HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
MWF, 12:00-12:50pm | Curry Hall 203 | Spring 2016

(We’re here to fix that . . .)

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
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Office: Wooten Hall 211  
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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

OPTIONAL TEXT

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; 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 (January 20, 22)
- No reading.

Week 2: Indian Country (January 25, 27, 29)
- No reading.
Week 3: Mexico’s Far North (February 1, 3, 5)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 1.

Week 4: Revolution and Republic (February 8, 10, 12)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 2.

Week 5: Annexation and U.S.-Mexico War (February 15, 17, 19)
  • EXAM ONE in class on February 17!
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 3.

Week 6: Secession and Civil War (February 22, 24, 26)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 4-5.

Week 7: Reconstruction and Redemption (February 29, March 2, 4)
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Ch. 6-7.

Week 8: Old West, Indians, Cattle (March 7, 9, 11)
  • PAPER ONE due in class on March 11!
  • Reading: *The Making of a Lynching Culture*, Epilogue.

MARCH 14-18: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!

Week 9: Cotton, New South, Populists (March 21, 23, 25)
  • No reading.

Week 10: Hurricane, Oil, and the Progressives (March 28, 30, April 1)
  • Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles*, Introduction – Ch. 1.

Week 11: War, Prosperity, Depression (April 4, 6, 8)
  • EXAM TWO in class on April 4.
  • Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles*, Ch. 2-3.

Week 12: World War II (April 11, 13, 15)
  • Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles*, Ch. 4-5.

Week 13: Cold War (April 18, 20, 22)
  • PAPER TWO due in class on April 22!
  • Reading: *Fighting Their Own Battles*, Ch. 6-7.

Week 14: Civil Rights (April 25, 27, 29)
  • No reading.
Week 15: Modern Texas (May 2, 4)

- No reading.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Wednesday, May 11, from 10:30am-12:30pm in Curry Hall 203.

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**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.
- Adult Content Disclaimer: Texas history is complicated, and throughout this semester we will undoubtedly touch on mature and sensitive topics. When controversial subjects arise, be prepared to discuss them as mature adults and with respect toward your colleagues and professor. If you have personal concerns about individual topics or subjects, please discuss those with me as soon as possible.
- 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 Kylie 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 the like.
- **UNT Writing Lab**: The UNT Writing Lab offers help with all aspects of writing and is a terrific resource. For more information, see http://writinglab.unt.edu/
- **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 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://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center).

**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](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.