HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
Wooten Hall 322 | TR 12:30-1:50pm | Spring 2013

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(We’re here to fix that . . .)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore the development of Texas from its earliest settlement through the twenty-first century. Our focus will be on the interactions between different peoples—Indians, Spanish, French, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, Anglo-Americans, African-Americans—who shaped and reshaped Texas over several centuries. Lectures and readings will concentrate on the broad political, economic, and social development of Texas, while placing the region within larger historical trends that shaped the United States and Mexico. The course is intensive in both reading and writing, focused on developing analytical thinking skills.
REQUIRED TEXTS


- David McDonald, *José Antonio Navarro: In Search of the American Dream in Nineteenth-Century Texas* (Texas State Historical Association Press, 2010).


- There are also a number of articles assigned (outlined below) which will be available on Blackboard Learn.

OPTIONAL TEXT


The readings are essential to success in the course and will be indispensable for performing well in the examinations and on the papers. The optional text is the best one-volume textbook of Texas history available, and I highly recommend it.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Assignments and Grading:**

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>First Paper</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Second Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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- Grading on all assignments will be on a ten-point scale: an A is 90-100, B is 80-89, C is 70-79, D is 60-69, and below 60 is an F.
- The exams will consist of short answers and essays.
- There are two paper assignments for this course. For each you will be asked to write a 5-7 page analytical essay answering a historical question grounded in an online archive of digitized historical Texas newspapers. Both assignments will be handed out in class.
Blackboard Learn (learn.unt.edu)
For this course, we will use our Blackboard site for four purposes:
1. All the PowerPoints for my lectures will be available there.
2. When papers are due, you will upload an electronic version to TurnItIn.
3. Selected readings for the course (outlined below) will be available there.
4. Any course announcements will be posted there, in addition to being announced during lecture.

Course Objectives. By the end of the course, you should be able to:
- Identify, explain, and contextualize key trends in Texas history.
- Place the evolution of Texas within the larger context of the development of the United States and Mexico.
- Analyze historical information, evidence, and arguments.
- Write an effective analytical essay.

Class Ground Rules:
- You never have to agree with anything that I say in lectures.
- Speak up! Ask questions when you have them during lectures.
- Respect the opinions of others. There will be no toleration of any disparaging remark made toward others who share their perspectives in class.

General Policies:
- Attendance: Examinations will draw heavily from the lectures, so absences will affect your performance significantly. That said, absences will not directly affect your grade, and we will take attendance solely for record-keeping purposes.
- “Make-up” tests will be given only at the discretion of the instructor. If you know in advance that you will be absent during a scheduled exam, contact me in advance to make arrangements.
- There will be absolutely no toleration for academic dishonesty or plagiarism.
- Student behavior that interferes with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct, which may be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Extra Assistance:
If you ever need extra assistance with any aspect of the course, your first stop should be to see myself, Allie, or David during our office hours. In addition, there are several other resources available to you:
- **History Help Center**: The UNT department of history operates a History Help Center (HHC) located in Wooten Hall 220 (phone: 940-565-4772). The HHC is
staffed by graduate students in history and can provide help with studying for an exam, advice on how to study, take notes, and other such things.

- **UNT Writing Lab**: The UNT Writing Lab offers help with all aspects of writing and is a terrific resource. Tutors and advice can be had at multiple locations from 9am to 10pm most every weekday. For more information, see [http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/](http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/).

- **UNT Learning Center**: UNT maintains an excellent Learning Center geared entirely toward providing students with resources for improving classroom success, with specialized tutoring and programs on issues such as time management and test-taking strategies. For more information, see [http://learningcenter.unt.edu/](http://learningcenter.unt.edu/).

- **UNT Career Center**: UNT has an excellent Career Center—with a dedicated advisor for History Majors—whose entire purpose is to help you discover potential careers, learn to market yourself, create effective resumes, prepare for interviews, and build valuable networks. For more information, see [http://careercenter.unt.edu/about-us/](http://careercenter.unt.edu/about-us/).

**Disability Statement:**
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [http://www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**
You happen to be taking Texas history at the same university that houses the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), one of the largest and most active state historical associations in the nation. If you are interested in Texas history beyond this course, I highly recommend you become involved in the TSHA ([http://www.tshaonline.org/](http://www.tshaonline.org/)).

Through a partnership between the TSHA and the UNT history department, we have a handful of internship opportunities available to highly motivated undergraduates for doing original historical research for publication online in the *Handbook of Texas*.
If you are interested in one of these internship opportunities, please come talk to me.

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Beginnings, Explorers, Settlers (January 15, 17)**
- Reading: *Cabeza de Vaca*, Ch. 1-3.

**Week 2: Spanish Texas (January 22, 24)**
- Reading: *Cabeza de Vaca*, Ch. 4-7; *José Antonio Navarro*, Ch. 1-2.

**Week 3: Mexican Texas (January 29, 31)**
- Reading: *José Antonio Navarro*, Ch. 3-4.

**Week 4: Revolution and Republic (February 5, 7)**
- Reading: *José Antonio Navarro*, Ch. 5-6; “The Most Miserable Place in the World: The Town of Houston,” (available on Blackboard).

**Week 5: Annexation and U. S.-Mexican War (February 12, 14)**
- **EXAM ONE on February 14**
- Reading: Texas newspapers on *Portal to Texas History*.

**Week 6: Secession and Civil War (February 19, 21)**
- Reading: *José Antonio Navarro*, Ch. 7-8; “Why Texans Fought East of the Mississippi River During the Civil War,” (available on Blackboard).

**Week 7: Reconstruction and Redemption (February 26, 28)**
- **PAPER ONE due in class on February 28.**
- Reading: Texas newspapers on *Portal to Texas History*.

**Week 8: Old West, Indians, Cattle (March 5, 7)**
- No reading.

**SPRING BREAK: No class on March 12 or 14!**

**Week 9: Cotton, New South, Populists (March 19, 21)**
- Reading: *Revolution in Texas*, Ch. 1

**Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (March 26, 28)**
- **EXAM TWO on March 28**
- Reading: *Revolution in Texas*, Ch. 2-3.
Week 11: War, Prosperity, Depression (April 2, 4)
• Reading: Revolution in Texas, Ch. 4-7.

Week 12: World War II (April 9, 11)
• Reading: “Gearing Up for Total War,” and “Use It Up—Wear It Out,” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 13: Cold War (April 16, 18)
• PAPER TWO due in class on April 18.
• No reading.

Week 14: Civil Rights (April 23, 25)
• Reading: “The Desegregation of North Texas State College,” and “The Crisis at Mansfield High School,” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 15: Modern Texas (April 30, May 2)
• No reading.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Tuesday, May 7, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Wooten Hall 322.