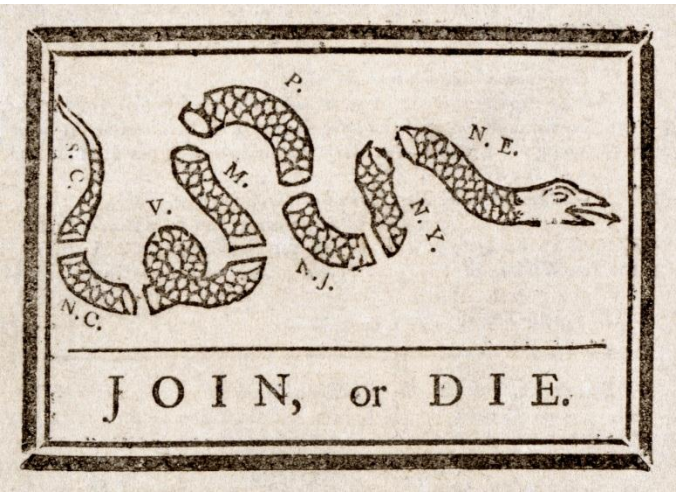
HIST 1301.15H Honors U.S. History to 1877
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014



Political cartoon penned by Benjamin Franklin. The *Pennsylvania Gazette* May 9, 1754.

Instructor:	Dr. Cynthia Ross Wiecko
	Asst. Professor, Professional Track
Class Time:	MWF 12:00pm – 12:50pm
Class Location:	Ferguson Social Sciences 143
Office Location:	TAMU-Commerce Ferguson Social Sciences 129
Office Hours:	TBA; Via email
Instructor Email:	Cynthia.wiecko@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Cronon, William. *Changes in the land: Indians, colonists, and the ecology of New England*.

Perkins-Valdez, Dolen. *Wench: A Novel*.

Lawson, Steven and Nancy Hewitt. *Exploring American Histories*. Volume 1.

A Note about the Course Texts:

Students are expected to acquire the course texts prior to the start of class. Failure to do so will hinder a student's ability to keep up with the course, and the Instructor is in no way responsible

for such an eventuality. Allowances will not be made for students who lack possession of any required book.

Course Description:

This course introduces the field of history by developing the students' skills at critical analysis of both reading and writing assignments and class participation. Students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States from the age of European exploration and conquest through the Civil War. Students will read a textbook, a monograph, a fictional work, and additional readings as needed. Through these readings, assignments, discussion, and lectures students will examine major themes in American history, such as colonization, the founding of a new nation, the forging of an American culture, the entrenchment of slavery, and the coming of the Civil War.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.

3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.

4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete your readings prior to class and be prepared to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. You will submit all written assignments electronically through eCollege so be sure to familiarize yourself with the application before any assignments are due. To access this course, go to MyLeo, login, click eCollege on the right side of the screen, then click My Courses on the left side of the next screen and look for this course.

Assignment Explanations:

Exams:

There will be three exams over the course of the semester. Students must complete and submit them in the appropriate eCollege dropbox by 11:59pm on the day indicated; see Schedule. Exams will be posted in eCollege at least 5 days before the due date giving students ample time to complete them. All exams are non-comprehensive. The format may consist of Multiple Choice and Essay questions. Multiple choice questions will be scored immediately in eCollege while essays will be scored by the instructor. Students are encouraged to type and save their essay responses in Word, then cut and paste them into the exam app in eCollege to avoid losing work

in the case of an outage. Students are free to use any course materials to complete the exam but no outside sources are allowed. Any specific evidence such as quotations, statistics, or paraphrasing someone else's ideas in your own words must have a citation with the author and page number. Significant latitude is given for writing style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling and grammar, contact the instructor or visit the TAMU-Commerce Writing Lab. More than three typographical errors results in 1 full letter grade deduction from the exam score. **Exams cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

Discussion Posts:

A total of five prompts will be posted in eCollege under Discussion. These prompts are usually based on a primary source document. Students must answer each prompt using the primary source and any relevant information from other class texts. Posts must contain evidence cited from the assigned readings! Students will submit their discussion post to the Discussion Thread by Friday @ 11:59pm. While these posts are more informal than the exams or paper, spelling and grammar must be accurate.
Discussion Posts cannot be made up. No late work accepted.

Note: I reserve the right to substitute special assignments of a similar length with notice.

Book Response Essays:

Students will write essay responses to prompts pertaining to each of the two additional books assigned for the course, Cronon and Perkins-Valdez. More details regarding this assignment will be forthcoming.

Film Analysis Paper:

Students will choose a film, either from the provided list available in eCollege or obtain instructor approval for an alternate title, and write a critical film review. If choosing an alternative film, it must pertain to American history from ancient indigenous settlement to 1877. All students must notify the instructor of their film choice by the end of Week 3 and receive an 'Approved' notice before submitting the paper. Students must also provide the instructor with a tentative list of proposed sources, in addition to the film, by mid-semester and will receive Instructor feedback. See the Schedule for the Film Selection Due Date and Tentative Sources Due Date.
This assignment requires active participation in the viewing experience so note taking is essential. Students will submit their paper into the appropriate eCollege Dropbox by the due date indicated on the Schedule.
This will be a 4 page paper, double spaced (full pages, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). A minimum of three sources, in addition to the film, are required (that means four sources or more!). All papers must include a Work Cited page in MLA or Chicago format (Chicago is the standard for History). Significant latitude is given for writing style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling and grammar, contact the instructor or visit the TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab. More than three typographical errors results in 1 full letter grade deduction from the final score. **Film Papers cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**
For this paper, you are a highly regarded film critic known internationally for your reviews of historical films. The editor of the *New York Times* has asked you to write an in-depth review of a

film. She wants you to research the historical event, group, or time period then (1) write about what actually happened, and (2) review the film for its historical accuracy. Thus, your paper will have two parts of similar length. In order to conform to the *New York Times* style of writing, a good film critic would also view a few reviews already published in the paper, available online at http://www.nytimes.com/pages/movies/index.html.
If you are unfamiliar with film reviews focusing on historical accuracy, visit these sites before constructing your paper. They are regarding James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster, *Titanic*.

Wikipedia Page on Titanic – take note of the discussion on historical accuracy in Cast: Historical Characters, Writing and Inspiration, Scale Modeling, and Editing.

Five Titanic Myths Spread by Films – BBC article

This paper should not focus on cinematography, camera angles, acting ability, or the soundtrack. Nor should it focus too much attention on costuming and sets. Instead, you are conducting a historical analysis of the film, attempting to 'read between the lines' and compare the historical event with the writer/director's interpretation of the event. To achieve sufficient depth of material, you should also read the part of your textbook and reader that discusses the historical context of the film's subject matter AND from the time of filming (for example, a film about the 1880s that was made in the 1950s would require reading about both decades). It will also be necessary to do further background reading from appropriate hard copy and online sources and provide citations for those used in the paper.

Participation:

This course moves at a fast pace and focuses on a variety of complex events and ideas, sometimes spending only one day on a particular large topic. For this reason, your attendance is just as important as keeping up with the readings and writing assignments and will be recorded. University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service. All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarceration or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences.
As this is a university level course, discussion is also an expected part of the class. You are encouraged to ask questions and answer those questions asked to the class. There will also be opportunities to voice your informed opinions and debate certain issues. I do not grade on your opinion but rather on your engagement, participation, and ability to support your arguments.

Grading

Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300
*Film Analysis	200
(Film Selection-25, Tentative Sources-75, Paper-100)	
Discussion Posts (5 @ 50 points each)	250
Book Essays (2 @ 100 points each)	200
Participation	100
TOTAL:	1050 points

Semester Grades: A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%; D: 69-60%; F: 59% and below.

The general grading criteria for all written assignments in this class is based on the following:

A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean
B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence
C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence
D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay
F = Even worse than above; completely off topic; no work submission

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed required (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word)

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.tamuc.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@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Students should visit the Instructor during posted office hours or use the email function in eCollege to email the Instructor. Students must provide a valid return email address for replies.

Unless otherwise announced, students can expect replies within 24 hours, Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm. Replies at other times are at the Instructor's discretion.

eCollege Student Technical Support:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the *'Help'* button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Late Assignments:

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. Late work will not be accepted.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this course.

Class Conduct:

I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Please exercise common classroom courtesy which includes: logging into the class promptly, not interrupting me or fellow students during discussion, turning off all electronic devices not intended for class, staying focused on the material rather than social networking, reading material for other classes, avoid sleeping and generally act in a way that indicates to me that you are engaged. Also, refrain from putting away your things before class is over. I will not keep you past the end time.

NOTE: Poor class conduct reflects negatively in your Participation grade.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages as your final paper. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this

form of academic dishonesty, see me or visit the TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.
I have absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism! If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. If academic dishonesty is committed a second time, the student will immediately fail the course and the instructor will pursue the maximum university discipline possible. *This is not negotiable.*

Writing Lab:

The TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

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@tamuc.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

I reserve the right to modify the class schedule throughout the semester if necessary but will give all students ample written notice on eCollege. All assignments are due Friday @ 11:59pm unless otherwise noted.

Week 1: Introduction to Course and the Ancient Americas

Readings: Textbook – chap 1

Assignment: Complete and submit Student Responsibility Sheet by the end of Week 3. University policy states: failure to submit these sheets when due will result in a failing grade for the course regardless of other work completed.

Week 2: Colonization and Conflicts

Readings: Textbook – chap 2
Begin *Changes in the Land*

Assignment: Discussion post #1 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 3: Global Changes Reshape Colonial America

Readings: Textbook – chap 3

Assignment: Film selection due @ 11:59pm Friday
Student Responsibility Sheet due @ class time Friday (hard copy)

Week 4: Religious Strife and Social Upheavals

Readings: Textbook – chap 4

Assignment: None

Week 5: Wars and Empires

Readings: Textbook - 5

Assignment: Discussion post #2 due @ 11:59pm Friday
Book essay #1 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 6: Revolutions

Readings: Textbook - 6

Assignment: Exam 1 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 7: Political Cultures

Readings: Textbook - 7

Assignment: Tentative Sources for Film Analysis due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 8: New Frontiers

Readings: Textbook - 8

Assignment: None

Week 9: Defending and Redefining the Nation

Readings: Textbook - 9

Assignment: Discussion post #3 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 10: Slavery Expands South and West

Readings: Textbook – 10
Begin *Wench*

Assignment: None

Week 11: Social and Cultural Ferment in the North

Readings: Textbook - 11

Assignment: Exam 2 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 12: Imperial Ambitions and Sectional Crises

Readings: Textbook - 12

Assignment: Discussion post #4 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 13: Civil War

Readings: Textbook - 13

Assignment: Book essay #2 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 14: Emancipations and Reconstructions

Readings: Textbook - 14

Assignment: Discussion post #5 due @ 11:59pm Friday

Week 15: Catch Up & Wrap Up

Readings: TBA

Assignment: Film Analysis due @ 11:59pm Friday

Finals Week

No class lecture, Exam 3 due @ 11:59pm Friday