



-- HIS 163 --

JEFF LITTLEJOHN SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

HIS 163: United States History To 1876
Sam Houston State University | Spring 2008
Department of History | 3 hours credit
Section 09: TTH 8:00-9:20 | CID 3437 | AB4 303
Section 10: TTH 9:30-10:50 | CID 3438 | AB4 303

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Littlejohn
Office Location: AB4 472
Office Hours: TTH 11-1; or appt.
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<http://www.studythepast.com>

Course Description:

HIS 163 covers the colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876. Credit 3.

HIS 163 focuses on four primary topics: 1) the meeting of European, Amerindian, and African cultures during the Age of Exploration; 2) the establishment of the English colonial system in North America; 3) the development of the American Revolution and early Republic; and, 4) the expansion, fracturing, and reconstruction of the American nation in the mid-nineteenth century.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this class will:

- 1) gain factual knowledge.
- 2) learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories.
- 3) learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Required Books:

* David Goldfield, et. al., *The American Journey*, Volume 1.

Attendance:

Regular attendance and punctuality are indicative of serious scholarship. You should be in class, awake and aware, and prepared for discussion. Students missing more than six classes may receive a grade reduction at the end of the term. Students who are regularly tardy will be denied entrance to class.

Attendance and Religious Holy Days:

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.

SHSU policy 861001 provides the procedure 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 the instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester 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.

Assignments and Grading:

In this course, students will complete 4 exams and multiple participation assignments.

* Each exam is worth 100 points

* Participation is worth 100 points

The following grading scale -- based on 500 points -- will be used to calculate final grades:
A = 500-450 | B = 449-400 | C = 399-350 | D = 349-300 | F = 300-0 points.

Examinations:

Students will complete 4 multiple-choice/essay exams during the term. Each of the exams will cover the section of the course immediately preceding it. The exams will be based on class notes and assigned readings. Review sheets will be posted on the course webpage before each exam.

Participation:

Students should complete reading assignments, attend class, and participate in discussions. Periodically, a short pop-quiz or writing assignment will be given to determine how well each member of the class has prepared. These participation assignments should be easy, but they will require that you attend class and prepare for discussion.

Classroom Demeanor:

HIS 163 is a lecture and discussion course. Students are encouraged to ask questions and initiate discussion. The more you engage the material, the better you will learn it, and the better you will do in the course. To facilitate an open classroom dialogue, students should not: 1) have cell phones turned on; 2) be reading the school paper or doing other homework; 3) leave early or disturb their fellows.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:
<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

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 the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Study Tips:

I encourage you to contact me if you are feeling confused or out-of-step with the material we are covering. If you would like additional support, you may also contact the SAM Center (Student Advising & Mentoring Center), which helps students improve their note-taking, time management, and study skills. The SAM Center is located in room 210 of AB4. You may make an appointment at the Center by email (SAMCenter@shsu.edu) or phone (294-4444).

Academic Dishonesty:

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.

Any violation of the University's Academic Honesty standard will result in a failing grade for the course and a recommendation for University discipline.

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 next to the Counseling Center . They should then make arrangements with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure 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 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.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Instructor's Right to Update Course Schedule

This syllabus is your contract for the course. The instructor will not change the nature of the course, the number of assignments, or the grading system. However, the instructor reserves the right to update the course schedule and reading assignments throughout the term.
