**HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY**

TR, 9:30-10:50am | Curry Hall 104 | Spring 2017

(We’re here to fix that . . .)

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
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**Teaching Associates:**  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12pm-2pm, and by appt.

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**Course Description**

This course will explore the development of Texas from its earliest settlements 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 17, 19)
- No reading.

Week 2: Indian Country (January 24, 26)
- No reading.
Week 3: Mexico’s Far North (January 31, February 2)
   • Reading: *An Empire for Slavery*, Introduction and Ch. 1.

Week 4: Revolution and Republic (February 7, 9)
   • Reading: *An Empire for Slavery*, Ch. 2-4.

Week 5: Annexation and U.S.-Mexican War (February 14, 16)
   • EXAM ONE in class on February 16!
   • Reading: *An Empire for Slavery*, Ch. 5-7.

Week 6: Slavery and Expansion (February 21, 23)
   • Reading: *An Empire for Slavery*, Ch. 8-10.

Week 7: Secession and Civil War (February 28, March 2)
   • Reading: *An Empire for Slavery*, Ch. 11-12.

Week 8: Reconstruction and Redemption (March 7, 9)
   • PAPER ONE due in class on March 9!
   • No reading.

SPRING BREAK: No class March 14 or 16!

Week 9: Cattle Drives and Indian Wars (March 21, 23)
   • Reading: *From South Texas to the Nation*, Introduction and Ch. 1.

Week 10: Cotton, Farmers, Rebellion (March 28, 30)
   • EXAM TWO in class on March 30!
   • Reading: *From South Texas to the Nation*, Ch. 2-4.

Week 11: Oil, Cities, Reform (April 4, 6)
   • Reading: *From South Texas to the Nation*, Ch. 5-6.

Week 12: Great Depression and New Deal (April 11, 13)
   • Reading: *From South Texas to the Nation*, Ch. 7 and Epilogue.

Week 13: World War II and Texas Transformed (April 18, 20)
   • PAPER TWO due in class on April 20!
   • No reading.

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

- No reading.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Thursday, May 11, from 8:00am-10:00pm in Curry Hall 104.

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.

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 an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

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, Kylie, or David 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 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://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. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault:
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.