

Texas History, H584

Course Syllabus, Spring 2008

Section .02 online

(3 graduate credit hours)

- Last change to syllabus, January 22
 - Please take the time to look over this document; I have made some substantive changes
 - Please inform me if you see anything that appears to be incorrect
 - Likewise, feel free to protest if you see anything that appears to be unreasonable
 - I will always notify you of any changes; but, you would be wise to keep an updated hard copy on hand



The Battle of San Jacinto, by Henry Arthur McArdle (1895)

Prints and Photographs Collection, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Professor: Ty Cashion (Ph.D. TCU, 1993)
Contact Info: Office AB4 463, 936-294-3835
e-mail, HIS_RTC@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.-noon

The hours listed above are posted primarily for my students at the main campus, although I would be delighted to meet you in person in the event you are visiting for any reason. Since this online section does not meet, we will conduct almost all of our business electronically. We can also visit by phone (please see the information under the next header). Otherwise, the constraints of time and decorum leave me reluctant to arrange a personal meeting off campus.

Note regarding e-mail correspondence and phone calls:

Please use your university e-mail account for corresponding with me. I do not normally open e-mail with an unfamiliar address. Moreover, I will send information to the entire class regularly through Blackboard. It is incumbent upon you to check your e-mail account and make sure that you remain well informed. As soon as you have enrolled, please touch base and introduce yourself, and send your phone number to me as well. There have been times when students' messages are returned "undeliverable," and occasions when I have had to reach students with important and timely information. If you need to visit with me by phone and fail to reach me at the office, DO NOT LEAVE A VOICE MESSAGE. Please send me an e-mail message instead, and let me know what times are most convenient for you. Also, please note your phone number in case I do not have access to my list.

Text/Style Guide/Reference

- Calvert, DeLeon, & Cantrell, *The History of Texas* (Wheeling, Ill.: Harlan Davidson, 2007)

Note: The 4th edition is current. A 3d ed. is acceptable for our purposes, but you will want to be aware of changes made at the end of each chapter regarding readings, since historiography is central to this course. *The History of Texas* is a required reading for everyone in this class. It is designed to give you a sense of context, that is, the "big picture." It will also prepare you for your written and oral comprehensive examinations. When that day comes, and, if I am on your committee, I will draw from the pool of questions on [THIS LINK](#). Answer each question to *your* satisfaction, that is, to the point where you feel that you've acquired a graduate-level mastery. I will not ask you to submit them. For each question, it is also imperative that know the basic historiography. Normally, there will be a "classic" work as well as revisions that are notable for their interpretation or previously unknown information. Where applicable, the books you consult during this course will best suffice, because you should be able to discuss them at some length.

- Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style* (any edition)

I expect everyone to submit work that is grammatically correct. If you are uncertain, reference the Strunk & White book (S&W). You might as well do it before sending me your work, because I will not only highlight your errors and ask you to find the rule in your S&W, but I will also ask you to relate the rule to me and the page number(s) where you found it. Don't worry, though...the S&W is brief and easy to follow. Highlighted below are some common mistakes. Know why they are grammatically incorrect, and then...avoid them!

Her motto, "Always saddle your own **horse**", exemplified this belief. According to Bolton, Palma was "the keystone in the arch of Indian support." (64) **Eighteenth century** *laissez faire* advocates did not anticipate the kind of economy that would emerge in the late **nineteenth-century**. Green defines "the Establishment" as a loosely knit plutocracy **comprised** mostly of Anglo businessmen. **Being** unsound of mind, **the court** found the testimony of the defense witness to be inadmissible. Governor "Pa" Ferguson played politics with higher **education, and** was impeached.

Course Objectives

- Students will develop a survey knowledge regarding the broad sweep of Texas history.
- Students will develop content and interpretive mastery in one historiographical era.
- Students will produce a 12- to-15-page historiography
- In the process, I expect students to
 - polish their critical thinking skills
 - be able to distinguish between history that is truly significant and history that is merely interesting.
 - express themselves clearly and concisely with the written word.

Course Description & Instructional Method

As in all graduate work, each student must gain the permission of the department before enrolling in this course. Another prerequisite is written competency. I expect all work to be well conceived, grammatically correct, and clearly stated. I will do what I can to assure that you meet these objectives.

This course allows students to learn Texas history by becoming familiar with the sweep of its human experience, and then by closely examining the historiography of a single era or broad topic. Students will enjoy a measure of freedom to kindle a personal interest in events, people, and places by reading extensively. They should be able to convey the basic contents and interpretation of the "classic" works and revisionist histories in their area of choice. The **product of your semester's work** will be a 12- to-15-page historiography assessing the scholarship in one era of Texas history, written since 1987. The reference works listed above provide an intellectual touchstone. I also encourage you to access the link to past student historiographies located on my homepage.

The instructional method will take the form of advice, supervision, and feedback. Be prepared to submit a brief status report from time-to-time. I believe students will find that producing an end product will be rewarding and something in which

they can take pride. I fully expect that my colleagues working in the subject area of each student will be interested in seeing what is produced. There will be a few, moreover, who would be receptive to giving some advice and feedback along the way if contacted.

- Please be aware that you are required to read and know the information for your era in the following reference works:
 - Cummins & Bailey, eds., *A Guide to the History of Texas* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1988)
 - Calvert & Buenger, eds., *Texas through Time: Evolving Interpretations* (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 1991)

Submitting Work & Grading

Please send your work to me via e-mail at my address above. *Do not use the "Digital Drop Box."*

Please send all work in *Microsoft Word, single-spaced with a 12-point, Times New Roman font and one-inch margins.*

Regarding endnotes and referencing, please use the *Chicago Manual of Style* (current edition).

For examples of student historiographies from past semesters, please click [HERE](#).

I will calculate your course grade on the quality and thoroughness of your work. Those of you who have had me for other courses know that I am fair to the point of being generous, and I am always willing to listen to any concerns you might have.

Please know that I will issue a grade of "XP" (in progress) only in the event of some extraordinary circumstance for which you should be prepared to provide convincing documentation. In that case, I will read and grade your work, but will not be able to offer any meaningful feedback. Moreover, you will be unable to earn higher than a "B."

Academic Dishonesty

The university has advised each professor to include a guideline compatible with "Academic Policy Statement 810213," reproduced in italics in the following paragraph. In addition, I expect *all* of the work you submit to be the product of your own efforts. See the "Style Guide" (Strunk & White) regarding quotations. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment.

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.

Hyperlinks

- [New Handbook of Texas Online](#)
- [Link to Comprehensive Exam Prep Questions](#) (same link that is in the section "Text/Style Guide" above)
- [Examples of past student historiographies](#) (same link that is in the section "Submitting & Grading" above)