

Syllabus for HIS 388 - Public History
3 Credit Hours - Spring 2008
CID # 3543 - AB4 – Room #
305

Dr. A. Caroline Castillo Crimm
Office Hours - Mon, Wed, Fri 8 - 10 am
Tues-Thurs - 1 to 3:30pm

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Mr. Mac Woodward, Adjunct Professor Office - Sam Houston Memorial Museum

We will initially meet in Room 305 after which we will move to the Museum to work on the cabins or carry out personal projects.

Assigned Readings:

All of the readings will be available through the Internet, the office, or Amazon.com.

Jordan, Terry G. Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture:

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978 (\$25)

Sloan, Eric, Museum of Early American Tools; New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1964 (\$25)

Crimm, A.C., Cabin Fever; Huntsville: Texas Review Press, 2000 (\$15)

Supplies:

You will need heavy work gloves and some kind of protective outerwear to keep your clothes clean.

Map Colors - your choice of type, but you will need at least half a dozen colors.

NOTE: The complete version of this syllabus, plus all visual presentations in class, and specific daily assignments will be available on BLACKBOARD under HIS 388. You are responsible for checking for posted changes and updates as the syllabus is tentative and may be changed at the Instructor's discretion.

Learning Objectives: This is a Public History course in which students will learn the art of restoring log cabins, the handling of artifacts, and other projects as students develop ideas and interests and choose a topic for a presentation paper.

Students in this course will use history to achieve a mastery of critical reading, analytical writing, logical thinking and dialectic debate. Based on the IDEA evaluations, by the end of this course, students will:

- (1) Gain factual knowledge of the field of preservation - terminology, methods and styles
Gain factual knowledge in the field of US and Texas history for the 19th and 20th centuries
- (2) Learn fundamental principles of construction of log cabins
- (3) Learn to apply course materials to prepare a written history of the Guerrant Cabin
- (4) Develop specific skills in museum and preservation techniques
- (5) Acquire skills in working with others as a team
- (6) Develop your creative capacities by writing a chapter for inclusion in the book on the cabin
- (7) Gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the lives of the early colonial people
- (8) Develop skill in expressing yourself in writing
- (9) Learn how to find information, interview individuals, and locate archival primary sources
- (10) Acquire an interest in learning more about preservation and local history.

NOTE: This syllabus, plus all visual presentations in class and specific daily assignments will be available on Blackboard through the Sam Houston Home Page. Please check for posted changes and updates.

The instructional method in class will involve lectures, power point presentations, and discussions; occasionally the class may view a video or discuss some of the most enduring historical

Attendance Policy

Students are permitted to have **five (5) unexcused absences**. These may be used for court appearances, illnesses, doctor's visits, family emergencies, or other situations requiring you to miss class. You **do not need to provide excuses** for these absences.

Penalties - Any absences beyond five will be deducted from total class point totals at the rate of **five (5) points per absence**.

Tardies - I expect every student to be ***on time and in their seat*** for every class, as you would for a job. Excessive tardies will be penalized at the rate of one point deducted from the class point totals for each tardy.

In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, you are still responsible for the material covered.

Grading: 300 points total

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| 100 pts | 1 Mid-Term Exam and 1 Final Exam - Multiple choice, matching, true false and essay tests, 50 points each. Bring SCANTRON 886E. |
| 100 pts | 1 Project of your choosing to be presented to the class as a report at the end of the semester, and submitted in writing to the professor. |
| 50 pts | 10 points each for participating in historical or campus-wide activities as assigned or approved by instructor. |
| 50 pts. | Attendance - Deduction of 5 points for every day after your first five absences. The five absences are for medical needs, family crises, legal problems, emergencies. Save them , you never know when you will need them. |

This course will focus on the early history of the United States and Texas, with emphasis on the how local history impacted the Guerrant family who lived in the cabin we will be reconstructing. We will place emphasis on particular themes each week during this first half of our nations history, rather than try to cover the material comprehensively. These themes will address topics that have transformed the values, institutions, and material fortunes in American life, and in particular the lives of the family who lived in our cabin.

Academic Honesty

According to the administrations guidelines (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.”*

Please check your syllabus on Blackboard regularly for any changes. If you are absent or late, the responsibility for obtaining information is incumbent upon you. You would be wise to establish relationships with fellow students for assuring that you remain well informed and that you are adequately prepared for exams.

In the event you must drop this class, please remember, should you decide to drop the course, do so through the registrar’s office. Otherwise, your course grade will be “F.”

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 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 the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

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.

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall 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.

Visitors in the Classroom

According to the Administration's guidelines: *"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."* Anyone visiting the class must make arrangements with me before class begins. 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 interfere with registered members of the class or the educational process.

In consideration of time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that might adversely affect the majority of the class, I will reserve the right to make minor changes to this syllabus.

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 – All dilemmas are due on the day of the discussion. Students will be expected to submit the assignments either in hard-copy form or via e-mail. All dilemmas must conform to the regulations listed at the beginning of the syllabus.

Required Supplies – All students must purchase a copy of the textbook. Students may also purchase map colors for use with maps in class.

Study Tips - Students are encouraged to work together to discuss the answers to the dilemmas, although students must write their Dilemmas on their own. It is highly recommended that students read the chapters before coming to class, and then reviewing the material after class. If students are having trouble with reading they should contact the Reading Center in Farrington

Building. Students should also submit their Dilemma essays to the Writing Center in order to clear up any writing problems and to correct all grammar errors.

Students will be provided with review sheets or lists of important dates and facts and may form study groups to review the material before exams.

Course Outline and Assignments

These will vary depending on what has to be done on the cabin or on your reports. This will be a very flexible class and there will be a number of different activities available for you to choose.

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Weds - Jan 16 - Introduction and Review -

Week 2

Wed – Jan. 23 - World and Texas History

Week 3

Wed – Jan 30 - Changing Technology - Begin work on the cabin

Week 4

Wed – Feb. 6- Discussion of Projects

Week 5

Wed – Feb. 13 - Develop Projects, turn in description

Week 6

Wed – Feb. 20 - Continue work on cabin

Week 7

Wed – Feb. 27 – Complete work on cabin

Week 8

Wed – Mar. 5 – **Mid-Term Exam**

Week 9 – SPRING BREAK

Mon – Mar. 10 to Fri. Mar. 14

Week 10

Wed – Mar. 19 – Work on Cabin

Week 11

Wed – Mar. 26 – Work on Cabin

Week 12

Wed – April 2 – Work on Projects

Week 13

Wed – April 9 - Initial Reports on Projects

Week 14

Wed – April 16 - Reports on Projects

Week 15

Wed – April 23 - Trips to visit other museums

Week 16

Wed – April 30 – Trips to visit other museums

Week 17

Wed - May 7 - Discussions, Evaluations of course.

FINAL EXAM -

Students will be expected to:

- (1) Gain factual knowledge of the field of preservation - terminology, methods and styles
Gain factual knowledge in the field of US and Texas history for the 19th and 20th centuries
- (2) Learn fundamental principles of construction of log cabins
- (3) Learn to apply course materials to prepare a written history of the Guerrant Cabin
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- (8) Develop skill in expressing yourself in writing
- (9) Learn how to find information, interview individuals, and locate archival primary sources
- (10) Acquire an interest in learning more about preservation and local history.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. *“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 before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, 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 also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.”* In addition, I will handle any minor behavioral distractions by requiring that you meet with me.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

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

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

All grades will be posted on Blackboard and will be available within one week of submission. Please check Blackboard frequently in order to check for changes. The posted material is tentative and may be changed at the instructor's discretion.