HIST 4700: TEXAS HISTORY
Business Leadership Building 245 | MTWR 8:00-11:50am | Maymester 2016

Instructor: Dr. Andrew J. Torget
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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, 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 the volume of content covered and emphasizes the development of analytical thinking skills.

REQUIRED TEXT
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown:
Midterm: 30 percent
Final: 30 percent
Reaction Papers: 20 percent
Attendance: 20 percent

- Grading 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.
- Each week you will write short reaction papers to selected readings, and we’ll hand out directions for those during class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: Prehistoric to Civil War
May 16 – Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Indians
- Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 1-4.

May 17 – Mexican Texas
- **Reaction Paper 1 due at beginning of class!** Please write on the following (which is available on Blackboard): James Crisp, “José Antonio Navarro: The Problem of Tejano Powerlessness”
- Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 5.

May 18 – Revolution and Republic
- **Reaction Paper 2 due at beginning of class!** Please write on the following (which is available on Blackboard): Steve Hardin, “‘The Most Miserable Place in the World’: The Town of Houston”
- Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 6-7.

May 19 – Road to the Civil War
- Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 8-9.

WEEK TWO: Reconstruction to World War II
May 23 – Civil War, Reconstruction, and Cattle
- **Reaction Paper 3 due at beginning of class!** Please write on the following (which is available on Blackboard): Charles Grear, “Why Texans Fought East of the Mississippi during the Civil War”
- Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 10-12.
May 24 – Angry Farmers and Jim Crow
• **MIDTERM EXAM at the beginning of class!**
• Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 13.

May 25 – Cities, Progressives, and the Rise of the Klan
• **Reaction Paper 4 due at beginning of class!** Please write on the following (which is available on Blackboard): Cortez Ewing, “The Impeachment of James Ferguson”
• Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 14-15.

May 26 – Depression, New Deal, World War II
• Reading: *Gone to Texas*, first half of Ch. 16.

**WEEK THREE: Making of Modern Texas**
May 30 – Memorial Day – no class!

May 31 – The Making of Modern Texas
• **Reaction Paper 5 due at beginning of class!** Please write on the following (which is available on Blackboard): Ron Marcello, “The Desegregation of North Texas State College”
• Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Second half of Ch. 16.

June 1 – Wrap-up
• **FINAL EXAM in class!**
• Reading: *Gone to Texas*, Ch. 17-18.

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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.
• Because this is Maymester, **20 percent of your grade is straightforward attendance.** We will assess attendance based on the sign-in sheets passed out during each lecture. Because the unexpected still happens, we will give everyone a single “free” absence day during the Maymester 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. Selected readings for your reaction papers will be available there.
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.
- 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 tolerance 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 me during my 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/](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/](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 is only one opportunity for extra credit: 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 during our summer session.

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.