

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 163.17 (CID#4487)
UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1877
3 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
FALL 2007

Location: AB4 Olson Auditorium

Class Meeting: TTH, 12:30-1:50 pm

Instructor: James S. Olson his_jso@shsu.edu

Instructor Contact Information: Office Phone: 936-294-1486 Fax:
936-294-3938 mailto:his_jso@shsu.edu

Instructor Office Hours: MW, 1-4; T, 8-9:30 and 3-4:30. [mailto:\(stdclg12@shsu.edu\)](mailto:stdclg12@shsu.edu)

Assistant Instructor: John Fennessey (936-294-3752) (stdjmm6@shsu.edu) Office: AB4-309

Assistant Instructor Office Hours: MWF 9-11.

E-Mail Instructions

Dr. Olson and Mr. Fennessey will respond only to e-mails received through a current SHSU student account.

Course Description

History 163.17 is a survey of United States history to 1877. The major topics of the course will include the origins of ethnic diversity in America, the origins and rise of a democratic political culture, the causes of the American Revolution and the Civil War, and the evolution of notions of equality and constitutional government. Course content will be delivered through instructor lectures and student reading of the required texts. 163 is a reading-intensive course, and students should know that good grades depend on diligent reading of the texts.

Instructor Objectives

1. To assist students in gaining factual knowledge about United States history to 1877.
2. To assist students in learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories relevant to United States history to 1877.
3. To assist students in learning to analyze and critically evaluate important ideas, arguments, and points of view in early American history.

Required Texts and Supplies

Students will need a copy of Robert Divine, *The American Story*, Vol. I (Pearson Longman); Randy Roberts and James Olson, *American Experiences*, Vol. I (Pearson Longman); notebook and pen/pencil for taking lecture notes; and four 882 Scantron forms.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is required. Students who attend class regularly are far more likely to succeed than students with frequent absences. Students will punish themselves by missing class frequently because their ability to do well on exams will be compromised. Student attendance will be recorded daily. Students should also realize, however, that final grades will be based exclusively on examination performance, not on attendance. At the end of the semester, if a student falls one to five points (total points, not percentage points!) below the next highest grade,

and if the student's total absences for the semester are less than four, Dr. Olson will give the student the higher grade. Students should be aware that under new regulations, excessive absences could threaten federal financial aid eligibility. Students with questions about these regulations should consult the SHSU Financial Aid office.

Dropping the Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop a course. Students who decide to drop the course should do so by following the regulations of the Registrar's Office.

Course Schedule

The schedule of reading assignments and examinations is fluid depending upon the evolution of the course during the semester. Reading assignments and examination dates will be announced in class. Examination dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

Examinations

Examinations will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The questions will be taken from both lecture material and readings assignments, roughly in equal proportion. Each examination will be worth a maximum of 100 points. Students will take four examinations during the semester, for a maximum total of 400 points. All missed examinations will be made up on the last regularly scheduled Thursday of the semester. Make-up examinations, except those missed for observance of a religious holy day, will be more difficult than regularly-scheduled examinations because the absent student will have had more time than other students to prepare. Students who miss an examination because they are on official university travel (such as debate or athletic teams) may take the exam before the official date. If they do not take it early, they will have to take the make-up test. Students missing an examination for observance of a religious holiday must take a make-up examination no later than 72 hours after the holy day. Otherwise, they will take the make-up test. The final examination will cover only the last quarter of the course.

Students should purchase the textbooks as soon as possible. Bookstores often begin returning un-purchased textbooks to the publishers within three weeks of the beginning of the semester. Students who fail to purchase their textbooks in a timely manner will be given no special consideration if they are unable to secure a textbook before examinations. In other words, do not come to Professor Olson with the excuse, "I can't find the textbook." It is the student's responsibility to acquire the books during the first week of the semester.

Grading Plan

At the conclusion of the course, a student with 360 points or above will receive an A; a student with 320-359 points will receive a B; a student with 280 to 319 points will receive a C; a student with 240 to 279 points will receive a D; a student with fewer than 240 points will receive an F.

Extra Credit

There are no options for extra credit.

Learning Disabilities

Federal law requires that disabled students receive reasonable accommodations to assist them in completing course requirements. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any

academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically-related problems from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 926-294-1720. As a man with a physical disability and a modest learning disorder, Dr. Olson is happy to provide any reasonable assistance. Learning-disabled students must have the disability certified by the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Students should also realize that laziness is not a learning disability.

Academic Dishonesty

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 experience, 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 action against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty consists primarily of copying another student's work and claiming it as your own or employing any type of written, audio, or video material during an exam to assist in answering questions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will immediately receive a grade of F for the entire course.

Cell Phone Use

Before class begins, students should turn off their cell phones so as to avoid disturbing Dr. Olson and other students. **USE OF A CELL PHONE IN CLASS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.** Students caught talking on a cell phone during class will lose 50 points for each occasion.

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 8611001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and the instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy 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 time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off and stowed away before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, using cellular phones, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in some other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive

also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Students engaging in disruptive behavior will have points subtracted from their final grade total. The assistant instructor will monitor individual behavior on a daily basis; when a disruption occurs, it will be noted. The student will then receive a warning. With the second breach of the code of conduct, and for each subsequent breach, twenty points will be deducted from a student's cumulative point total. It should be re-emphasized that each time a student is caught speaking into a cell-phone during class time will carry as penalty of 40 points. It should be obvious, therefore, that a continuing pattern of irresponsible behavior will have a severe impact on a student's final grade.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. Their attendance must not disrupt the class. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor may attend.

Key Concepts, Terms, and Principles

acculturation

amalgamation

animism

aristocracy

Articles of Confederation

assimilation

Bill of Rights (English, 1689)

Bill of Rights (United States, 1791)

caste

chain of being

chattel slavery

class

classical economics

competition, law of

Compromise of 1850

contagious disease

demography

democracy

Dred Scott decision

Eighth Amendment

Election of 1800

Election of 1824

Election of 1844

Election of 1860

Emancipation Proclamation

eminent domain
epidemic disease
epidemiology
equality of condition
equality of opportunity
established religion
ethnicity
ethnocentrism
ethnocide
ethnogenesis (convergence)
ethnogenesis (divergence)

federalism
Fifth Amendment
First Amendment
Fourth Amendment
Fourteenth Amendment
freedom of association
Freeport Doctrine
Fifth Amendment

genocide

habeus corpus
handicapped
Hobbes, Thomas

judicial review

Kansas-Nebraska Act

laissez-faire
Lincoln-Douglas Debates
Locke, John

Magna Carta
Manifest Destiny
mercantilism
meritocracy
militia
Missouri Compromise
monarchy
monotheism
New Jersey Plan

pandemic disease

political culture
polytheism
popular sovereignty
“pursuit of happiness”

race, the concept of
racism
representative government
republicanism

Second Amendment
separation of church and state
Sixth Amendment
shamanism
sovereignty
supply and demand

theocracy
theology
three-fifths compromise
tribe

vigilantes
Virginia Plan

Whig political theory