HIST 1301.11E
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2012

Instructors: Dr. Ricky Dobbs
Class Time: 11:00-12:15 TR
Class Location: BA 221
Office Location: OSS 141
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00;3:00-4:00
TR 9:30-11:00 AM
or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5878
Office Fax: 903-468-6077
University Email Address: Ricky_Dobbs@tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Breen and Innes, *Myne Owne Ground*
ISBN 978-0195175370
McLaurin, *Celia: A Slave*
ISBN 978-0380803361

All books are required. Buy them now.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of American history to 1877. It cannot cover the whole of the topic, but it will highlight significant trends in American politics, economics, society, and foreign relations across the period. The main focus will be upon trends and events leading to the Civil War and the attempted settlement of racial issues arising from the war ought to serve as an introduction to many problems still facing Americans today, and as such has relevance for students regardless of their personal interest in the past.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will recognize and illustrate the role of possessive individualism in shaping colonial America.
2. Students will recognize the role of the Enlightenment in shaping American founding documents and institutions.
3. Students will be able to differentiate the cultural, economic and political development of the South from the rest of the nation, 1776-1860.
4. Students will recognize the ways in which slavery divided American society since the early colonial period, and was a leading factor in causing the Civil War.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Web-Enhanced: HIS 121.11E is a web-enhanced course. This means that many aspects of the course that might ordinarily be carried out in class will be reserved for the web. Both major exams are online, for example. Some elements of course content will also be housed on the web. You are required to keep up with those aspects of the course online.

Instructional Methods: Class consists primarily of lecture and discussion. *Note taking is an essential skill in this class. If you do not take notes, you will not do well.* Readings illuminate major issues covered in lecture, and student discussion of these readings will be a part of class. Examinations require a synthesis course readings and material covered in lecture. Writing assignments will allow students to develop written communications skills as well as demonstrate mastery of course material.

Assignments: Students must complete all assignments listed below. The descriptions given are brief, and additional information will be forthcoming.

Examinations: Students will complete two examinations worth 75 points each. Each will have twenty-five multiple-choice questions. Each question is worth two points. Multiple-choice questions are drawn from lecture and textbook readings. In addition, students will respond to an essay prompt for twenty-five points. Prior to each exam the instructor will make available to students a review sheet with all terms and concepts to be tested. Each exam constitutes 15% of the course grade. None are cumulative. Together they represent 30% of your course grade.

Simulation: Students will participate in a group simulation in class, the background reading, rules and other elements of which will be available in eCollege. The simulation is worth 100 points or 20% of your course grade.

Essay: Students will write one paper of no more than three pages, following precisely guidelines provided by the instructor. The essay is worth 100 points and represents 20% of the course grade. Papers are due in class, Tuesday, November 27. These will be graded and returned to you for revision by Tuesday, December 4. Your paper revision is due Wednesday, December 12. Your revised essay will then be compared with your original and a new grade assigned. IMPORTANT: Papers should be turned in to me personally, not turned in through the eCollege dropbox.

Book Quizzes: For both *Myne Owne Ground* and *Celia: A Slave* there will be a written quiz. Each quiz will take place in eCollege. Students will have forty-five minutes to respond to ONE of three possible questions. Each quiz is worth fifty points or 10% of your grade; together, they are worth 20% of your grade. Students will be permitted a 48 hour "window" in which to take the quiz in eCollege.

Old South Unit Quiz: The Old South Unit is an online chapter about the antebellum South that you need to read to be prepared for 1.) the quiz; 2.) the final; and 3.) your simulation. This unit ties directly to forty-five percent of your grade. The Old South quiz works like the book quizzes, with one difference-- it is all multiple choice. There will be twenty-five questions, each worth two points apiece. Students will be permitted a 48 hour window to take the quiz in eCollege.
Grading

A = EXCELLENT 450-500 Points
B = GOOD 400-449 Points
C = AVERAGE 350-399 Points
D = POOR 300-249 Points
F = FAILURE less than 300 Points

Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

HIST 121.02E is a web-enhanced course. Delivery problems can result if technological requirements are not taken into consideration.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. [List those technologies needed for your course.]
- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous sessions in an online course)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)
- [List other related hardware or software necessary for your course]

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:
Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the „myCourses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

My preferred form of interaction is in person during office or before or after class. I invite you to contact me by e-mail to make appointments if you cannot come to office hours.
I can be reached more easily by e-mail than by phone.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course Specific Procedures:**

**Attendance:** Roll will be taken daily. Students must sit in assigned seats. Poor attendance tends to result in poor student performance. **Students who have FIVE or more unexcused absences WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS.** Excused absences include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor’s note, death in the student’s immediate family, a verifiable court appearance OR any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor. Excuses must be turned in, in writing, to the instructor upon return to class.

**Cell Phones and Other Electronic Irritants:** For thousands of years humankind has survived without these devices. You can get by without them for three hours a week. If you must have a phone, turn off the ringer and excuse yourself from class if you get a call. Please tell anyone likely to call you that class time is off-limits.

**Cheating:** Plagiarism, appropriating or otherwise using the work of others, avoiding or aiding others in avoiding class requirements or other activities that contravene ordinary standards of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Students who cheat will be punished one or more of the following: point penalty, failure of the assignment in question or failure for the course. If you are in doubt about whether or not your conduct constitutes cheating, you had better ask the instructor. Do not find out the hard way. There are no excuses. For further clarification, check out the History Department’s academic integrity policy on the departmental webpage.

**Curving:** Major exam grades will not be curved unless the class average slips below 70. The maximum curve on any examination will be five points. Don’t bet on this to buoy your grade. Other assignments will not be curved in any circumstances.

**Late Work:** No work will be accepted late unless it is accompanied by a written excuse considered acceptable by the University. Specifically, this includes participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor’s note, death in the student’s immediate family, or a verifiable court appearance.

**Make Up Work:** No make-ups will be permitted without a written excuse along the lines explained above.

**Tape Recorders:** Unless a student has a verifiable learning disability, tape recording is strongly discouraged. Recording tends to erode a student’s skill at taking notes. I have taught history at the university level for twelve years, and I have never seen a student who relied on a tape recorder who did better than a “C.”

**Slacker Clause:** Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.
University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR
The schedule below shows planned weekly topics. In a perfect world, all things will go well, and there’ll be no change from this schedule. We live in an imperfect world, and so, there may be disruptions. If the schedule has to be altered, it will be altered with proper notice and always in a way that benefits students before me.

Major assignments are in **bold**; reading expectations are in *italics*. If it’s bold and italics, you’ve got work involving reading due at that time.

August 28, 30: Colonial Virginia
September 4, 6: Colonial Massachusetts
September 11: The Enlightenment
September 13: Seven Years’ War and the Colonial Crisis
September 18, 20: The Revolution
**September 18-20: Myne Owne Ground Quiz Window—Breen and Innes, all.**
September 25: Constitution and Ratification
September 27: The Federalist Period
October 2, 4: Jefferson, Madison, and the War of 1812
October 9: The Missouri Crisis and Compromise
October 11, 16, 18: Good Feelings and the Jacksonian *Mistake* Period
**October 23: Midterm Examination**
October 25: Antislavery and Abolitionism
**October 25-27: Celia: A Slave Quiz Window—McLaurin, all.**
October 30: Annexation of Texas and the Mexican War
October 30-November 2: Old South Quiz Window—Old South Unit (eCollege), all.
November 1: Crisis and Compromise, 1850s
November 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27: Old South Simulation, Details to Follow
November 27: Essays Due
November 29, December 4, 6: Civil War and Reconstruction
December 4: Essays Returned for Revision
December 11, 10:30-12:30: FINAL EXAMINATION
December 12: Essay Revision Due
9/9 F Myne Owne Ground Quiz Opens* Breen and Innes, all
9/12 M Still More Enlightenment --
9/14 W George Washington Starts a World War Davidson, et.al., 100-119
9/16 F Colonists Behaving Badly, 1763-1773 --
9/19 M The Revolution Davidson, et.al., 120-137
9/21 W Articles of Confederation: “This Sucks, Change It!” Davidson, et.al., 138-157
9/23 F Constitution and Ratification --
9/28 W Twilight of the Federalists --
9/30 F Flexible Bendy-Twisty Day --
10/3 M Jefferson v. Jefferson --
10/5 W War of 1812: If You Hold the Bully Down, I’ll Kick Him --
10/7 F War of 1812: Not Losing is Not the Same as Winning Davidson, et.al., 186-203
10/10 M Firebell in the Night: Missouri Crisis, 1818-1820 --
10/12 W Bumps on the Road to Democracy, 1820-1828 Davidson, et. al., 204-223
10/14 F It Came From Tennessee: Jacksonian Democracy --
10/17 M It Stayed Eight Years: Jacksonian Democracy --
10/19 W The Nullification Crisis, 1828-1833 --
10/21 F Midterm Examination Everything to this point
10/24 M Antislavery and Abolitionism Davidson, et al., 224-241
10/26 W Petty Theft: Annexation of Texas, 1821-1845 Davidson, et.al., 262-285
10/28 F Grand Theft: Mexican War, 1845-1848 --
10/31 M Flexible, Bendy-Twisty Day --
10/31 M Old South Unit Quiz Opens** eCollege Old South Unit, all
11/2 W Simulation Day I: Ballotti and Shwiff --
11/4 F Simulation Day II: Rules/Housekeeping --
11/7 M Simulation Day III: Mortal Combat --
11/9 W Simulation Day IV: Backstabbing --
11/11 F Simulation Day V: Cunning Intrigue --
11/14 M Simulation Day VI: Last Gasp --
11/16 W Simulation Day VII: Final Judgment --
11/16 W Simulation Individual Papers Due --
11/18 F The Wheels Fall Off, 1850s Davidson, et. al., 286-307
11/18 F Celia QuizOpens*** McLaurin, all
11/21 M Flexible, Bendy-Twisty Day --
11/23 W Flexible, Bendy-Twisty Day --
11/28 M Someone’s Ox Gets Gored, 1850s cont. --
11/28 M Essay Due by 5:00 PM --
11/30 W The Apple Cart Is Tipped Over, 1850s cont. --
12/2 F Civil War, Pt. 1 Davidson, et.al, 308-333
12/5 M Civil War, Pt. 2 --
12/7 W Reconstruction to 1867 Davidson, et. al., 334-351
12/9 F Reconstruction and Compromise --
12/12 M Final Version Essay Due by 5:00 PM --
FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 14—10:30 AM to 12:30 PM * Quiz closes 11:59 PM
9/11 ** Quiz closes 11:59 PM 11/2 *** Quiz closes 11:59 PM 11/20