

UNITED STATES HISTORY TO 1865
Hist 1301.904 (January 16-April 29, 2024)
T 9:30 am – 10:45 am
Madla 205

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Elizabeth Lara

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Office Location & Hours: CAB 347G Monday/Wednesday 11-12:30 PM & Tuesday 11-12:30 P.M.

Other times are available by appointment.



Theodor de Bry, "Negotiating Peace With the Indians," 1634, Virginia Historical Society.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to certain vital aspects of the history of the United States from European colonization to the end of the Civil War. It will focus on four: the nature and impact of European colonization; how the U.S. came to be an independent nation; how slavery almost destroyed that nation in the 1850s and 1860s; and how the U.S. has continually struggled to deal with its diversity. Through the textbook and readings, students will be exposed to the different ways that historians "do" history; thus, we have works widely regarded as a model of the new "inclusive" history. To give you the experience of working with primary sources, the "stuff" of history. Toward that end, we are reading the autobiography of Frederick Douglass.

The greatest problem of a course that attempts to cover over three hundred years of U.S. history in 16 weeks is that exceedingly hard choices have to be made. We cannot deal with everything that most historians would consider essential in a survey of American history, let alone all of the topics that are interesting and rewarding. Thus, I emphasize that this is an introduction to U.S. history that I hope will encourage you to explore certain aspects of it in greater depth in other courses or on your own.

LEARNING GOALS

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

COURSE MATERIALS (links are located in BB under Course Content)

1. Online Textbook: *The American Yawp*, <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>
2. Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1995. ISBN 9780486284996

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Course requirements:

Attendance & Participation 10%

Quizzes 10%

(2) Exams 50%

Paper 15%

Field Trips 15%

Grade Scale: A (90%-up); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%)

Attendance & Participation Policy (10%):

Students are expected to attend meetings each week and actively participate (see Course Calendar below, for Class Meeting dates). If you know in advance that you will miss a scheduled class meeting, please notify me immediately so that you will not be marked absent. Two unexcused absences from class meetings may result in a drop of one letter grade, and so forth from your overall final grade for the course, or an “F” for more than four unexcused absences.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site. The syllabus, additional reading assignments, and study guides will be posted there, as well as announcements and grades throughout the semester. I do not post lecture notes online—you must attend class and take your own notes. If you are absent, you will need to get lecture notes from someone else in the course.

The syllabus is subject to change, and I will let you know in advance of any changes that need to be made during the semester.

Laptop computers may only be used during class time to take lecture notes. Any other purpose is not allowed.

Quizzes (assignments) (10%):

Students will be asked to submit low-stakes quizzes or written assignments based on the lecture videos, films and primary sources. Jan. 23, 2/6, 2/20, 3/6. You will be graded on the quality of your contributions and your ability to analyze, think critically, and discuss course concepts. Note: No late work will be accepted.

Exams (50%)

You will have two exams proctored during our in-person meetings on 2/27 and 4/23. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice, T/F, matching, short-answer, and essay questions. Before each exam, you will have a review and a study guide to help you prepare for the examination.

Make-up Exam Policy:

If you have a conflict, I expect to be notified by email to make alternate arrangements. Missed exams must be made up within a week at the testing center or during office hours. Be mindful that the testing center has its own policies and procedures. Students must register for an exam appointment at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academic-affairs/student-academic-success-center/testing-center/index.html>. The testing center does not accept walk-in's. Students must register 12 hours in advance of the day you want to test. Once you have scheduled the test, send me a courtesy email to let me know what day to expect it so that I can pick it up. As you noticed, these are all steps that are initiated by the student, and not the professor--that's more work on the student. At the discretion of the instructor, the make-up exam may not be the same format as the class exams. The Testing Center exam is the final make-

up available so if you miss this second opportunity, you will receive a 0, and likely be unable to pass the class.

Paper (15%)

You will write an in-class essay on 3/26 based on the book, *Frederick Douglass*.

Field Trips (15%)

We will have two field trips: Spanish Mission (1/27) and Briscoe Western Museum of Art (3/3). Students will work on a group presentation based on these trips focused on a central public history topic. Presentations will be on 4/16.

Extensions, Late Assignments and Extra Credit Policy:

Papers are due at class time as indicated on the syllabus. I will impose appropriate penalties for late submission on the papers. Make-up exams will only be offered for University-approved absences and instructor reserves the right to modify the make-up exam. Late work will be docked 10 points per day it is late. If you have a good reason for missing a deadline, please discuss it with me. You will find me reasonable. I will offer at least one opportunity in the semester for extra credit.

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between the instructor and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have Jaguar email account ready and working. The instructor will distribute course materials, including announcements and updates, via Blackboard, so students should log in to the course site in Blackboard regularly.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Misconduct Policy: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook (<http://www.tamusa.tamus.edu/studenthandbook.html>).

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of ‘F’ on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students’ best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The

phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential

(as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text “HOME” to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255. Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates.

To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing assistance to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can make

individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 208. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender- based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as

counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their University email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE¹

Week 1 (January 16-20)

¹ The Instructor reserves the right to modify the readings and assignments of the course as needed.

Textbook, Ch. 1

T—Class Introduction

Lecture Columbian Exchange

*Watch Columbus in Americas Video (BB)

Week 2 (January 23-27)

T— Lecture Columbian Exchange, continued

*Watch English Settlement Video (BB)

***Field Trip 1 (January 27)**

***Quiz 1/23**

Week 3 (January 30-February 3)

Textbook, Ch. 2,3

T—Lecture on English colonization

*For discussion: Read “Drought Struck First Colonists” Science Magazine Article (thesis)

*Watch Son of Africa video segments (BB)

Week 4 (February 6-10)

Textbook, Ch. 3

T—British North America

*Play interactive review session (BB)

*Quiz 2/6

**Week 5 (February 13-17)
Historiography)**

T— Lecture American Revolution (Causes &

***Watch The American Revolution: Documentary Liberty!**

Episode 1-The Reluctant Revolutionaries (1763-1774) (BB)

Week 6 (February 20-24)

Textbook, Ch. 5

Documents (see constitution question)

T—Lecture on Article of Confederation & Constitution

*Play interactive review session

Textbook, Ch. 5

***Quiz: 2/20**

Week 7 (February 27-March 3)

T-Midterm

***Field Trip II: Briscoe Museum (Sunday 3rd)**

Week 8 (March 6-10)

Textbook, Ch. 6

War

***Douglass**

***Quiz 3/6**

T— Lecture on Westward Expansion & Mexican American

Week 9 (March 11-17)

Spring Break

Week 10 (March 20-24)

Lecture The Rise of AntiSlavery Mvmt: Abolitionists

***Douglass**

T— Lecture King Cotton & Slave-Owning Families/ &

Week 11 (March 26-30)

T— Book Essay in Class

Week 12 (April 2-6)

T—Lecture Civil War (Background & Major Causes)

Week 13 (April 9-13)

T—Lecture Civil War (Comparing Sides)/ Major Battles

Week 14 (April 16-20)

T—Field Trip Presentations

Week 15 (April 23-27)

T—Exam 2

Make-up Exam

TESTING CENTER (April 25-29th)

***NO FINAL EXAM**