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**HIST 264-01B Slavery in the United States  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Dr Nick Nelson  
Office Location: Ferguson 145  
Office Hours: Tu-Th 11am-Noon; Via Email; By Appointment  
University Email Address: [robert.nelson@tamuc.edu](mailto:robert.nelson@tamuc.edu)  
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**  
Communication Response Time: Normally 24-36 hours, except weekends

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Books:**

Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams : Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*  
(available as e-book through the library)  
David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage*

Additional video assignments, to be announced.

**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,

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Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change.

**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

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**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Use of a web-browser to access the internet. Use of a word processor such as Microsoft Word to create documents.

### **Instructional Methods**

This will be primarily a readings and discussion course covering Slavery in the United States, as well as its origins. The readings and videos will provide all the material for creating discussions and evidence-based answers to the essay questions on the exams. The current intention is to run discussions as live online meetings, but this is subject to change. You will also take several online quizzes over the assigned readings.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

You will need to complete all the readings in a timely manner. You must complete all work by the established due dates, and it is key to participate in discussions before the last day to earn full credit.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

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This course will include two timed essay exams, discussions, and quizzes.  
Multiple Choice Quizzes: Each will be available for one week minimum. Quiz due dates are listed on the calendar below. There are two reading quizzes and a Responsibility Quiz.

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

Discussions: There will be 12 scheduled discussion days. Discussions are presently scheduled to take place as live online meetings via Zoom. There are 3 possible points available for each discussion. 1 point for uploading a pre-discussion document. 1 point for participating during discussion. 1 point for participating significantly in the discussion. An additional document with detailed instructions and dates is available in D2L.

<b>Grading breakdown:</b>	<b>Quizzes 20%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
	<b>Responsibility Quiz: 5%</b>	<b>(5 points)</b>
	<b>Weekly Discussions: 28%</b>	<b>(28 points)</b>
	<b>Midterm: 20%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
	<b>Final: 20%</b>	<b>(20 points)</b>
		<b>(100 points total)</b>

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

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**

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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 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. I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in before I can help you.**
- 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/Policies

#### 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

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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 as short quotations 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.

### **Extra-credit**

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

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **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).  
<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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **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>

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<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>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- 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- 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.

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## **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.

Web url:

<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**

- 24 August:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class Day.
- 3 September:** Discussion 1
- 8 September:** Academic Honesty Quiz Due (11pm)
- 10 September:** Discussion 2
- 17 September:** Discussion 3
- 24 September:** Discussion 4
- 1 October:** Discussion 5
- 8 October:** Midterm Essay Exam due (11pm)
- 15 October:** Discussion 6
- 20 October:** First Reading Quiz Due (11pm)
- 22 October:** Discussion 7
- 29 October:** Discussion 8
- 5 November:** Discussion 9
- 12 November:** Discussion 10
- 19 November:** Discussion 11

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**3 December:** Discussion 12

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

**10 December, Thursday:** Final Essay Exam due, 11pm



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