

**HIS 163: American History to 1877 Syllabus**  
**Summer II 2008, M-F 8:00am-10:00am**  
**Sec 03 CID 8424 - 3 Credit Hours**  
**AB4 307**

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**Course Description**

HIS 163 covers the colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876. We will discuss various social, political, intellectual, and military topics from this time period.

**Prerequisite**

None.

**Course Objectives**

Through a sequence of reading and writing assignments, you will:

- gain factual knowledge of American History,
- strengthen your ability to analyze historical events,
- strengthen your analytical reading and critical thinking skills,
- strengthen your ability to conduct research,
- strengthen your oral presentation skills, and
- strengthen your ability to discuss and debate historical topics in a group setting.

**Text**

Divine, Robert, et. al. *The American Story, Vol. 1*. 3rd edition.

**Materials**

4 Scantrons (882-E)

4 Small Blue Books (8.5"X7")

**Requirements**

1. Prepare for, attend, and participate in class activities. Excessive absences may adversely affect your grade (see Absence Policy statement below).
2. Participate actively and constructively in class discussions and activities.
3. Read and respond in writing to assigned readings. These responses will be collected and graded.
4. Research a historical character and produce a written biographical sketch (details will be provided).
5. Give an oral report over your historical character.
6. Take all three regular exams.

7. Take a final exam.

### **Exams**

All exams (including the final) will consist of short answer and multiple choice questions that will assess your retention and application of the skills and knowledge presented throughout the semester.

### **Course Assessment**

Here's a breakdown of the grades:

Reading Responses	5%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%
Biographical Essay/Oral Report	10%
Participation/Attendance	5%

### **Incomplete (X) Grade**

At times, due to extenuating circumstances beyond your control, you may not be able to finish the course, and you may request a grade of X (incomplete). Students who request an X grade for HIS 163 must provide adequate documentation of the reason for their not being able to complete the course, and they must have satisfactorily completed at least 50 percent of the course's assignments in order to be eligible for a grade of X. If an instructor feels an X to be warranted, the instructor will recommend this grade to the Department Chair who then will decide whether the X should be entered as the semester's grade. If an X is approved, the student has one semester to complete the remaining work; if the student does not complete the work in that time period, the X grade automatically converts to an F.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas of writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document those sources. Documentation includes marking quotations as well as providing notes, citations, and a reference list. If you receive assistance from a source other than your instructor, your colleagues in the class, or The Writing Center, then you must acknowledge that assistance. Identify the source and the nature of the assistance in an acknowledgments note at the end of the assignment. Failure to acknowledge constitutes academic misconduct. In addition, it is academically dishonest to submit your own previously written work for a current assignment or to submit an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you used to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce those materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements. You will be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor. Further, you are also responsible for protecting your own work. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not copy your work or submit it as their own. Allowing your work to be used in this manner constitutes academic misconduct.

Plagiarism and academic misconduct of any kind may constitute grounds for failing this course and may result in further disciplinary action according to university policy. Consult the *SHSU Student Handbook* regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (In addition, writing textbooks often contain useful discussion of plagiarism.)

### **Attendance Policy**

You are responsible for your success in this class, so regular attendance is important. After your third absence, your grade may be adversely affected by additional absences. For each absence over five, you may be assessed a five-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade.

### **Participation Policy**

Your participation average will be determined separate from attendance, so just showing up will not be enough. Participation points will be earned by providing insight during discussions, answering questions, completing quizzes over reading assignments and lectures, and participating in class activities.

### **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.

### **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 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. Please contact 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.

### **The Reading Center**

If you find that you have trouble keeping up with the reading assignments or retaining the information, I suggest checking out the reading center in Farington. They can help you develop reading strategies and habits that will benefit your entire college career.

### **The Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located in Farington 111; its phone number is 4-3680. It is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Friday from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The Writing Center is a place you can go for help with your writing in all your classes, including developing ideas and then structuring them in a paper. You may also visit the Writing Center online:

[www.shsu.edu/~wctr](http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr). There is no additional charge for using the Writing Center, and we encourage you

to do so.

### **The Syllabus Defined**

A syllabus is a living entity that grows from the first of the semester till the last and comprises every assignment and handout that you receive. Keep your syllabus handy so you will be able to adjust it as needed.

### **Policy on Visitors**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into 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.

### **Class Rules of Conduct**

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off or silenced and are not to be used for text messaging or any other function during class. Sleeping in class, excessive talking, and any other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. In short, be courteous. Visit <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html> for more information on the university's policy.

## **Schedule**

(This is tentative and subject to change with notice.)

Tuesday, 8 July – Introductions, What is History? / Begin Discussion of Section 1

Wednesday, 9 July – Chapter 1, New World Encounters

Thursday, 10 July – Chapter 2, England's Colonial Experiments

Friday, 11 July – Chapter 3, Putting Down Roots

Monday, 14 July – Chapter 4, Colonies in an Empire / Oral Reports

Tuesday, 15 July – Exam 1 / Begin Discussion of Section 2

Wednesday, 16 July – Chapter 5, The American Revolution

Thursday, 17 July – Chapter 6, The Republican Experiment

Friday, 18 July – Chapter 7, Democracy and Dissent

Monday, 21 July – Chapter 8, Republican Ascendancy / Oral Reports

Tuesday, 22 July – Exam 2 / Begin Discussion of Section 3

Wednesday, 23 July – Chapter 9, Nation Building and Nationalism

Thursday, 24 July – Chapter 10, The Triumph of White Men's Democracy

Friday, 25 July – No Class

Monday, 28 July – Chapter 11, Slaves and Masters

Tuesday, 29 July – Chapter 12, The Pursuit of Perfection / Oral Reports

Wednesday, 30 July – Exam 3 / Begin Discussion of Section 4

Thursday, 31 July – Chapter 13, An Age of Expansionism

Friday, 1 August – No Class

Monday, 4 August – Chapter 14, The Sectional Crisis

Tuesday, 5 August – Chapter 15, Secession and the Civil War

Wednesday, 6 August – Chapter 16, The Agony of Reconstruction / Oral Reports

Thursday, 7 August – Final Exam