

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

HIS 376W  
CID#: 3494  
Early America to 1783  
Credit Hours: 3.0  
Spring Semester 2008

**Instructor:** Dr. Tom Cox

**Classroom and Class Time:** AB4 202, M/W/F, 11:00-11:50 a.m.

**Office and Office Hours:** AB4 473, M/W, 2:30-4:00 p.m. or by appointment

**Contact Info:** Phone: 936-294-4804, FAX: 936-294-3938, [thc001@shsu.edu](mailto:thc001@shsu.edu)

**Course Description:** This course that examines American history from roughly the first European colonies in the Americas during the 1500s to the end of the American Revolution in 1783. Throughout this semester, students will investigate the diverse cultures (Native, African, and European) and the colonial societies these groups helped to create in the Americas. You will also sharpen your critical thinking and writing skills through discussions and writing assignments. Major topics you will study include: Native-colonial relations, the origins of the British North American colonies, Puritan culture, the role of women in colonial society, the First Great Awakening, the rise of slavery and the plantation system, mercantilism, the French and Indian War, and the origins and events of the American Revolution.

**Learning Objectives:** Throughout this semester, our course goals are to:

- Increase your knowledge of American history up to 1783.
- Continue to sharpen you critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills.

**Readings:** The following book is required reading for the course. Copies may be purchased at the Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore, Bearkat Books, Kampus Korner or on-line through websites such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com:

Richard Middleton, *Colonial America: A History, 1585-1776* (any edition)

In addition, the professor will post additional weekly assigned readings under the assignment section of Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to download, print off, and read this material by the dates specified on the class schedule. As we will be holding a number of class discussions on important religious topics, completing the assigned weekly readings is necessary if you hope to do well in this course.

**Attendance:** Just as you undoubtedly expect me to keep my lectures to the point and grade your assignments on time, so to I expect you to attend class regularly and promptly complete assignments. Attendance will be taken during each class. As life can get complicated at times, you may miss up to four (4) classes without penalty. If you feel that you will be absent for longer periods of time then please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible. I will require documentation for long-term absences from class.

**Exams:** You will have three in-class exams for this course. Each exam will consist of short answer/identification terms and one out of two possible essays. Students are required to take exams on assigned days. I will allow makeup exams only for exceptional, documented circumstances. All makeup exams will be given at the same time on Thurs. May 15, the last day of finals week.

**Grading:** The final grade for this course will be based on class attendance and participation (20%), three class exams (20% each), and a 10-12 page research paper (20%). If applicable, extra credit will be factored into the final grade on a case-by-case basis. My grading scale is as follows: A+ = 97-100, A=93-96, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C=73-76, C- = 70-72, D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower. Pluses and minuses will be dropped on your final grade for the course.

**Academic Honesty:** In accordance with Sam Houston State University's Academic Policy Statement 810213, "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." See <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty> for more information.

**Keeping On Top of Assignments:** Before each Monday's class, I will post lecture outlines, key terms, study questions, and course updates for the upcoming week in the announcement and assignment sections of Blackboard. It's a good idea to consult Blackboard's announcement and assignment sections periodically for updates and changes to the semester schedule.

**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 the student has a disability that may affect adversely their work in this class, then he or she needs to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how they can best be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center. See <http://www.shsu.edu/~vafwww/aps/811006.html> and <http://www.shsu.edu/~vafwww/aps/documents/861001.pdf> for more information.

**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.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** 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 he/she will be allowed to remain.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**Assignments:** Students will need to complete a 10-12 page reaction papers based on the assigned readings. You will also be given an optional extra credit paper, also based on the assigned readings, due the last day of class before the final exam. All SHSU rules for plagiarism apply to these assignments. The professor will post specific assignment information including the grading system to be used, the types of citation required, etc. on Blackboard throughout the semester.

**Required Supplies:** Students are required to bring pens or pencils and notebooks to class for note taking and exams. Students are also required to buy the textbook stated above for the class and to secure copies of the additional, on-line readings for the course specified on Blackboard.

**Classroom Conduct:** Classes tend to run more smoothly if students and professors observe a few basic ground rules. Laptops and other internet devices are not permitted in class. Please arrive to class on time and stay for the entire class. I reserve the right to count you absent for repeated tardiness, leaving early, or generally disrupting class by talking, sleeping, listening to music, eating, drinking, text messaging, reading materials for other classes, etc. Particularly difficult students may be advised to drop, find their final grades lowered, or even given failing grades for the course. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline can be found at <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

**Running Into Problems:** Over the course of the semester, you may run into problems that range from falling behind in the course to medical or family related emergencies. If you find yourself in such a situation, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may address the matter directly. I am also available during office hours or by appointment for help, tutoring, or advice as needed. For more general help, consider visiting the SAM Center, the Reading Center, or the Writing Center if you are having trouble with note taking, completing assignments, or studying for exams.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Assignments and Exams</b>
<b>Week 1:</b> Jan. 16, 18	Colonial Ventures	Middleton, Chapter 1
<b>Week 2:</b> Jan. 23, 25 (No class for Jan. 21, MLK Day)	Native America	Middleton, Chapter 2 Mon. Jan. 23, <b><i>Research Paper Guidelines Posted</i></b>
<b>Week 3:</b> Jan. 28, 30, Feb. 1	Brave New Worlds	Middleton, Chapter 3
<b>Week 4:</b> Feb. 4, 6, 8	Pilgrims and Puritans	Middleton, Chapter 4
<b>Week 5:</b> Feb. 11, 13, 15	Proprietary Colonies	Middleton, Chapters 5-6
<b>Week 6:</b> Feb. 18, 20, 22	Struggles for Freedom	Middleton, Chapters 7-8 <b><i>Fri. Feb. 22, 1<sup>st</sup> Exam</i></b>
Week 7: Feb. 25, 27, 29	Hellfire and Brimstone	Middleton, Chapter 9
<b>Week 8:</b> Mar. 3, 5, 7	Life and Labor	Middleton, Chapter 10
<b>Week 9:</b> Mar. 10-15 (No classes)	Spring Break	
<b>Week 10:</b> Mar. 17, 19, 21	Colonial Society	Middleton, Chapters 11-12
<b>Week 11:</b> Mar. 24, 26, 28	Keeping the Faith	Middleton, Chapter 13 <b><i>Fri. Mar. 28, 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam</i></b>
<b>Week 12:</b> Mar. 31 Apr. 2, 4	Surviving Slavery	Middleton, Chapter 14
<b>Week 13:</b> Apr. 7, 9, 11	Native-Settler Relations	Middleton, Chapter 15
<b>Week 14:</b> Apr. 14, 16, 18	Purse and Sword	Middleton, Chapter 16-17
<b>Week 15:</b> Apr. 21, 23, 25	Imperial Rivalries	Middleton, Chapter 18-19
<b>Week 16:</b> Apr. 28, 30, May 2	Revolutionary Ideas	Middleton, Chapter 20 <b><i>Fri. May 2, Research Papers Due in Class</i></b>
<b>Week 17:</b> May 5, 7, 9	Revolutionary America	Middleton, Chapter 21 <b><i>Fri. May 9, Extra Credit Papers Due in Class</i></b>
<b>Week 18:</b> May 10-15	Final Exams	<b><i>Third Exam</i></b> (Date to Be Announced)