

HIS 163: United States History to 1876
Fall 2007
3 credit hours
(version 1.1)

Instructor: Darren J. Pierson

e-mail: djp001@shsu.edu

Office: AB4 Room 309

Phone Number: 936-294-3752 (use e-mail instead of phone number except in extreme emergencies)

Office Hours Tuesdays 10 – 11 am and 5:30-6:00pm

Thursdays 10-11am

Or by appointment

History Department Office: AB4 Room 441

936-294-1475

Class times: TR 12:30-1:50 pm F 107 Section 26

TR 2– 3:20 pm AB4 202 Section 18

Course Description: A survey of the history of the United States from the Colonial Period until 1876.

Books:

0393927326	Tindall and Shi	America: A Narrative History	W. W. Norton	7.
------------	-----------------	------------------------------	--------------	----

Volume I, 2007. 7th edition (not 6th)

All books are mandatory. You do not have to purchase them, but you must have them available to read at any time. I may require you to bring readings to class.

Additional readings:

From time to time I may require you to understand 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.

Examinations:

There will be five examinations including the final. Each exam is worth 1/4 of your final grade. I will drop your lowest test grade. Test grades are not curved. The exams will cover lectures, readings and any other assigned material.

Grades:

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 *may* be made possible throughout the semester.

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.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class, as well as five scantrons (882) for the five examinations. Number 2 pencils as well for use with the scantrons.
- Use of a computer with an internet connection, a word processing program, and a printer is essential. Access and use of Blackboard (go to SHSU homepage and click on link) is mandatory.
- If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.
- All assignments will be due in hard copy.
- No e-mailed copies will be accepted.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is essential but not mandatory. Lack of attendance will 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.

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.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

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 a, minimally, 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.

Tuesday, August 21, 2007 to Thursday, September 6.

Lecture Theme: Introduction and **The People of Early America**

Chapters 1, 2, & 3.

Exam 1 on Thursday, September 6.

Tuesday, September 11 to Thursday, October 4.

Lecture Theme: **Origins of American Politics**

Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7.

Exam #2 on Thursday, October 4.

Tuesday, October 9 to Thursday, October, 25.

Lecture Theme: **The Rise of American Democracy**

Chapters 8, 9, 10, & 11.

Exam #3 on Thursday, October 25.

Tuesday, October 30 to Thursday, December 6.

Lecture Theme: **Sectionalism & Division**

Chapters 12, 13, 14 & 15

Thanksgiving Break – November 21 -23.

Exam #4 on Tuesday, December 6.

Final Exams

TBA.

I look forward to the upcoming semester and wish each of you the best. Remember that you are encouraged to drop by during office hours or to make an appointment to see me.

Grades are posted on Blackboard. If a grade is missing, it is your responsibility to inquire about the situation in a timely manner.