HIST 1301.07E
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2015

Instructors: Dr. Ricky Dobbs
Class Time: 11:00-11:50 MWF
Class Location: BA 221
Office Location: OSS 141
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00; 3:00-4:00
or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5878
Office Fax: 903-468-6077
University Email Address: Ricky.Dobbs@tamuc.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

The Declaration of Independence, can be found at:
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

The Constitution, up through the Tenth Amendment, can be found at:
http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html and

The Texas Declaration of Causes, 1861 can be found at:
https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/secession/2feb1861.html

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:

The Texas state Core Curriculum standards mandate that students in HIST 1301 show growth in Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility. At A&M-Commerce, HIST 1301 pursues those outcomes in the following ways:

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Web-Enhanced: HIS 121.07E 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. You turn in required written work via web, 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 of some lecture, some investigation, and some simulation. Note taking is an essential skill in this class. If you do not take notes, you will not do well. Investigation will require group research and synthesis of information, along with a presentation of results to the class. Simulations will allow you to play through some topics in the course so you can get a sense of challenges faced by historical actors. 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 written examinations worth 75 points each. Each will have an identification section worth twenty-five points. Each identification question is worth five points. Identification questions are drawn from lecture and group investigations. In addition, students will respond to an essay prompt for twenty-five points. Essay prompts are drawn from investigation topics. 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. (Critical Thinking, Communication, and Social Responsibility).

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. It will consist of both group and individual grades. Students who skip class during the simulation will be penalized. (Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Responsibility).

Reading Responses: The two monographs—Myne Owne Ground and Celia: A Slave— are intended to give you a window into life in the colonial period and under antebellum slavery, respectively. In
response to each, students will write a brief essay following instructions and questions available in eCollege. Students will be permitted to revise ONE of these essays for a higher grade. The dates for the papers can be found below. Together, the two reading responses count for 100 points or 25% of your grade. (Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility).

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 fifty-six percent of your grade. The Old South quiz 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. (Critical Thinking).

Grading

A = EXCELLENT 360-400 Points
B = GOOD 320-359 Points
C = AVERAGE 280-319 Points
D = POOR 240-279 Points
F = FAILURE less than 240 Points

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

HIST 1301.07E 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.tamuc.edu/login.aspx](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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.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. **For each FIVE unexcused absences students LOSE ONE LETTER GRADE.** 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.

**Friday:** This class meets on Friday. Be here. Period.
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. I reserve the right to deduct points for late work regardless of reason.

Make Up Work: No make-ups will be permitted without a written excuse along the lines explained above. I reserve the right to deduct points for make-up work regardless of reason.

Tape Recorders and Laptops: 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 twenty years, and I have never seen a student who relied on a tape recorder who did better than a “C.”

Laptops are increasingly used to take notes. They can also be a distraction. Research says that students who take notes by hand and concentrate on putting the lecture into their own words retain information/concepts better. If the laptop becomes a distraction, I will call you out.

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@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

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 a major assignment involving reading due at that time.

August 31: Introduction
September 2: Context of Colonialization Lecture
September 4: Mercantilism Game
September 7: Mercantilism Game Exercise
September 9: Investigation: Colonial Virginia
September 11: Investigation: Colonial Virginia
September 14: *Myne Owne Ground Discussion.*
September 16: Enlightenment Exercise/Mini-Investigation
**September 17:** *Myne Owne Ground Essay Due, Drop-Box eCollege, 5 PM*
September 18: Ideas Matter Lecture
September 21: Colonial Crisis and Revolution Investigation
September 23: Colonial Crisis and Revolution Lecture
September 25: Declaration of Independence and Constitution Lecture
**September 25:** Declaration/Constitution Totally Expected “Pop Quiz,” See Links Above
September 28: Contrasting Visions Investigation
September 30: Contrasting Visions Lecture
October 2: Transitions
October 5: Compromise of 1820 Lecture
October 7: Antislavery and Abolitionism Lecture
October 12: South Carolina—Outlier and Troublemaker—Lecture
**October 14:** Midterm Examination
October 16: Nullification Crisis Lecture
**October 19-27:** Old South Unit Open in eCollege
October 19: FLEX
October 21: Annexation of Texas Lecture
October 23: FLEX
October 24: 1850s Investigation
October 26: Compromise of 1850 Lecture
October 28: Kansas-Nebraska Act Lecture
**October 28-30** Old South Quiz Open in eCollege
**October 30** Old South Discussion
November 2: The Wheels Fall Off: 1857 Lecture
November 4: Simulation Introduction
November 6: Simulation Team Meeting/Planning/Strategy
November 9: Simulation Turn 1
November 11: Simulation Turn 2
November 13: Simulation Turn 3
November 16: Simulation Turn 4
**November 18** Simulation Presentations
**November 18** Simulation Essays Due
November 20: Simulation Presentations
November 23: *Celia: A Slave Discussion*
November 25: The 1860 Election and Secession Lecture
**November 25** Texas Declaration of Causes Totally Predictable “Pop” Quiz, See Link Above
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td><em>Celia: A Slave</em> Essays Due, Drop-Box eCollege, 5 PM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Civil War Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Civil War Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Civil War Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>Reconstruction Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Reconstruction Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Review for Final in Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December XX</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAMINATION 10:30-12:30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>