

## **Syllabus**

History 163. 14 CID: 3457

Spring 2008

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1876**

Meeting Tu-Th, 2:00-3:20pm.

AB4 305

(3 Credit Hours)

Robert L. Shadle

Office: AB4 471 Ext: 4-1490

E-Mail: *HIS\_RXS@SHSU.EDU*

Office Hours

M-W, 1-2pm.

T-Th, 1-2pm.

#### **Class Description:**

- Survey of the history of the United States to 1876 (the end of Reconstruction).
- The instructional method in class will involve lectures, discussions, and occasional videos or other visual presentations.
- There are no prerequisites.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

- Be familiar with the important events, movements, and developments in the history of the United States from the beginnings to the period of Reconstruction.
- understand the connections--*ie.* to be able to relate significant names, terms, dates, events, facts, movements, and developments in American History to each other and to the

present situation.

**Textbook:** KennedKenned/Cohen/Piehl **The Brief American Pageant volume 1, Seventh Edition.**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY—S/2008**

- A. Regular classroom attendance is expected of students in this course. More than three absences during the semester will be considered excessive. In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, the student is still responsible for the material covered. The instructor is obligated to disseminate class information, materials, and instructions one time only. He cannot and will not recreate the lectures for tardy or absent students, nor is he obligated to loan, books, videotapes, or other materials to students.
- B. The instructor will take roll at the beginning of each class period. Any person not in their seat will be counted absent.
- C. No points will be given for attendance; no points will be deducted for excessive absences.
- D. In order to receive credit for work done during the class period, the student must be in attendance during the entire class period unless other arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.
- E. Regular (and wide awake) class attendance and the taking of a good set of lecture notes are critical

to successful performance on the major examinations and quizzes in this course. (Class attendance will be recorded, as is required by university policy.) Outside of class study is equally important. At a bare minimum, students should expect to spend six to eight hours per week on outside of class assignments and preparation. If you know that you are a slow reader, or you know (or discover) that your reading vocabulary is too limited, then you should be prepared to spend such additional time as is necessary on the reading assignments.

Extra study time--however much is necessary for you to gain a thorough grasp of the material--may be required to prepare for quizzes and major examinations.

"Taking" a course implies doing the work required--in this case, reading the materials assigned and demonstrating that you have done so and have comprehended the materials through class discussion and performance on such exams and reports as are required. Be prepared to discuss the material assigned for any particular day--each student should expect to be called upon numerous times during the semester and to be judged in regard to his or her degree of preparation for that day.

F. It is the student's responsibility to drop a course. The professor cannot drop a student from the course.

## **Exams**

There will be at least three major exams during the semester, including the Final.

Major exam questions will be mostly multiple-choice. All major exams will be worth 50 points.

It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the professor in order to make up work or exams missed for appropriate cause.

A documented, university approved excuse will be required as proof of such appropriate cause.

Make up exams may be different in content and form (eg. essays instead of multiple-choice questions) from the original exam.

If you leave the classroom during the taking of an exam, you must turn in your exam at that point. You will not be allowed to return and resume taking the exam.

No one who arrives late for an exam will be allowed to begin the exam after the first student to complete the exam has left the room.

## **Quizzes**

There will be ten or more pop quizzes over lectures and class presentations. Each quiz will be worth up to 10 points.

Persons who come to class late-after a quiz has begun will not be allowed to take that quiz.

At the end of the semester, one or more quizzes will

be dropped; the ten highest quiz scores will be counted toward the student's total score--for a semester total of 100 possible points.

## **Grading**

Scores will be posted on Blackboard as soon as possible after quizzes and exams.

The major exams will be worth 50 points each.

Quizzes will be worth a total of 100 points.

In all, students in this class will have the opportunity to earn **350** points—plus possible extra credit points.

At the end of the semester, the total points of each student will be divided by the total number of points that it was possible to earn.

The result will show the percentage of the total possible points earned by the student.

The letter grade for the semester will be determined from that percentage.

The grade scale will be as follows:

**85% = A; 75% = B; 60% = C; 50% = D; below 50% = F.**

There will be no curve and no individualized extra credit.

Please consult the University Calendar for the date and time of the final examination for your class. That date will not be changed. Do not plan any trips, events, etc. that might prevent you from taking your final exam at the scheduled time.

You must take the final examination in order to pass the course.

### **University Policy on Academic Honesty from Academic Policy Statement 810213**

*5.3 Academic Honesty. 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.*

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*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.*

In other words, cheating is unacceptable. Cheating, copying, plagiarism and/or failure to comply with written and/or oral rules, directions or instructions in regard to class assignments, papers, tests, exams, or quizzes, etc. will be subject to disciplinary action that--at the discretion of the professor--could result in loss of points, lowering of letter grade, or failure in

the course.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Persons who are seeing or hearing impaired should notify the professor if they need to have a seat that is close to the front of the classroom. Persons with learning disabilities, physical handicaps, or other serious conditions or impairments might require special arrangements for exams, assignments, use of tape recorders, etc. Those persons should contact the Counseling Center (ext. 4-1720), which will then inform the instructor about the arrangements that need to be made.

Please do not bring a tape or digital recording device to class unless you can provide some documentation for a disability.

### **DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities 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*

(936) 294-1720.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY**

*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 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and 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 timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.*

### **University Policy on Visitors in the Classroom:**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted to stay. They must not present a

disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructors discretion that the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

### **Instructor Evaluations**

All students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. The evaluations will relate to the objectives listed at the beginning of the syllabus. The teacher will not be present in the classroom during the evaluation, and students will be expected to complete the evaluation as fairly and impartially as possible.

### **Assignments:**

Week:

#### **#1 Introductory Meeting**

#### **#2 New World Beginnings**

Text: **Chapter 1**

#### **#3 Colonial Period**

Text: **Chapter 2, 3**

#### **#4 Colonial Period II**

Text: **Chapter 4. 5**

#### **#5 Era of the Revolution**

Text: **Chapter 6, 7**

**#6 Era of the Revolution II**

Text: **Chapter 8. 9**

**#7 The Early National Period**

Text: **Chapter 10. 11**

**#8 War of 1812/Era of Good Feelings**

Text: **Chapter 12**

**#9 Age of Jackson**

Text: **Chapter 13**

**#10 National Growing Pains**

Text: **Chapter 14, 15**

**#11 Slavery Controversy**

Text: **Chapter 16**

**#12 Manifest Destiny/Mexican War**

Text: **Chapter 17**

**#13 Sectional Discord**

Text: **Chapter 18**

**#14 Drifting Toward Disunion**

Text: **Chapter 19**

**#15 Civil War Era**

Text: **Chapter 20**

**#16 Civil War Era II**

Text: **Chapter 21**

## **#17 Reconstruction**

Text: **Chapter 22**  
**Final Exam**

### **Additional Reading Assignments:**

Internet Reading Assignments (fifteen or more) will be posted electronically by the instructor--eg. on Blackboard or by e-mail.

**Please Note:** Topics may be combined, shifted, added, or dropped depending on availability of tapes, films, and reading material. The focus of the course may be altered also by the urgency of current news events.

Time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that could adversely affect the majority of the class might also result in minor changes to this syllabus.

### **University Policy on Student 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 phones, pagers, laptops and other communications, recording, and listening devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other publications, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result*

*in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may also be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.*

As scholars at a great university, you will be expected to conduct yourselves accordingly in this class. Talking, sleeping, passing notes, bothering other people, inattentiveness, etc. constitute-- and will be deemed--inexcusable conduct. Persons engaged in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions including warnings and reprimands, escalating loss of points from the student's total score, loss of eligibility for extra-credit points, and expulsion from class.

Please see the following web address for the complete SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

**Discussion of--and questions about--this syllabus may take place at any time during the semester.**