

United States History to 1876

History 163, Section 11 (3 Credit Hours)

CID: 3439

AB4 220 (Olson AUD), T/Th 11:00am - 12:20am

Spring 2008

Professor: Yvonne Davis Frear

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Office Hrs: 9:30am -10:30am (Tu/Th)

12:30pm – 1:30pm (Tu/Th)

and by appointment

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Office Hrs: 12:30pm – 1:30pm (Tu/Th)

by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey course designed to cover United States history from its colonial origins to Reconstruction. The course examines social, political, economic, and cultural changes in American history from the pre-Columbian era through the beginning of Reconstruction and focuses on major themes – the evolution and development of an ethnocentric society, the power of patriarchy, the historical foundations of the “American way of life,” and the rise of the United States as the “freest” society competing on the hegemonic world stage. We will explore some of the most dramatic problems in early American history: ethnocentric and racial conflict, growth of diversity, colonial urban sprawl, industrial revolution, and demographic change and political contest. We will study, for example, the origins of African, Native American, and European cultures, forms of servitude, slave societies, role of women in colonial America, Frederick Douglass, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. As compared to traditional history courses, we will spend less time on political parties and military events, and more time on the growth of American communities, social values and cultural trends. The learning outcomes for students are that the student will learn factual knowledge about individuals, events, experiences and ideas that are similar, and different, from those that we encounter presently. Consequently, the student will learn to apply course materials to answer delicate, yet intriguing, questions, like, “What do we mean by *“the American way of life?”* Why does *“Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death”* shed light on problems that America confronts in the 21st century? How did an agrarian, new nation expand to become a major empire? And, why does a powerful nation end up fighting *“brother against brother”*? I encourage students to discuss and/or debate these questions with their peers in study groups and during class discussion as they discover, interpret, and abandon preconceptions and opinions about fundamental historical generalizations, theories, and principles throughout the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Faragher, John Mack, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom, and Susan H. Armitage. Out of Many: A History of the American People, Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition, Volume I, Revised Printing: 4/ Edition. (New York: Prentice Hall, 2006)

Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

Online (free) version of the full-text of the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass is: <http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/Literature/Douglass/Autobiography/>

SUGGESTED TEXTS

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (or comparable title)

Roget's Thesaurus (or comparable title)

COURSE MANAGEMENT

- A. Students must not use cell phones or any electronic communication device during class. Students must place all cell phones, mp3 players, pagers, pda's, and watches in the silent or vibrate mode. No exceptions!
- B. Students must not sleep, talk excessively, text message, read newspapers, magazines, or other coursework, etc ... during the class period.
- C. Students who have disruptive or inappropriate behavior during class will receive instructions to leave the classroom. The continued abuse of this infraction will be reported to the Dean.
- D. Students who violate any of the above infractions will be counted absent from class. Every three (3) infractions of any sort will equal to one (1) unexcused absence.
- E. Students must be prepared for class during each meeting.
- F. Students are not permitted to bring children (any age) to class.
- G. Makeup quizzes and exams for students providing a University approved excuse, documentation of a physician-confirmed illness, or death in the family will be offered **Thursday, May 8, 2008**, from **12:30pm – 4:30pm**. I must have documentation of your absence before you are allowed to take a make-up quiz or exam. Students who miss an exam or quiz date and do not have an excused absence will not be allowed to take a makeup exam or quiz.
Please note that the professor will be the **sole** judge of what constitutes an excused absence beyond those outlined above

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. EXAMS

- A. There will be four (4) major exams during this session. The **first** exam will be offered **February 7, 2008**. The **second** exam will be offered **March 6, 2008**. The **third** exam will be offered **April 10, 2008**. The **fourth** exam will be offered **May 15, 2008**.
- B. The exams will cover materials in your textbook, lecture, supplementary readings, documents, and any handouts. If you miss a lecture, it is imperative (and **your responsibility**) to get the notes from someone in the class, as the lecture will include material not in your textbook.
- C. The exam format for the semester exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

II. COURSE QUIZZES

- A. There will be four (4) reading comprehension-styled quizzes during the course. The quizzes will be a pre-prep before the exam. The quizzes will cover materials covered in lecture, the textbook, and any supplemental readings.
- B. The quizzes will be in the multiple choice and true/false exam format.

III. GRADING POLICY

- A. The grade breakdown for the course is as follows:

Exam 1	- - 100 pts.
Exam 2	- - 100 pts.
Exam 3	- - 100 pts.
Final	- - 100 pts.
Quizzes	- - 40 pts.
Total	440 pts.

B. The grading scale for this course is as follows:

Grading Scale		
396 - 440	=	A
352 - 395	=	B
308 - 351	=	C
264 - 307	=	D
220 - 263	=	F

C. In addition, if at the end of the session a student has no absences, *excused or unexcused*, and has accumulated an aggregate of **323 total points**, that student will be **exempt** from taking the fourth exam, **Thursday, May 8, 2008**, and will receive an **'A' in the course**. I will not curve grades up, under any circumstances, so the aggregate points will be tabulated at the completion of Quiz 4.

ATTENDANCE/PREPAREDNESS POLICY

A. Attendance is absolutely essential to the learning process in this class. Therefore, attendance will be taken at random times during various class meetings. You will be present if you are in attendance and in your assigned seat when we take the roll. If you come to class late and the TA has already marked you absent, you will be counted absent. **For every three (3) late entries, you will earn one (1) unexcused absence.**

B. Students who sleep in class, talk excessively (as determined by the TA or the professor), text message, instant message, web surf, read newspapers/magazines/other class work, or leave early (without pre-arranged approval from the professor) will be counted absent. Every three (3) infractions of any sort will equal to one (1) unexcused absence.

C. Near the end of the semester, in accordance with the grading policy, attendance (along with aggregate grade totals) will be tabulated to determine those students who are eligible to be exempt from the final exam.

D. **Students are permitted only three (3) absences** (excused or unexcused) in this course, one additional absence beyond what is mandated by the university. In this course, for every two (2) absences, beyond the three absences, a student will have **two (2) points** deducted from his overall course grade.

E. The student who has only three absences (excused or unexcused), will receive an **additional five (5) points** added to his overall course grade.

F. A student who has **six (6) unexcused absences** will be reported to the Dean and the SHSU Registrar's office to be dropped from the course immediately.

G. Students must be prepared during each class meeting to participate in academic discourse as pertinent to the course. The professor reserves the right to give unscheduled pop quizzes if it is determined that absenteeism or lack of preparedness is excessive as defined by the professor.

H. In accordance with university guidelines, the professor reserves the right to lower the student's grade or drop a student from the course at her discretion if the student is absent for more than three course hours.

ASSISTANCE WITH STUDYING

I encourage students to contact me or the TA if you need assistance understanding the material we are reading or discussing or if you are getting behind in the course assignments. If you would like additional support, you may also contact the [SAM Center](#) (Student Advising & Mentoring Center), which helps students improve their note-taking, time management, and study skills. The [SAM Center](#) is located in AB4, room 210. You may make an appointment at the Center by email (SAMCenter@shsu.edu) or phone (936.294.4444). Additionally, students can receive support from the [Reading Center](#) which assists students with effective reading strategies and the

confidence to excel in their classes. The [Reading Center](#) is located in Farrington, room 109. You may make an appointment by email (rdg_www@shsu.edu) or by phone (936.294.3114).

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

"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." Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Section 5.3, et. al., as printed in Student Guidelines.

Students enrolled in this course are subject to the Student Guidelines in their entirety.

Any student engaged in committing academic dishonesty on any level (including, but not limited to, changing exams/quizzes, sharing exam/quiz answers during the exam/quiz period, submitting copied assignments, using any device or communication method to share or transmit information during examination, quiz, or assignment periods) will be reported to the Dean and dropped from the course with a final grade of 'F.'

AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY STATEMENT

*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, 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, Lee Drain Annex, or by phoning (936) 294-1720. 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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best assist you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE:** No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.*

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 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 hold 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.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. 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 the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.