



## **HIST 264-01E American Slavery The First American Empire & Its Legacy**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Nick Nelson  
Class Time: MWF 11-11:50am  
Class Location: Ferguson SS 141  
Office Location: Ferguson SS 145  
Office Hours: MWF 1-1:45pm, via email, & by appointment  
Instructor Email: [Robert.Nelson@tamuc.edu](mailto:Robert.Nelson@tamuc.edu)

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Books:**

Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams : Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*  
*The American Yawp* at [americanyawp.com](http://americanyawp.com)

### **Course Description**

The United States is a country characterized by diversity. Its history is the story of interactions between groups divided by race, ethnicity, language, income, religion, ideology, culture, and gender. This course explores the nature of encounters between social groups and the consequences such encounters had for American culture and politics. Topics such as Native American history, the Civil Rights Movement, and the labor movement may receive special attention. The course satisfies a Literature, Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change..

### **Course purpose**

This course is intended to familiarize you with significant events and themes in the history of the United States related to slavery and its legacy

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Personal Responsibility - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Social Responsibility - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

This will be primarily a lecture and readings course. The lecture will provide the evidence you need for creating evidence-based answers to the essay questions on the exams. A list of all the potential essay questions for the semester will be made available on the class site for the course during the second week of class. You will need to prepare in advance to be ready to write a coherent, well supported essay during a timed exam. You will also take a number of online quizzes over lecture material, outside readings, and assigned podcasts.

## **GRADING**

### **Grade structure:**

This course will include two in-class written exams and online quizzes. A separate document will explain the take-home essay.

**Multiple Choice Quizzes:** These quizzes will be taken on online. Each will be available for one week, with the exception of the lecture quiz in the last week of class. Quiz due dates are listed on the calendar below.

**Exams:** These will be one essay. You must be able to write a coherent, well structured essay that adequately addresses the question.

Grading breakdown:	Quizzes 40%	(40 points)
	Discussion: 20%	(20 points)
	Midterm: 20%	(20 points)
	Final: 20%	(20 points)
		(100 points total)

### **Make-ups:**

Make-ups for the first midterm exam will be arranged on a per case basis. However, you must complete it by noon one week after the original exam date. This means you must contact me ASAP to arrange a make-up. I don't want an excuse, **just let me you know missed it (do not tell me why) and ASK for a makeup**. I will only be on campus MWF, so your opportunities for **make-up times are extremely limited**. It is best if you contact me the day of the missed exam. Make-ups may be a different format at my discretion. There are NO makeups for missing an online assignment due date, **nor are there after-the-fact makeups for the final exam**.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each

student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT**

If you need to reach me outside of class or office hours, please use email. I typically respond to email within 12 to 36 hours during the week. Do not expect a response during the weekend.

**When sending an email always do the following:**

- 1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.**
- 2) Include your class and section (or classtime). I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in.**
- 3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures**

#### **Attendance**

Attending class benefits you. I will track attendance for record-keeping purposes. I will not lower your grade for not attending, but poor attendance does result in poor test scores.

#### **Academic Honesty and Dishonesty**

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty will not be treated lightly. On each graded assignment I expect each student to honor the following pledge: "I hereby give my word that I have neither given nor received aid while completing this assignment." Any student found violating this policy will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and further action may be taken.

### **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 or exam from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages and passing it off as your own work. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It may be acceptable 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 the instructor or visit the Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

### **Cell-phones, Laptops, Pagers, etc**

I recommend and ask that students not use laptop computers for taking notes. Do not use your laptop for any other purpose during class, as it distracts those around you. All cell-phones and pagers must be turned off or set to silent during class. Do not check or use cell-phones or pagers during class, unless given express permission by the instructor. Disrupting class by using one of these devices will get you an invitation to leave for the remainder of class; this includes texting. If you aren't going to be mentally present in class, you can do that more efficiently from a different physical location.

On exam day, you may not use laptops and should turn off pagers and phones before entering the room. If a pager or phone goes off during the exam, wait for me to come to you before turning it off. Anyone using one of these electronic devices during an exam will automatically receive a grade of zero and be asked to leave the exam room.

### **Extra-credit**

I do not usually give extra credit. Do not ask; that will lower the possibility.

# **University Specific Procedures**

## **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

## **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### **Students with Disabilities**

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

# COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(Tentative Calendar, subject to delay)

**26 August:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class Day. Intro material, Begin lectures.

**9-11 October:** No Class

**14 October:** Midterm Exam

**23 October:** First Quiz Due (11pm)

**8 December:** Final quiz due (11 pm)

**11 December:** Final Exam, 10:30am

