HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY

MWF, 12:00-12:50pm | Curry Hall 103 | Fall 2015

(We're here to fix that . . .)

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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, Frenchmen, 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

- William Carrigan, *The Making of a Lynching Culture: Violence and Vigilantism in Central Texas, 1836-1916* (University of Illinois Press, 2006).

- Brian Behnken, *Fighting Their Own Battles: Mexican Americans, African Americans, and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Texas* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011).

OPTIONAL TEXT

- Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State,* second edition, (Oxford University Press, 2012).

The readings are essential to success in the course and will be indispensable for performing well 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:

Exam 1:	18 percent
Exam 2:	18 percent
Exam 3:	18 percent
Paper 1:	18 percent
Paper 2:	18 percent
Attendance:	10 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 will be two paper assignments. For each you will write an analytical essay answering a historical question based on the course readings and using an online archive of digitized historical Texas newspapers.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Beginnings, Explorers, Settlers (August 24, 26, 28)

- No reading.

Week 2: Spanish Texas (August 31, September 2, 4)

- No reading.

Week 3: Mexican Texas (September 9, 11)

- **No class September 7 – HAPPY LABOR DAY!**
- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 1.

Week 4: Revolution and Republic (September 14, 16, 18)

- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 2.

Week 5: Annexation and U. S.-Mexican War (September 21, 23, 25)

- **EXAM ONE in class on September 25!**
- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 3.

Week 6: Secession and Civil War (September 28, 30, October 2)

- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 4-5.

Week 7: Reconstruction and Redemption (October 5, 7, 9)

- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 6-7.

Week 8: Old West, Indians, Cattle (October 12, 14, 16)

- **PAPER ONE due in class on October 16!**
- Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Epilogue.

Week 9: Cotton, New South, Populists (October 19, 21, 23)

- No reading.

Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (October 26, 28, 30)

- Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles,* Introduction – Ch. 1.

Week 11: War, Prosperity, Depression (November 2, 4, 6)

- **EXAM TWO in class on November 2!**
- Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles,* Ch. 2-3.

Week 12: World War II (November 9, 11, 13)

- Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles,* Ch. 4-5.

Week 13: Cold War (November 16, 18, 20)

- Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles,* Ch. 6-7.

Week 14: Civil Rights (November 23, 25)

- **PAPER TWO due in class on November 23!**
- **No class November 27 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- No reading.

Week 15: Modern Texas (November 30, December 2)

- No reading.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Wednesday, December 9, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Curry Hall 103.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance:

- Over the semesters, the most reliable predictor of someone's final grade in this course has always been their attendance. Exams draw almost exclusively from lectures, and I urge you to attend as regularly as possible.
- As such, 10 percent of your grade is straightforward attendance. We will assess attendance based on the sign-in sheets passed out during each lecture. And because the unexpected still happens, we will give everyone two "free" absences throughout the semester which will not deduct from your grade.

Blackboard Learn (learn.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 a paper is due, you will upload an electronic version to TurnItIn.
3. 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:

- 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:

- "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 potential 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 or the TAs 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.

- **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/.

- **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/.

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 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. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.