HIST 3301:
History of Texas
Summer 2018

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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) Cover the events, people, and ideas in the landmass that became Texas

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

3) Understand key historical questions and arguments

4) Analyze primary and secondary sources

5) 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 or class change) via email if need be and you are responsible for knowing that information. You are also welcome to contact me with questions via email (cwohnisty@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. There is no excuse for plagiarism.

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.

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. After the first day of class, 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 **three absences** in this class for whatever reason. 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 three
days due to serious illness or other emergencies, you will need to provide documentation.
If you exceed more than three 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 three absences. I’m going to repeat that. If
you exceed more than three 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. “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 Friday and have read them before coming to class.

**Tests: 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 sample answers, so you know exactly what to expect ahead of time. You will have the entire class period to take your exams. 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 do suggest this book, however, as it might be helpful if you need to study for your teacher certification exam.


**VI. Course Schedule¹**

**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.

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¹ I reserve the right to adjust the following schedule if needed.
2) We will meet every weekday (obviously). Mondays will typically be test days, Tuesdays-Thursdays will be lecture days, and Fridays will be lecture and discussion days.

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 Friday and studying for the weekly exams which, except for the last one, will be each Monday. 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 13, 20, 27, August 3  
**Tests:** July 16, 23, 30, August 8

**Week 1:**

- Reading due Friday: Cabeza de Vaca on Blackboard

July 10: Introductions, syllabus, article, and “Texas” lecture  
July 11: The First Indigenous Texans, Spanish Exploration, study guides  
July 12: Spanish Texas and Cabeza de Vaca  
July 13: Age of Revolutions, reading discussion, test review

**Week 2:**

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

July 16: Test #1  
July 17: Mexican Texas  
July 18: Texas War for Independence #1  
July 19: Texas War for Independence #2  
July 20: The Republic of Texas, reading discussion

**Week 3:**

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

July 23: Test #2  
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, reading discussion

**Week 4:**

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

July 30: Test #3
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, reading discussion

**Week 5:**

- Reading due: NA-study for test

August 6: Civil Rights Movements in Texas, *The Longoria Affair*
August 7: Post-WWII Texas Politics, Texas after the Cold War
August 8: Test #4