

History 163, Section 2: United States History to 1876 (7595)

Professor Jeff Crane

3 Credit Hours, Summer 1 Semester, 2008

Academic Building 4, Office 408

Classroom: Farrington 209

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Note-these are only official office hours, I will frequently be in my office and you can arrange appointments. Students are welcome to drop by with questions or to visit

Readings:

America: A Concise History, James A. Henretta, 031241563X

Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam, James McPherson, 0195173309

*I reserve the right to pass out additional writings such as essays, reviews, or original documents.

Course Description: This course is a survey of American history from the pre-colonial period through the end of Reconstruction. Themes to be examined through the semester include race, conflict, economic growth and change, changes in government and expanding political rights, and environmental change, among others.

Objectives: You should leave this class with a strong understanding of the course of American history from the pre-colonial period to the end of Reconstruction as well as the important events and concepts of this era. Students will gain strong factual knowledge of this era in American history. Students who take this course should leave with a stronger ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Course Information: This is a 3 credit class, meeting in the fall semester of 2007 in Academic Building 4, Room 220, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from noon until 12:50 p.m.

Evaluation:

Participation-20%

Review-15%

Quizzes-25%

Tests-40%

Participation: This class will be run on a discussion format with the expectation that you will read the material before class and be prepared to discuss it. Lack of preparation, failure to participate in discussion, and inattention in class will result in a significantly lower participation grade.

Review: Each student will write a three-page review of *Crossroads of Freedom*.. These reviews should discuss the book and explore its relevance to the study of history and to American culture. You should use your reviews to describe and analyze the book.

Finally, spend a couple of paragraphs evaluating the book. Was it an enjoyable read? Challenging? Would you use it in a classroom? These are examples of questions you might use to analyze this reading. You will be given further instructions on this assignment in class.

Quizzes: You will be given six pop quizzes over the course of the semester. The best five grades will be kept for your final grade. Quizzes will be based on questions that are assigned for that day.

Tests: There will be two tests in this course. The tests will be non-cumulative and composed of two sections each. The first half of each test will be an identification section where the student identifies historical figures, events and concepts, describes them, and explains their significance. The second half of the test will be composed of one essay question. The first test will be worth 15% and the final test worth 25% of your final grade.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.

Academic Dishonesty: 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.

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 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 university policy.

Disability Accommodation: 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 Service 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

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.

“Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Late Policy: You may not turn in anything late without prior permission or without a strong excuse such as illness or family emergencies. If you miss a test without prior permission and without a major crisis you will not be allowed to retake the test.

Schedule

June 3, 4: “The First Americans: Indian Cultures of North America.” Read Ch. 1 of *America: A Concise History*

June 5: “Uneasy Encounters and Colonial Culture.” Read Ch. 2 of *America: A Concise History*

June 6: “Communitarians or Capitalists?: The Development of Colonial Cultures.” Read Ch. 3 of *America: A Concise History*

June 9, 10: “Rumors of War: Tension Building in The Colonies.” Read Ch. 4 of *America: A Concise History*.

June 11, 12: “Moving Towards Separation: Events Leading to the War for Independence.” Read Ch. 5 of *America: A Concise History*

June 13: **First Test**

June 16: “Making the Bid for Freedom: The Early Stages of the American War for Independence.” Read Ch. 6 of *America: A Concise History*

June 17, 18: “The World Turned Upside Down: The War is Over and the Creation of a Nation Begun.” Read Chs. 7 and 8 of *America: A Concise History*

June 19: “The Market Revolution and the Age of the Common Man.” Read Chs. 9 and 10 of *America: A Concise History*

June 20: “The Reform Spirit: Abolition, Women’s rights, and Transcendentalism.” Read Chs. 11 and 12 of *America: A Concise History*

June 23: “Expansion and Sectionalism: The Mexican American War, the Western Migration, and the Beginning of Division.” Read Ch. 13 of *America: A Concise History*

June 24: “The Impending Crisis: The Country Moves Towards War.” Read Ch. 14 of *America: A Concise History*

June 25, 26: “A House Divided: The Early Stages of the Civil War.” Optional Reading: *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* or continue reading Ch. 14. **Book Review is due on June 26th**

June 27: “The Final Days of the War: The Road to Appomattox.” Continue reading Ch. 14

June 30: “Reconstruction: Binding the Wounds and Confronting Resistance.” Read Ch. 15 of *America: A Concise History*

July 1: **Final Exam**

The professor reserves the right to make syllabus changes as necessary