

HIS 377W: America in Mid-Passage, 1783-1877
Summer I 2008
3 Credit Hours

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Office Hours: 7:40-7:55 am and after class
Or by appointment
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Class time and location: 10:00 – 11:50am THOM 318

Course Description: The course will survey United States history from 1783 to 1877 and will examine the origins of the U.S. Constitution, the early republic and rise of the two party-system, the nature of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, the sectional crisis and the Civil War, and the era of Reconstruction.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The Student will be able to....

- **Discern recurring themes in human history**
- **Develop critical thinking skills**
- **Identify areas of human conflict past and present**
- **Utilize case studies for comparison analyses**

Books: Turabian, Kate L. **A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition:** *Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. Revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams and University of Chicago Press Staff. 482 p., 42 line drawings, 11 tables. 6 x 9 1996, 2007 Paper \$17.00 ISBN: 978-0-226-82337-9 (ISBN-10: 0-226-82337-7) Spring 2007

Others will be assigned in class from the library.

Readings will be assigned in class.

Additional readings:

From time to time I may require you to read articles or other items that may be on the internet, on Blackboard or handed out in class.

Reading is fundamental to any history course and this class will be no different. Past performance indicates that if you do not read the material on a timely basis you will perform poorly on the examinations.

Class Format: This class will be primarily a lecture class but questions and class participation are critical to success.

Student evaluations of the instructor will be conducted according to University policies and students will have an opportunity to participate in this important process near the end of most semesters.

Grades:

Your course grade will come from various sources:

4 exams	60% (20% each for top 3)
1 book review	15%
1 paper	25 %

Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. (But not the review or paper).

Grading Scale:

89.5 and up	A
79.5 to 89.4	B
69.5 to 79.4	C
59.5 to 69.4	D
59.4 and below	F

Extra credit will only be offered for exceptional reasons.

Book review: the book review assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

Paper: the paper assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

All written assignments must be double spaced, 10 or 12 point font with 1 inch margins. As one might infer, all written assignments must be typed or word processed. Keep an electronic copy on disk for all written assignments. A backup copy easily accessible can make all the difference on occasion. Read, know and understand the Academic Dishonesty rules of the university. Cheating because of ignorance is still cheating.

Required Supplies:

Each day you should have everything necessary to take notes and contribute to in class discussions. Also, have an 882 scantron and a blue book in class each day just in case. The occasional quiz should be expected.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is essential but not mandatory. Lack of attendance will greatly hamper your ability to succeed in this course. I may or may not take roll on any given class day. Anyone missing an assignment may only make up that assignment if the absence is considered excused by university policy. Any student wishing to make-up an assignment must contact me within two (2) class days of his/her return. All makeups will be given the last week of class.

Absence on Religious Holidays: Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline date for notification by students to the faculty members of the student's intent to be absent on religious holy days.

If you need to leave class early, please let me know before class begins. Anyone arriving late to class (which means after I arrive) may not be allowed to attend class that day or may be assigned bonus assignments. Late arrivals are disruptive for the class and myself. However, if you need to arrive late it is better to do so than miss an entire class day.

As attendance is not mandatory, please stay out of the classroom if you intend to sleep, read the paper or anything else disruptive or deemed inappropriate by me.

(Changes to University policies and regulations will take precedence when appropriate).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: According to Academic Policy Statement 810213 of SHSU:

- 1) The university expects all students 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.
- 2) The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of

academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

- a. "Cheating" includes:
- b. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
 - i. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
 - ii. Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.
 - iii. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
 - iv. Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.
 - v. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
 - vi. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- c. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.
- d. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.
- e. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213, I may impose failure or reduction of a grade in an assignment or the course, and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If I believe that additional disciplinary action is necessary, I may refer the offending student to the Dean of Student Life or his designated appointee for further action.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook of SHSU:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

I will strictly and assiduously enforce this policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: According to the Faculty Handbook of SHSU:

In the event an unannounced visitor attends a class, the instructor should request identification in the form of a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor should act at his/her own discretion or refer the visitor to the department chair. 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 constitute interference with registered members of the class or the instruction thereof.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Student requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner.

Projected Course Schedule:

Changes may be made as necessary. Check Blackboard at least daily for class announcements.

Due to the significant amount of reading, writing and the short time available, most Wednesdays are Library Days. We will not meet as a formal class that day – instead you will use the time to work on your reading and writing assignments.

Tuesday, June 3 to Tuesday, June 10

Library Day, Friday, June 6.

Exam 1 on Tuesday, June 10.

Wednesday, June 11 to Tuesday, June 17.

Book Review due Friday, June 13th.

Exam #2 on Tuesday, June 17th.

Wednesday, June 18th to Tuesday, June 24th ..

Exam #3 on Tuesday, June 24th.

Wednesday, June 25th to Tuesday, July 1st

Term Paper due on Friday, June 27th.

Exam #4 on Tuesday, July 1st.

Final Exams

Exam 4 is the final exam.

Reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard so that they can be adjusted to meet class progress.

My goal for this class is to better understand the period covered by this class. This will be accomplished via readings, lectures, discussions, writings, multimedia and anything else that comes in handy. I enjoy an easy going but respectful classroom environment and am looking forward to the coming term. Whining and complaining will not be tolerated unless I'm doing the aforementioned actions – and I will still be the only one with that privilege.