HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
Matthews Hall 311 | MWF, 1:00-1:50pm | Spring 2011

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
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**Teaching Assistants:**  
Mr. Brad Folsom  
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Mr. Will Yancey  
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Office Hours: MW, 2:30-3:30pm, & by appt  
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**Supplemental Instructor:** Mr. Jeff Rose  
Email: oceanbeach8282@yahoo.com

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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, 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.

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**REQUIRED TEXTS**

**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.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Assignments and Grading:**
- Exam 1: 20 percent
- First Paper: 20 percent
- Exam 2: 20 percent
- Second Paper: 20 percent
- Final Exam: 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.

**Blackboard Vista** ([webctvista.unt.edu](http://webctvista.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 required 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: 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 myself, Brad, or Will during our office hours. In addition, there are several other resources available to you:
- **Supplemental Instruction:** We are very fortunate to have Jeff Rose as a supplemental instructor (SI) for this course. SI sessions are led by a student who has already mastered the course material and has been trained to facilitate group sessions where students can meet to compare notes, review and discuss course concepts, develop strategies for studying and preparing for exams. These sessions are free and voluntary, and I highly encourage you to attend. SI sessions begin the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program, and session schedule/updates, visit: [http://learningcenter.unt.edu/](http://learningcenter.unt.edu/).

- **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/](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/).

**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**: Beginnings, Explorers, Settlers (January 19, 21)
- Introduction (or, “What on Earth Did You Get Yourself Into?”)

**Week 2**: Spanish Texas (January 24, 26, 28)
- Reading: *A Land So Strange*.

**Week 3**: Mexican Texas (January 31, February 2, 4)

**Week 4**: Revolution and Republic (February 7, 9, 11)
- 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 (February 14, 16, 18)
- Reading: *A Glorious Defeat*, Ch. 6-Conclusion; *Sam Houston*, Ch. 8.
- **EXAM ONE on February 18**

**Week 6**: Texas, the South, and Secession (February 21, 23, 25)
- Reading: *Sam Houston*, Ch. 9-10; *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 1-2.

**Week 7**: Civil War and Reconstruction (February 28, March 2, 4)
- 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).
- **PAPER ONE due in class on March 4**
Week 8: Old West, Cattle, and Cotton (March 7, 9, 11)
  • Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 3-4.

SPRING BREAK: March 13-18. No class!

Week 9: New South and the Populists (March 21, 23, 25)
  • Reading: *The White Scourge*, Ch. 1-2.

Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (March 28, 30, April 1)
  • Reading: *A Weekend in September; The White Scourge*, Ch. 3-4.
  • EXAM TWO on April 1

Week 11: War, Prosperity, and Depression (April 4, 6, 8)
  • Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 5-11; *The White Scourge*, Ch. 5-8.

Week 12: World War II (April 11, 13, 15)
  • Reading: “Gearing Up for Total War,” and “Use It Up—Wear It Out” (both available on Blackboard).

Week 13: Civil Rights and Cold War (April 18, 20, 22)
  • Reading: “The Desegregation of North Texas State College,” and “The Crisis at Mansfield High School” (both available on Blackboard).
  • PAPER TWO due in class on April 22

Week 14: Modern Texas, 1980s-1990s (April 25, 27, 29)
  • Reading: *Anglos and Mexicans*, Ch. 12-13.

Week 15: Myth and Memory in Texas History (May 2, 4)
  • Reading: “The Bones of Stephen F. Austin: History and Memory in Progressive-Era Texas,” and “Causes Lost But Not Forgotten” (both available on Blackboard).
  • No class on May 6, Reading Day.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Friday, May 13, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Matthew 311.