

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877**  
**HISTORY 163.08 (CID3385) -----M 6: 00-8: 50PM-----AB4 305**  
**(3 credit hours)**

**Instructor: Lee M. Pappas**

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**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- ▶ **Terry D. Bilhartz and Alan C. Elliott, *Currents in American History: A Brief History of the United States*. London: M.E.Sharpe, 2007.** This is a fascinating interpretation of the development of the United States based upon themes in American history.
- ▶ ***Outline of U.S. History. Washington, D.C.: Department of State, 2007.*** This is the basic outline text and an aid to help you prepare for exams.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- ▶ Students will acquaint themselves with the political, social, economic and cultural history of the United States to the era of Reconstruction.
- ▶ Students will gain a factual knowledge of United States history through Reconstruction.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

- ▶ This course will study the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States from the discovery of the New World to the end of Reconstruction. We will investigate such topics as: the European exploration and colonization of the Americas, the English North American Colonies, the American Revolution, the organization of the new republic, the Industrial Revolution in America, Westward Expansion, the sectional crises, the question of slavery, the Civil War, and the era of Reconstruction.
- ▶ Course work will consist of attending lectures and the taking of objective examinations.

**There is no prerequisite for this course beyond the university's approval.**

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:**

- The instructional method in class will primarily involve lectures.
- The class schedule will consist of 150-minute session each week. Each session is allotted to lectures by the instructor, while a portion of each session might be devoted to questions and discussion, as well as to view films.
- Lectures both supplement and complement reading assignments, as well as introduce problems to be brought up in assignments.
- Brief outlines of lectures, lectures and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on BLACKBOARD.

**STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades.
- **Reading Assignments:** Readings are given on a weekly basis in the Course Schedule and Outline. **The instructor reserves the right to change the readings in the Course Schedule and Outline.**
- **Examinations: There will be four examinations** during the semester. The Examination with the lowest score will be dropped. Each examination will include:
  - **A Multiple Choice section consisting of about 20 questions based upon lectures and text** (the multiple choice questions in this section will be based upon the topics and identification items listed below from the lectures and the readings). **2 exam points each; 40 exam points total. Prepare for this section by:** 1) keeping up in the readings and lectures, making up study notes on general topics and specific items as you go along; 2) Review your study notes before the exam.
  - **A True-False Section consisting of about 15 questions based upon lectures and text.** (the true/false questions in this section will be based upon the topics and identification items listed below from the lectures and the readings). **2 exam points each; 30 exam points total. Prepare**

- for this section by:** 1) keeping up in the readings and lectures, making up study notes on general topics and specific items as you go along. 2) Review your study notes before the exam.
- **A Matching Section consisting of about 15 items in three groups based upon lectures and text** (the matching items in this section will be based upon identification items listed below from the lectures and the readings). **2 exam points each; 30 exam points total. Prepare for this section by:** 1) keeping up in the readings and lectures, making up study notes on general topics and specific items as you go along. 2) Review your study notes before the exam.
  - The lowest score of the four examinations will be dropped.
  - The remaining three examinations will be worth up to 300 points or 100 percent of the course grade.
- **Make-ups:** . Makeup exams will be given only for legitimate excuses during the last week of the semester. On legitimate excuses, please see the Attendance and Conduct section. Make up exams will consist of one essay from a field of three essay questions.
  - **Required Supplies:**
    - Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class, as well as four scantron for the examinations.
    - Use of a computer with an internet connection, a word processing program, and a printer is required.
    - If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.
  - **Grading Plan:**
    - Examinations will count 300 points of the Course grade. (60%)
    - Student attendance and participation and participation will count in borderline. The instructor reserves the right to lower the letter grade of students who have more than three unexcused absences.
    - The grade scale will be: 270-300=A; 240-269=B; 210-239=C; 180-209=D; 0-179=F.
    - Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a one extension grade of 'X' in order to complete coursework.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is mandatory.**

- Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student in the class.
- I will keep a record of student attendance.
- I reserve the right to lower grades of students by one letter grade or more for excessive absences. You may miss **three (3)** classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. Absences beyond the three allowed can result in the lowering of a student's grade by one letter for the equivalent of one week missed (three absences).
- Only absences with legitimate written excuses (notes from doctors, employers and other officials, published obituaries, etc.) will be considered for exception to the above policy. The instructor will not automatically accept notes from family members. In addition, absences due to participation in extracurricular activities will not automatically be considered legitimate excuses, even with documentation. Because of instances of fraudulent excuses, authentic copies of the written excuses with addresses and telephone numbers of the issuing party must be given to the instructor. Any instances of fraud will result in expulsion from the 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.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- **Cheating** includes:

- Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
- Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- 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.
- 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.
- Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.
- 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. Laptop computers must be used for the curricular purposes of the course and not for net surfing or recreational purposes. 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, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.
- We 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.

## Readings and Assignments Schedule

Weekly chapter reading assignments below refer to Terry D. Bilhartz and Alan C. Elliott, *Currents in American History*, and *Outline of U.S. History* (on PDF). Please be aware that the lectures and weekly readings will not always be synchronous. By the time you take each exam, however, lectures and readings ought to largely coincide.

**Week 1: COLONIAL ORIGINS. (1/28)**

- LECTURE 1--PRECOLOMBIAN AMERICA
- LECTURE 2--THE EUROPEAN POWERS IN AMERICA

**READINGS:**

- *Currents in American History*, pp. . 1-9
- *Outline of U.S. History*, ch. 1.

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**Week 2: THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES. (2/4)**

- LECTURE 3--VIRGINIA AND MASSACHUSETTS)
- LECTURE 4--THE PROLIFERATION OF COLONIES

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 1.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 1.*

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**Week 3: COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT, 1. (2/11)**

- LECTURE 5--SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COLONIES
- LECTURE 6--POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COLONIES

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 1.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 2.*

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**Week 4: COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT, 2. (2/18)**

- LECTURE 7--CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES
- LECTURE 8--THE ANGLO-FRENCH CONFLICT AND THE COLONIES

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 1.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 2.*

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**Week 5: REVOLUTION AND REPUBLIC, 1 (2/25)**

- LECTURE 9--THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
- LECTURE 10--THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 2.*
- *Outline of U.S. History,, ch. 3.*

**First Examination**

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**Week 6: THE DIFFICULT BIRTH OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC (3/3-7)**

- LECTURE 11--OUTCOME AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
- LECTURE 12--THE CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 2.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 3-4.*

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**Week 7 ((3/10-14): SPRING RECESS**

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**Week 8: THE POLITICAL FOUNDATION OF THE REPUBLIC. (3/17)**

- LECTURE 13--THE FEDERALISTS AND JEFFERSONIANS
- LECTURE 14--THE U.S. IN THE ERA OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 2-3.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 4.*

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**Week 9 :THE YOUNG REPUBLIC AND THE WORLD IN TURMOIL. (3/24)**

- LECTURE 15--THE WAR OF 1812
- LECTURE 16--AGRICULTURE AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 2-3, 4-5*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 4.*

**Second Examination**

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**Week 10: SECTIONALISM AND REFORMISM. (3/31)**

- LECTURE 17--RESPONSES TO AMERICAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- LECTURE 18--SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIVERGENCE AND THE RISE OF SECTIONALISM

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 5.*
- *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 5.*

**Third Examination**

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**Week 11: SECTIONAL DIVISIONS AND THE ORIGINS OF CIVIL WAR. (4/7).**

- LECTURE 19---THE ISSUE OF SLAVERY.
- LECTURE 20---THE IMPETUS OF WESTWARD EXPANSION.

READINGS

- *Currents in American History, ch. 6.*
  - *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 6.*
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**Week 12 (11/19-20): THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, 1. (4/14)**

- LECTURE 21--THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: MILITARY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 7.*
  - *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 7.*
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**Week 13: THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES, 2. (4/21)**

- LECTURE 22--THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 7.*
  - *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 7.*
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**Week 14: THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION, 1865-1877. (4/28)**

- LECTURE 23--RECONSTRUCTION: HEALING OR FESTERING WOUNDS?

READINGS:

- *Currents in American History, ch. 8.*
  - *Outline of U.S. History, ch. 7.*
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**Week 15: OVERVIEW AND REVIEW. (5/6)**

- STUDY SESSION FOR THE FOURTH AND FINAL EXAMINATION.
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**The FOURTH EXAMINATION** will be held during Finals Week, 5/10-15 and will be announced later in the semester.