HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
Wooten Hall 122 | TR 12:30-1:50pm | Spring 2014

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Teaching Assistants:
Ms. Allie Kelley
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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, Spaniards, 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


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

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.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1:</td>
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<td>Paper 1:</td>
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<td>Exam 2:</td>
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<td>Exam 3:</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 will be two paper assignments. For each you will write a short analytical essay answering a historical question grounded in an online archive of digitized historical Texas newspapers.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Beginnings, Explorers, Settlers (January 14, 16)
  • No reading.

Week 2: Spanish Texas (January 21, 23)
  • Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 1.

Week 3: Mexican Texas (January 28, 30)
  • Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 2-3; *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 1.

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

Week 5: Annexation and U. S.-Mexican War (February 11, 13)
  • Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 6-Epilogue.

Week 6: Secession and Civil War (February 18, 20)
  • EXAM 1 on February 20.
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 2-3; “Why Texans Fought East of the Mississippi River During the Civil War,” (available on Blackboard).

Week 7: Reconstruction and Redemption (February 25, 27)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 4-5.

Week 8: Old West, Indians, Cattle (March 4, 6)
  • PAPER 1 due in class on March 6
  • No reading.

SPRING BREAK: No class on March 11 or 13!

Week 9: Cotton, New South, Populists (March 18, 20)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 6.

Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (March 25, 27)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 7-Epilogue.

Week 11: War, Prosperity, Depression (April 1, 3)
  • EXAM 2 on April 3.
  • Reading: *Quest for Equality*, Introduction-Ch. 1.
Week 12: World War II (April 8, 10)
• Reading: “Gearing Up for Total War,” and “Use It Up—Wear It Out,” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 13: Cold War (April 15, 17)
• Reading: Quest for Equality, Ch. 2.

Week 14: Civil Rights (April 22, 24)
• PAPER 2 due in class on April 24
• Reading: Quest for Equality, Ch. 3-Epilogue; “The Desegregation of North Texas State College,” and “The Crisis at Mansfield High School,” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 15: Modern Texas (April 29, May 1)
• No reading.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Thursday, May 8, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Wooten Hall 122.

COURSE POLICIES

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 a paper is 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 figures, events, and 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.
• Conduct original research in a historical archive.
• 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. Absences, however, 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.

Recordings Policy:
- Anyone enrolled in the class may make audio recording of my lectures for their own personal use in studying for the course. However, video recordings or taking images of any aspect of the class or lecture (including images or video recordings of either the professor or students) are prohibited.
- Absolutely no recordings of any kind (images, video, audio, or otherwise) of the class or my lectures may be posted online for any reason. Among other things, this is a violation of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Extra Assistance:
If you ever need extra assistance with any aspect of the course, your first stop should be to see myself, Allie, or Katherine 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://ltc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home](http://ltc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home).

• **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/).

**Extra Credit:**
There are two – but only two – circumstances wherein I give extra credit:

1. On rare occasions, if attendance happens to be low for a particular lecture, I will give extra credit points to those who came to class that day. Most of life is about having the grit to show up and put in the time, and I reward that when I can.
2. If you memorize and can recite the Gettysburg Address – one of the most seminal documents in American history – I will award you five extra points on any one of your exam grades. Anyone can do this at any point in the semester.

**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. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. 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.