

Course Syllabus for
U.S. HISTORY 163 - 1400 - 1876
3 Credit Hours - Fall, 2007 – 11 am to 11:50 am
Auditorium – Academic Building 4 – Room 220

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Or by Appointment

Textbook: America: A Concise History, Vol. 1, Most current Edition
Map Colors - your choice of type, but you will need at least half a dozen colors.

Course Objectives: This is a United State history course which will use the knowledge you gained in high school to develop your views and help you see the changes in the Republic from the colonial origins of the US to the Civil War and the end of Reconstruction. There are no prerequisites.

This course will help you use history to achieve a mastery of critical reading, analytical writing, logical thinking and dialectic debate. Based on the IDEA evaluations, by the end of this course, you will:

- (1) Gain factual knowledge in the field of US history for the 18th and 19th centuries Including all major dates, and the causes and effects that created US History to Reconstruction
- (2) Develop your creative capacities by writing 8 Dilemmas resolving a historical problem
- (3) Gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the lives of the early colonial people
- (4) Develop skill in expressing your ideas and defending your opinions during discussions
- (5) Acquire an interest in learning more about history, and understand the importance of knowing history.

NOTE: This syllabus, plus all visual presentations in class and specific daily assignments will be available on Blackboard through the Sam Houston Home Page. Please check for posted changes and updates.

The instructional method in class will involve lectures, power point presentations, and discussions; occasionally the class may view a video or discuss some of the most enduring historical

Attendance Policy

Students are permitted to have five unexcused absences. These may be used for court appearances, illnesses, doctor's visits, family emergencies, or other situations requiring you to miss class. You do not need to provide excuses for these absences.

Penalties - Any absences beyond five will be deducted from total class point totals at the rate of **five (5) points per absence.**

Tardies - I expect every student to be *on time and in their seat* for every class, as you would for a job. The student assistants will take roll at the beginning of each class session. Tardies will be penalized at the rate of one point deducted from the class point totals for each tardy.

In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, you are still responsible for the material covered.

Grading: 500 total points possible.

Grades based on addition of total points: A = 500 to 450; B = 449 to 400; C = 399 to 350

And D = 349 to 300. Any cumulative points below 300 will constitute a failing grade.

Exams

300 pts 3 highest grades of 4 multiple choice, matching, true false and essay tests.
100 points each. Lowest grade will be dropped. Bring SCANTRON 886E.

MAKE-UP EXAMS – Students may drop a missed exam as their lowest grade.

If you have already lost that opportunity, Make-ups will be five to ten essay questions administered by the Teaching Assistant during office hours.

Dilemmas 6 out of 8 Dilemmas, 25 points each. Lowest two grades drop.

150 points

Grading Dilemmas:

(a) Facts: Answering all the questions – 20 points

(b) Writing: Proper grammar, paragraphs, spelling – 5 points

Activities

25 pts Community Involvement - As activities become available, you will receive 5 points credit for participating in historical or campus-wide activities approved in advance by the professor.

Attendance

25 pts. Attendance - Deduction of 5 points for every day after your first five absences. The five absences are for medical needs, family crises, legal problems, or emergencies. **Save them**, you never know when you will need them.

All grades will be posted on Blackboard and will be available within one week of submission.

Assignments

Dilemmas will be assigned every other week and will be available on Blackboard before the beginning of each section.

Dilemmas must be no more than 2 pages. Penalties: 5 points off for every page over 2.

Dilemmas must be typed in Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1 inch margins.

Selected students will read their dilemmas on the day of the discussions.

All students will turn in dilemmas on the day of discussions.

Since lectures will cover only selected issues, students will have to work independently to gain a more complete understanding of the first half of American history. Please keep up with your reading. You cannot read 200 pages in one night before the test.

Academic Honesty

According to the administrations guidelines (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.”*

Please check your syllabus on Blackboard regularly for any changes. If you are absent or late, the responsibility for obtaining information is incumbent upon you. You would be wise to establish relationships with fellow students for assuring that you remain well informed and that you are adequately prepared for exams.

In the event you must drop this class, please remember, should you decide to drop the course, do so through the registrar’s office. Otherwise, your course grade will be “F.”

Classroom Rules of Conduct

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. *“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 eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, 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 referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.”* In addition, I will handle any minor behavioral distractions by requiring that you meet with me.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

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.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall 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.

Visitors in the Classroom

According to the Administration's guidelines: *"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."* Anyone visiting the class must make arrangements with me before class begins. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible

persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way interfere with registered members of the class or the educational process.

In consideration of time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that might adversely affect the majority of the class, I will reserve the right to make minor changes to this syllabus.

Instructor Evaluations

All students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. The evaluations will relate to the objectives listed at the beginning of the syllabus. The teacher will not be present in the classroom during the evaluation, and students will be expected to complete the evaluation as fairly and impartially as possible.

Assignments – All dilemmas are due on the day of the discussion. Students will be expected to submit the assignments either in hard-copy form or via e-mail. All dilemmas must conform to the regulations listed at the beginning of the syllabus.

Required Supplies – All students must purchase a copy of the textbook. Students may also purchase map colors for use with maps in class.

Study Tips – Students are encouraged to work together to discuss the answers to the dilemmas, although students must write their Dilemmas on their own. It is highly recommended that students read the chapters before coming to class, and then reviewing the material after class. If students are having trouble with reading they should contact the Reading Center in Farrington Building. Students should also submit their Dilemma essays to the Writing Center in order to clear up any writing problems and to correct all grammar errors.

Students will be provided with review sheets or lists of important dates and facts and may form study groups to review the material before exams.

Classroom Rules of Conduct – The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html> Students may refer to this code of conduct for further information.

Students will be expected to:

1. refrain from talking, sleeping, eating or text messaging during class.
2. turn off cell phones and put them away during class.
3. pay attention and take notes during class.

General Information – Students should discuss grades and problems in class with the instructor as soon as there is some difficulty. The instructor will be at the students' disposal at

any time that the student is available. The student will be expected to contact the instructor in order to set up an appointment to discuss possible problems.

Individual Instruction

If you are in need of individual help, please make an appointment to come see me or to visit with one of the Teaching Assistants, especially if you are unsure of how to write a Dilemma.

Please don't miss this opportunity to get to know your professor. It is always a good idea.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	Assignments
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Week 1 – Aug 20 - 24

Mon	Introduction –Background	Read Ch. 1
Wed	Native Americans	
Fri	Native Americans	

Week 2 – Aug 27 – Aug 31

Mon	European Background	Read Ch. 2
Wed	Spanish and English Colonies	
Fri.	French Colonies Write Dilemma # 1	

Week 3 – Sep. 3 - 7

Mon.	No class	
Wed	Discuss Dilemma # 1 (Turn in Dilemmas on the day of the discussion)	
	Read Ch. 3	
Fri	Colonial Conflicts Read Ch. 4.	

Week 4 – Sep. 10 - 14

Mon.	Write Dilemma #2 American Revolution	
Wed.	Discuss Dilemma # 2	
Fri.	*** Multiple Choice EXAM # 1 1400 - 1700*** Dil 1&2	

Week 5 – Sep 17-21

Mon.	American Revolution	Read Ch. 5 - 6
Wed.	Setting up the New Country	
Fri.	Creating the US Constitution	Write Dilemma # 3

Week 6 – Sep 24-28

Mon.	Group 3 Discuss Dil. # 3	Dilemma # 3 Due Begin Reading Ch. 7
Wed.	Formation of Parties, International Affairs	and the War of 1812
Fri	Read Chapter 8	

Week 7 – Oct 1-5

Mon. Nationalism vs. Sectionalism Read Ch. 9

Wed. Era of Democracy and Expansion

Fri. Controversy of 1833

Write

Dilemma # 4

Week 8 – Oct 8-12

Mon. Read Ch. 10 - Write Dilemma # 4

Wed. Group 4 - Discussion of Dilemma # 4

Fri. Public Speaking Training - Mr.Nacho Estrada and Maclovio

Week 9 – Oct 15-19

Mon. Review Andrew Jackson and the 1832problems

Wed. Review for Exam

Fri. ***Multiple Choice EXAM # 2 *** Chapters 5-10, Dil. 3&4

Week 10 – Oct 22-26

Mon. Texas and the Mexican American War 1840s - Read Chapter 11

Wed. Era of Reform-Slavery and Women'sRights -

Fri. Read chapter 12 Write Dilemma # 5

Week 11 – Oct 29-Nov 2

Mon. Group 5 - Discuss Dilemma # 5

Dil. # 5 due Read Ch. 11

Wed. Compromise of 1850- Read Ch.12

Fri. Events leading up to the Civil War- Read ch. 13

Week 12 – Nov 5-9

Mon. Write Dilemma # 6 National Problems - Read Chapter 14

Wed. Group 6 - Discuss dilemma # 6

Fri. *** Multiple Choice EXAM # 3 *** Ch. 11-14, Dil. # 5, 6

Week 13 – Nov 12-16

Mon. Events leading up to the CivilWar

Wed. The Civil War

Fri. The Civil War

Week 14 – Nov. 19-23

Mon. Study Day - no class

Wed. Thanksgiving Holidays

Fri. Thanksgiving Holidays

Week 15 – Nov 26-30

Mon. **Write Dilemma # 7**

Wed. Discuss Dilemma # 7

Fri. Radical Reconstruction

Week 16 – Dec. 3 - 6

Mon. Radical Reconstruction Write Dilemma # 8

Wed. Discuss Dilemma # 8

Fri. No class - Review for Final

Week 16 *****FINAL EXAM # 4*****