HIST 3301:
History of Texas
Summer 2017

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Office Hours: by appointment
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I. Course Description

This course will provide an overview of Texas history from indigenous peoples to the present. To accomplish this goal, we will explore the political, economic, and cultural changes in the region we now know as “Texas.”

II. Student Learning Objectives

To learn about historical events in the landmass that became Texas we will

1) Become familiar with the events, people, and ideas in the landmass that became Texas

2) Trace how those events, people, and ideas changed over time

3) Place Texas history within a comparative and global context

4) Understand key historical questions and arguments

5) Analyze primary and secondary sources

6) Generate a collaborative learning environment

III. Classroom Environment and Policies

Electronic Devices:

There will be no electronic devices (laptops, kindles, tablets, phones, recording devices...) in this classroom, even for note taking. They are distracting for students, especially in smaller classes, and the use of them in class is disrespectful towards your classmates and towards me. Using such electronic devices will hurt your attendance and participation grade because it means that you are not truly present in class. If a student uses an unsanctioned electronic device during multiple class sessions, I may ask you to leave the class.
Communication:

I ask that you check your ASU email accounts on a regular basis. I will communicate important information about this course (such as an unexpected class cancelation, assignment due dates, or a change in assigned reading) via email if need be and you are responsible for knowing that information. You are more than welcome to contact me with questions via email (cwolnisty@angelo.edu).

You will also find your lecture outlines, study guides, and reading assignments on Blackboard. Therefore, I suggest you log into Blackboard fairly regularly.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is defined as the theft of ideas or information from a source without giving proper credit. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result in failure of the course, among other penalties. Submit only original work, complete with proper citations. There is no excuse for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism. A digital plagiarism detection program will be used to check your work.

In addition, academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. It also includes forgery, cheating, signing attendance sheets for another student, and disruptive or disrespectful behavior. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct.

Academic integrity is essential to the discipline of history. Historians are in a constant conversation with each other, building upon the work of others, while contributing their own original research. Precise and rigorous citation of documents and secondary sources is a necessity to provide a road-map for future historians. Citing sources will be discussed in class. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question.

Plagiarism cases will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses. In other words, just don’t do it! Life is better without it.

The ASU Student Handbook has additional information relating to the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the handbook online at the ASU website (under “Current Students” and “University Publications”) or at the Student Life Office (located in the University Center). You may view the university’s honor code at the following website:


Special Accommodations:
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or Student.Life@angelo.edu) in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request within the first week of the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Faculty members are not allowed to provide accommodation for a student’s disability needs without approval from the Office of Student Life.

**Religious Holy Days:**

Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must tell me 48 hrs prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe that I determine. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.

**University Policies:**

For additional general university policies, consult the university student handbook. Here is a handbook link for you:

http://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

**IV. Assignments and Grades**

**Assignment Types:**

There are three types of grades that measure student learning objectives in this class:

1) Attendance: 20% of your final grade
2) Participation: 20% of your final grade
3) Exams: 60% (4 exams at 15% each)

**CLASS TOTAL: 100%**

**Attendance: 20%**

You will earn a full 20% of your final grade by simply showing up to class and managing to not fall asleep or to be disruptive. There will be an attendance sheet to record your attendance. You will not receive credit for attending a class if you are more than ten minutes late. Three late arrivals will count as an absence. Three unauthorized uses of electronics will also count as an absence.
You are allowed **two absences** in this class. If you're not feeling well, have an emergency, have to travel, or just need a mental health day, you may use your freebies at your discretion over the course of the semester. If you miss more than two days due to serious illness or other emergencies, you will need to provide documentation. If you exceed more than two absences without providing documentation of illness, a school-sanctioned event such as athletic team travel, or other emergency, you will lose a **letter grade** for each day that you miss over two absences. I’m going to repeat that. If you exceed more than two absences without providing proper documentation, you will lose a letter grade off your total grade in the class. Don’t say I didn’t warn you!

**Participation: 20%**

You will have to earn another 20% of your attendance and participation grade by being an active participant in class. This is extra important in this class since it is a smaller class.

“Active participation” entails actions such as answering and asking questions, taking notes, and engaging your peers in conversations. You must also bring relevant class texts to class each day and have read them before coming to class. Because the readings are posted on Blackboard, you need to print them out before coming to class. This is absolutely key. We can’t have a productive class if nobody knows what we are talking about! If you are shy about speaking in class, I suggest you write down three things that you want to say before class.

**Exams: 60%**

There will be four exams over the course of this class. Each exam will be worth 15% of your overall grade and will require essay-format answers. I will provide you with a study guide and bluebook before each exam. We will also go over some sample answers so you know what to expect ahead of time. Students will not be allowed to make up an exam without a documented reason for missing the exam.

**Grading Scale:**

At the end of the semester, your accumulated point total will be put into a percentage and slotted into its respective category below. The following is a list of how grades will be assigned for the course.

- 1000-900 points = A
- 899-800 points = B
- 799-700 points = C
- 699-600 points = D
- 599-0 points = F
Anything less than 600 points is an F. (5-9 is rounded up and 1-4 is rounded down) Poor attendance may also result in an F. See the attendance policy under Attendance.

V. Books

You do not have to buy any books for this class. I don’t want you spending a bunch of money on a book that you won’t use again. I do suggest this book, however.


You are not required to buy this textbook because most of the information in it is going to be in my lectures, but it might be helpful when studying for your exams, especially since you are an education major who needs to take the teacher certification test.

VI. Course Schedule

What will this class look like?

1) It’s going to be intense! We will cover in a month what most classes cover in 4.5 months so that’s a lot of information.

2) We will meet every weekday (obviously).

3) Lecture outlines: I have posted the lecture outlines for each day on Blackboard. You are not required to use them, but they might be helpful to follow along for notes each day.

4) Homework: Your homework will consist of 1 reading assignment per week due each Wednesday and studying for the weekly exams which, except for the last one, will be each Friday. I have posted the reading assignments and study guides on Blackboard in the appropriate week. My promise to you for the exams is that I will not ask anything that is not on your study guides.

Important Due Dates:

Reading assignments due: July 12, 19, 26, August 2
Exams: July 14, 21, 28, August 9

Week 1:

- Reading due Wednesday: Cabeza de Vaca on Blackboard

July 10: Introductions, syllabus, and “Texas” lecture

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1 I reserve the right to adjust the following schedule if needed.
July 11: The First Texans
July 12: Spanish Texas and Cabeza de Vaca
July 13: Ages of Revolutions
July 14: Test

Week 2:

- Reading due Wednesday: James Crisp on the Alamo in memory on Blackboard

July 17: Mexican Texas
July 18: Texas War for Independence #1
July 19: Texas War for Independence #2
July 20: The Republic of Texas
July 21: Test

Week 3:

- Reading due Wednesday: 2 primary documents on the Civil War on Blackboard

July 24: Antebellum Texas
July 25: Texas and the Civil War
July 26: Texas, the Civil War, and Reconstruction
July 27: Civil War Aftermath and the “Old West” in Texas
July 28: Test

Week 4:

- Reading due Wednesday: 2 primary documents on reform on Blackboard

July 31: An Era of Reform
August 1: Texas at the Turn of the Century, WWI
August 2: The Prosperity Decade, the Great Depression
August 3: WWII and Texas
August 4: Cold War, Civil Rights Movements in Texas, *The Longoria Affair*

Week 5:

- Reading due Wednesday: NA-study for test

August 7: Post-WWII Texas Politics
August 8: Texas in the 1980s, 1990s, today
August 9: Test