

HIST 1301.06E

Course Syllabus, Fall 2015

Instructor: Mr. Michael McKinney

Meeting Times/Location: MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m. Room: SS 141

Office: SS 146

Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 1-3 p.m. OR by appointment

E-Mail: mmckinney03@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials-Textbooks and Readings: The course texts are available at the campus bookstore though many of you may wish to purchase these through Amazon or acquire PDF versions. Either is fine. You will, of course, be expected to purchase these books in advance as we will be covering material quickly and you will be quizzed on the readings.

Textbook(s) Required:

Foner, Eric. Give Me Liberty!: An American History, Seagull Fourth Ed. Vol. 1 ISBN 978-0-393-92030-7

Foner, Eric. Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History (Fourth Edition) (Vol. 1) (Voices of Freedom (WW Norton)) ISBN 978-0393922912

Course Description: A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America to 1877. Assignments will focus on reading, writing, and analysis. This course introduces the field of history by developing the students' 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, one primary source reader, and additional readings as needed. Through these readings, assignments, 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.

Prerequisites: ENG 1301 or concurrent enrollment or ENG 1302 or concurrent enrollment.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking.** Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose or explain phenomena.
2. **Communication.** Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to audience, purpose and message.
3. **Social Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/civic issues.
4. **Personal Responsibility.** Students will be able to understand their role in their own education

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibility Sheet: Every student must complete a [Student Responsibility Sheet](#) and turn it in to me (either in class or during my office hours) before September 4th. This assignment will not be graded but failure to turn the Responsibility Sheet in on time will result in an F for the course. These will **NOT** be accepted late. You have been warned.

Reading Quizzes: The assigned readings are for your benefit and will help you immeasurably in this class. Throughout the semester there will be at minimum 6 (six) unannounced reading quizzes. Of these the top 5 (five) quizzes will be counted towards your quiz grades. There will be no make-up for the quiz so it is in your best interest to arrive to each class meeting on time and prepared to answer questions on the week's readings. If you arrive late or are absent your grade for the quiz will be marked as a "0" unless you are able to show documentation excusing your absence (i.e. Doctor's note, a University sponsored event, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance or any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor).

Short Analysis Essays: In this class you will be required to show proficiency in formulating and defending a historical argument and analyzing a primary-source document. They must be between 2-4 pages in length, double-spaced with size 12, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins and no additional spaces between paragraphs. Use whichever citation format you are most comfortable with as long as it is consistent throughout the paper. Further details on the nature of these essays will be given in class. The first assignment will be due October 2nd in the Essay One drop-box. The second will be due November 27th in the Essay Two drop-box. These papers will **NOT** be accepted late without a valid excuse.

Exams: There will be 3 (three) exams in this course. Students may not use their books, notes, review sheets or any other outside aids when taking an exam. Should a student be found using any of these their exam will be taken up immediately and will be graded as a 0 (zero). The exams themselves will be comprised of Short Answer, Multiple Choice and Essay questions as determined by the Professor.

Exams are clearly marked on the syllabus and you have ample time to plan your personal affairs accordingly. There will be **no make-up exams** without proper documentation (see Reading Quizzes).

GRADING

- Exam Grades (3) – 200 points each
- Quizzes (5) – 20 points each
- Short Analysis Essays (2) – 100 points each
- Attendance/Participation – 100 points

Total Points: 1000 points

A (Excellent): 900-1000, B (Good): 800-899, C (Average): 700-799, D (Poor): 600-699, F (Failure): 0-599

The Slacker Clause: Failure to complete any of the written assignments will result in an F in the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements: Access to Internet and adequate word processing software will be required for this class. If you do not have these at home make time to utilize the computers in the library.

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones are a fact of life but they do not have a place in the class room. Put them up. If you think you must take a call then inform me in advance of class and take your calls in the hallway. Should cell phone use become disruptive you will be asked to leave.

Laptop Policy: Studies show that students learn best by handwriting their notes and putting information into their own words. That said, it is highly recommended that you use do not rely on laptops for note taking but, ultimately, the decision is yours to make.

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.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Class Decorum: Civility in the classroom and online is important to fostering a healthy learning environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. (See Student Guidebook)

Academic Honesty: It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and the instructor that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is defined as selling or purchasing academic products with the intention that they be submitted to fulfill an academic or course requirement. Proper citation of sources must always be utilized thoroughly and accurately.

Cheating/plagiarism/collusion will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment, and will also result in failure of the course and/or disciplinary action by the University. Any student found guilty of violating academic integrity policy will fail the assignment in question, will automatically fail the course and will be subject to disciplinary action by the university (see Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b. [1,2,3]). Further information on the history department's plagiarism policy can be found on the department webpage. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.

Late Assignments: As stated previously, 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.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center's resources for assistance with drafting their written assignments. Although the center will not write your paper for you, it may help you to improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, plan in advance because it can only help you if there is adequate time to incorporate their suggestions into your paper. Additionally, I am willing to read rough drafts (and even multiple drafts) of your written work so long as the drafts are submitted at least one week prior to the due date.

Students with Disabilities (ADA): 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 Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Course Schedule

A Note on the Schedule: This schedule is a guideline that I will attempt follow throughout the course. Reading assignments must be completed by Friday of each week. I bear the right to change or adjust this schedule as needs require.

Week One: Course Introduction/"The Road to the New World"

Week Two: "The Spanish, French and Dutch Colonies"

No Class on Monday, September 7th – Labor Day

Read Foner Chapter 1

Week Three: "The English in America"

Read Foner Chapter 2

Week Four: "Creating New England"

Read Foner Chapter 3

Week Five: "Slavery and Freedom"

Read Foner Chapter 4

Week Six: "The Road to the Revolution"

Read Foner Chapter 5

Exam One October 5th

Week Seven: "The Revolution and Creating a New Nation"

Short Essay 1 due October 16

Week Eight: "American Democracy and Freedom"

Read Foner Chapter 6

Week Nine: "From the Confederation to the Constitution"

Read Foner Chapter 7

Week Ten: "Challenging the New Republic"

Read Foner Chapter 8

Week Eleven: "Westward Expansion and the American Identity"

Read Foner Chapter 9

Week Twelve: "Jacksonian America and Democracy"

Read Foner Chapter 10

Exam Two November 20th

Week Thirteen: "Slavery: The Peculiar Institution"

Read Foner Chapter 11

Week Fourteen: "A House Divided"

Read Foner Chapter 13

Week Fifteen: "The Civil War"

Read Foner Chapter 14

Short Essay Two due December 11th

Week Sixteen: "Reconstruction and Review"

Read Foner Chapter 15

Finals Week

Final Exam will be Wednesday, December 16th from 10:30-12:30