factual information about early American history you are able to jam into less than 1000 words. Essays too short will not receive full credit owing to the lack of detail provided. Essays too long also will be deducted points for not correctly following instructions. GROUND YOUR ANSWERS ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE “FACTS” CONTAINED IN THE PRIMARY SOURCES IN CAP, CHAPTERS 8-10 AND CURRENTS, CHAPTERS 5-6.

OPTIONAL HOMEWORK UNIT 5: Write a 600 to 1000 word report on the book *Abraham Lincoln's Changing Views on Slavery*.

#### **GRADING:**

The maximum number of points that you can receive for the semester is 500 points (300 from your best 3 major exams and 200 points from your best 4 Homework Assignments). To ensure a grade of A, B, C, or D, you will need to have an overall average, respectively, of 90%, 80%, 70% and 60%. To have a 90 average from a possible 500 points, you will need a total of 450 points; for an 80, 70, and 60 average, respectively, you will need 400, 350 and 300 points. I reserve the right to raise your points if I feel that a curve is warranted and if you have an excellent attendance record.

Words to the Wise - for only the wise ever listen to them:

(1) Since 200 homework points plus more than 30 points on each of the major exams comes from *Constructing the American Past and Currents in American History*, you will not be able to score enough points to pass the course if you do not read these books, even if you ace every question that comes from lecture material.

(2) Read a little in one of your books every night and you will never fall behind. I warn you, however, that it will be very difficult to catch up if you fall behind since the course is designed to start slow and then gain momentum as it progresses. So please, do not fall behind in the readings.

One final word: students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center for more information (extension 4-1720).

<b>COURSE GRADING:</b>		<b>GRADING SCALE:</b>	
First Exam:	100 points	A	90%-100% or 450-500points
Second Exam:	100 points	B	80%-89% or 400-449 points
Third Exam:	100 points	C	70%-79% or 350-399 points
FINAL Exam:	100 points	D	60%-69% or 300-349 points
Homework Unit 1	50 points (max)	F	59%-0% or under 300 points
Homework Unit 2	50 points (max.)		
Homework Unit 3	50 points (max.)		
Homework Unit 4	50 points (max)		
Optional Homework 4	Replacement of homework grade		
<b>Attendance and Participation</b>	+ or – 25 points		

**ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to be in every class. Emergencies may arise, however, so every student is allowed to miss **two or three** classes and, if these are the only absences, no points will be subtracted from the total point you earn. Excessive absences, however, will result in a lower attendance and participation grade. Students also may be counted absent for coming in late and for sleeping or distracting other students during class. They may be asked to leave, as well, if this behavior continues. See Course policies at the bottom of the syllabus

**ASSISTANCE WITH LEARNING:**

Before we go any further, I'd like to encourage you again to contact me and/or the [SAM Center](#) (Student Advising & Mentoring Center) as soon as you find yourself confused by the material we're reading and discussing or if you're falling behind on your work. Some of you may wish to work with the [SAM Center](#) even if you're doing well, but wish to do better. They are "a resource dedicated to helping students adjust to academic life at Sam Houston State University. Services available include career testing, aid with time management and/or study skills," and *much* more. These services are available to you as an SHSU student, and I encourage you to take advantage of them. The [SAM Center](#) is located in room 210 in Academic Building IV, which is south of the Lee Drain Building at the corner of Avenue I and Bowers Blvd. You may contact them to make an appointment at [SAMCenter@shsu.edu](mailto:SAMCenter@shsu.edu) or by telephone (936) 294-4444. You also may wish to become familiar with the Writing Center that is located in Wilson 114.

## Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

These reading assignments are structured to correspond to the lectures to best assist you in understanding the subjects being discussed. The topics and reading schedule may be adjusted to accommodate the pace of this course. Outlines for lectures and study questions from old exams are available on Blackboard under Course Documents.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Homework or Exams</b>
Week of Aug 21	"Introduction to Course" Review Syllabus  Discuss Intro to CAP & Currents America Thrice Discovered	<i>CAP</i> , Introduction  <i>Currents</i> , Introduction	
Week of Aug 28	Age of Exploration and Reformation  Early English Exploration	<i>CAP</i> , chap 1 <i>CAP</i> , chap 2	
Week of Sept 4	Pilgrims and Puritans  From Puritan to Yankee	<i>Currents</i> , chap. 1 <i>CAP</i> , chap 3	
Week of Sept 11	Historical Dilemma: The Year is 1700  The Great Awakening British Colonial America	<i>CAP</i> , <i>Chap 4</i>	Sept 11 Homework 1 due  Post & bring hard copy to class
Week of Sept 18	The Road to Revolution  War and Peace	<i>Currents</i> , chap 2 <i>CAP</i> , chap 5	Study for Exam 1
Week of Sept 25	Exam 1 on Sept 25  Life Under the Articles	<i>CAP</i> , <i>Chap 6</i>	
Week of Oct	Toward a More Perfect Union	<i>Currents</i> , chap 3	Oct 4 Homework 2

2	Historical Dilemmas: The Year is 1787		due Post and bring hard copy to class
Week of Oct 9	The Federalist Era: Domestic Affairs  Foreign Affairs	<i>CAP</i> , chap 7	
Week of Oct 16	The Jeffersonian Era  The War of 1812 Historical Dilemmas: The Year is 1812	<i>Currents</i> , chap 4 <i>CAP</i> , chap 8	Oct 18 Homework 3 due Post and bring hard copy to class
Week of Oct 23	The Era of Good Feelings  Exam Oct 26	<i>Currents</i> , chap 5	Study for Exam 2
Week of Oct 30	From Good to Bad Feelings  The Age of Jackson	<i>CAP</i> , chap 9 & 10	
Week of Nov 6	Manifest Destiny: Texas  Manifest Destiny: War with Mexico	<i>CAP</i> , chap 11 <i>Currents</i> , chap 6	
Week of Nov 13	Historical Dilemmas: The Year is 1846  Road to Civil War	<i>Currents</i> , chap 7	Nov 13 Homework 4 due Post and bring hard copy to class
Week of Nov 21	Thanksgiving Holidays	<i>CAP</i> , chap 12	
Week of Nov 27	The Nation Divides  The Glory and the Tragedy	<i>CAP</i> , chap 13	Study for Exam 3
Week of Dec 4	Exam 3 – Dec 4  Makeup Exam Day – Dec 6		Bonus

			Homework due by Dec 6
Dec 11	FINAL EXAM at 8 AM		

**COURSE POLICIES**

NOTE: Student enrollment in this course confirms that you have read and accepted these policies.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university. The SHSU Student Guidelines academic honesty policy states:

*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/students/guide.html>

Please read Jules Benjamin's (A Student's Guide to History) [discussion of plagiarism](#) as well.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**Classroom Visitors:**

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 the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**Copyright Statement**

The materials presented in this syllabus and course are copyrighted. Reproduction of these



materials for commercial purposes without the express permission of the copyright holder is prohibited.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

### **DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

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This course was designed and is maintained by Terry D. Bilhartz