

Texas and the Southwest
History 398W, Section 1 (3 Credit Hours)
CID: 8425
AB4, Room 305, Mon-Fri 8:00am – 9:50am
Summer II 2008

Professor: Yvonne Davis Frear
Office: AB4 449
Office Phone: (936) 294-1484

Email: his_ydf@shsu.edu
Office Hrs: 7:30am – 7:55am Mon-Fri
and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the greater Southwest as a historical concept. This course surveys Spanish expansion and the Spanish-French rivalry in the lower Mississippi region and Texas. Special emphasis is given to Texas history from its origins of contact between Europeans and American Indian groups through the modern era. The course focuses on the laws, developments, and standards that govern Texas and the Southwest from cultural, economic, ethnic, social, and political standpoints. Consequently, students will be introduced to the question of whether *"Texas and the South are exceptional* or merely representative of the larger Union. I encourage students to discuss and/or debate historical commentary, critical issues, and current events surrounding Texas and the Southwest, as intellectual discourse is the key to understanding the unique formation of cultural literacy and historical interpretation in history.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the student will learn the following:

- A) Factual knowledge of the definitions, theories, key people, events and ideas which shaped Texas and the Southwest.
- B) Enhancement of their historical analysis, critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills
- C) Development of a clearer understanding and analysis of historical and modern events that explain the exceptional and distinctive characterization of Texas and the Southwest.
- D) Development of creative writing capacities that will be essential to critically analyzing and evaluating ideas and arguments about Texas and the Southwest in American history.
- E) How to locate and use primary resources for answering questions, solving problems, and designing interpretations.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Calvert, Robert A., Arnaldo DeLeon, and Greg Cantrell. *The History of Texas*, 3rd Edition. (Wheeling: Harlan Davidson, Inc. 2002).

ISBN: 0-88295-966-2

Haynes, Sam W., Cary D. Wintz, and Thomas G. Patterson. *Major Problems in Texas History*. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2002).

ISBN-13: 978-0-395-85833-2

ISBN-10: 0-395-85833-X

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*

The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (or comparable title)

Roget's Thesaurus (or comparable title)

Note: Students can locate copies of the texts (required and suggested) at the Lowman Student Center (LSC) Bookstore, Bearkat Books, or via online proprietors that offer used or discounted copies. A few suggestions are; www.half.com; www.abebooks.com; www.bookfinder.com; www.alibris.com; www.bibliofind.com; www.amazon.com, and www.barnesandnoble.com

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- A. Students must not use cell phones or any electronic communication device during class. Students must place all cell phones, mp3 players, pagers, pda's, and watches in the silent or vibrate mode. No exceptions!
- B. Students must not sleep, talk excessively, text message, read newspapers, magazines, or other coursework, etc ... during the class period.
- C. Students who have disruptive or inappropriate behavior during class will receive instructions to leave the classroom. The continued abuse of this infraction will be reported to the Dean.
- D. Students must be prepared for classes during each meeting.
- E. Students are not permitted to bring children (any age) to class.
- F. Late papers and exams for students providing a University approved excuse, documentation of a physician-confirmed illness, or death in the family will be accepted / offered no later than the following class meeting date during the instructor's office hours with a **10% penalty**. Students who do not have an excused absence will be allowed to take a makeup exam with a **20% penalty** for the first class day and an additional **5% penalty** for each day thereafter.

***Please note that the professor will be the **sole** judge of what constitutes an excused absence beyond those outlined above. ***

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. EXAMS

- A. There will be three (3) major exams during this session. Each exam is worth **100 points**.
- B. The exams will cover materials in your textbook, lecture, supplementary readings, documents, and any handouts. If you miss a lecture, it is imperative (and **your responsibility**) to get the notes from someone in the class, as the lecture will include material not in your textbook.
- C. The exam format for the semester exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

II. FINAL PROJECT

- A. There will be one final project during the course. The final project will cover materials covered in lecture, the textbook, and supplemental texts (where appropriate). The final project is worth **100 points**.
- B. Additional details regarding the final project will be provided in a separate handout.

III. WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be four (4) writing assignments for this course. You will write short, micro-themed essays about a particular primary source document within instructor defined parameters. The essays will be your **portable historian** source material and will serve as a viable historical interpretation about each period as the student will write as a reflective person commenting on the significance of the period in terms of society, politics, economics, culture and overall historical significance. The evaluation of each essay will be based on ideas, contents, interpretation, and evidence.

The micro-themed essays focus on periods in Texas and the Southwest. For example, Period 1 covers Spanish encounters and colonization; Period 2 covers Mexican Texas; Period 3 covers statehood to the end of the 19th century; and Period 4 covers the 20th century. Additional details regarding the micro-themed essay will be provided in a separate handout. Each writing assignment is worth **25 points**.

III. DISCUSSION

Each student in the course is required to participate in academic discussions during each class meeting. During the course, the professor may submit questions or discourse topics in advance (via Blackboard) and/or during class in which students will be required to discuss the selected topic. Students are also encouraged to submit interesting or relevant materials from newspapers, magazines, or documentaries that support class subjects/topics. The success of discussions is not based on banal responses from the student, but critically analyzed and supported discursive responses. Periodically, students may also be responsible for in-class writing assignments as part of a discussion evaluation.

IV. GRADING POLICY

A. The grade breakdown for the course is as follows:

Exam 1	-----	100 pts.
Exam 2	-----	100 pts.
Exam 3	-----	100 pts.
Final Project	-----	100 pts.
Writing Assignments	-----	100 pts.
Total		500 pts.

B. The grading scale for this course is as follows:

<u>Grading Scale</u>		
450 - 500	=	A
400 - 449	=	B
350 - 399	=	C
300 - 349	=	D
250 - 299	=	F

ATTENDANCE/PREPAREDNESS POLICY

A. Attendance is absolutely essential to the learning process and required by the university. Therefore, roll will be taken during each class meetings.

B. Students who sleep during class, or do other coursework, or leave early (without pre-arranged approval from the professor) will be counted absent.

C. Students must be prepared during each class meeting to participate in academic discourse as pertinent to the course. The professor reserves the right to give unscheduled pop quizzes if it is determined that absenteeism or lack of preparedness is excessive as defined by the professor.

D. **Students are permitted only three (3) absences** (excused or unexcused) in this course, one additional absence beyond what is mandated by the university. I reserve the right to drop a student from the class if absences (beyond the permitted 3) are determined habitual, disproportionate to instructor-expected course performance, or a detriment to the student's course performance.

E. A student who has **six (6) unexcused absences** will be reported to the Dean and the SHSU Registrar's office to be dropped from the course immediately.

F. In accordance with university guidelines, the professor reserves the right to lower the student's grade or drop a student from the course at her discretion if the student is absent for more than three course hours.

ASSISTANCE WITH STUDYING

I encourage students to contact me if you need assistance understanding the material we are reading or discussing or if you are getting behind in the course assignments. 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 AB4, room 210. You may make an appointment at the Center by email (SAMCenter@shsu.edu) or phone (936.294.4444). Additionally, students can receive support from the [Reading Center](#) which assists students with effective reading strategies and the confidence to excel in their classes. The [Reading Center](#) is located in Farrington, room 109. You may make an appointment by email (rdg_www@shsu.edu) or by phone (936.294.3114).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

"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." Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, et. al., as printed in Student Guidelines. **Students enrolled in this course are subject to the Student Guidelines in their entirety.**

Any student engaged in committing academic dishonesty on any level (including, but not limited to, changing exams/quizzes, sharing exam/quiz answers during the exam/quiz period, submitting copied assignments, using any device or communication method to share or transmit information during

examination, quiz, or assignment periods) will be reported to the Dean and dropped from the course with a final grade of 'F.'

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY STATEMENT

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, 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, Lee Drain Annex, or by phoning (936) 294-1720. 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 me about how I can best assist you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE:** No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.*

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.

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 hold 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

Only registered students may attend class. 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