HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
Wooten Hall 322
MWF, 11:00-11:50am
Fall 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore the development of Texas from its earliest settlement through the twentieth century. Our focus will be on the interactions between different peoples—Indians, Spanish, French, Mexicans, 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
• Andrés Reséndez, A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca (Basic Books, 2009).
• Timothy J. Henderson, A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and Its War with the United States (Hill and Wang, 2007).
• Randolph B. Campbell, Sam Houston and the American Southwest (Pearson Longman, 2007).
• David Montejano, Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986 (University of Texas Press, 1987).
OPTIONAL TEXT


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

COURSE POLICIES

Assignments and Grading:

Exam 1: 20 percent
Exam 2: 20 percent
Final Exam: 20 percent
First Paper: 20 percent
Second Paper: 20 percent

- 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 course readings. Both assignments will be handed out in class.
- For both papers, you will turn in two copies:
  1. An electronic copy uploaded to TurnItIn through the class Blackboard site, due before class.
  2. A hard copy due in class.
- For all work in this course, you will need to pledge in writing on each assignment (tests and papers): “On my honor, I have neither given nor received help on this assignment.”

Blackboard Vista ([webctvista.unt.edu](http://webctvista.unt.edu))

For this course, we will use our Blackboard site for three 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 required readings for the course (outlined below) will be available there.

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: There will be no attendance taken for the course, although you are expected to attend all lectures. Examinations will draw heavily from the lectures, so absences will affect your performance significantly.
- “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 either myself or Brad 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; hours are Monday through Thursday, 8am-8pm, and Fridays 8am to 5pm.). 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/.

- **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://www.unt.edu/lc/.

Disability Statement:
Any student with special circumstances covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA), Suite 322,
University Union Building (phone: 940-565-4323). Students who have registered with ODA should also make an appointment to discuss their disabilities accommodation requests with me during the first week of class.

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Introduction (August 27)**
- Or, what on earth did you get yourself into?

**Week 2: Beginnings, Settlers, and the Spanish (August 30, September 1 and 3)**
- Reading: *A Land So Strange*.

**Week 3: Mexican Texas (September 8, 10)**
- No class on Labor Day, September 6.

**Week 4: Revolution and Republic (September 13, 15, 17)**
- Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 3-5; *Sam Houston*, Ch. 1-7; “The Most Miserable Place in the World: The Town of Houston,” (available on Blackboard).

**Week 5: Annexation and Mexican-American War (September 20, 22, 24)**
- Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 6-Conclusion; *Sam Houston*, Ch. 8.
- **EXAM 1 on September 24.**

**Week 6: Texas, the South, and Secession (September 27, 29 and October 1)**
- Reading: *Sam Houston*, Ch. 9-10; *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 1-2.

**Week 7: Civil War and Reconstruction (October 4, 6, 8)**
- Reading: “Why Texans Fought East of the Mississippi River During the Civil War,” and “Slaves Taken to Texas for Safekeeping during the Civil War,” (both available on Blackboard).
- **First Paper due in class on October 8.**

**Week 8: Old West, Cattle, and Cotton (October 11, 13, 15)**
- Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 3-4.
Week 9: New South and the Populists (October 18, 20, 22)

Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (October 25, 27, 29)
- Reading: *A Weekend in September; The White Scourge*, Ch. 3-4.
- **EXAM 2 on October 29.**

Week 11: War, Prosperity, and Depression (November 1, 3, 5)
- Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 5-11; *The White Scourge*, Ch. 5-8.

Week 12: World War II (November 8, 10, 12)
- Reading: “Gearing Up for Total War,” and “Use It Up—Wear It Out,” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 13: Civil Rights and Cold War (November 15, 17, 19)
- Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 12; “The Crisis at Mansfield High School,” (available on Blackboard).

Week 14: Second Paper Due! (November 22)
- **Second Paper due in class on November 22.**
- No reading.
- No class on November 24 or 26. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15: Modern Texas, 1980s-1990s (November 29, December 1 and 3)
- Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 13.

Week 16: Myth and Memory in Texas History (December 6, 8)
- Reading: “The Bones of Stephen F. Austin: History and Memory in Progressive-Era Texas,” and “Myth and Censorship in the Celebration of Texas History,” (both available on Blackboard).
- No class on December 10 Reading Day.

**THE FINAL EXAMINATION** will be given on **Friday, December 17, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Wooten 322.**