



## **HIST 445-01E History of Texas**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020**

Instructor: Dr. Nick Nelson  
Class Time: MWF 2-2:50pm  
Class Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 141  
Office Location: Ferguson SS 145  
Office Hours: MWF 9:15-11am, via email, & by appointment  
Instructor Email: [Robert.Nelson@tamuc.edu](mailto:Robert.Nelson@tamuc.edu)

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Books:**

- Randolph B. Campbell. *Gone to Texas*.
- Angela Boswell. *Women In Texas History*.
- Andrew Torget. *Seeds of Empire*.
- Additional required articles and readings as assigned.

### **Course Description**

A topical examination of Texas history, this course covers material from the time of Spanish colonization to the present day. The state's diversity and development take center stage, and the state's history is placed in the context of national and global trends. This course examines political, economic racial, ethnic gender, and social issues in Texas history.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will employ primary research in the writing of a conference-length research paper discussing a Texas history subtopic

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This will be primarily a lecture, readings, and research course. Quizzes will cover lecture and required reading material. Students will complete 2 book reviews, a research proposal, and a research paper.

## GRADING

### Grade structure:

Grading breakdown:	Research Paper:	40%	(40 points)
	Proposal:	10%	(10 points)
	Quizzes:	20%	(20 points)
	Book Reviews:	30%	(30 points)
			(100 points total)

### Quizzes:

Quizzes will be on D2L, and will be open for a 1 week period. There will be no makeups, nor will late quizzes be accepted. There may also be pop quizzes in class, should I deem appropriate.

### Required Readings:

Everyone will read *Gone to Texas* and *Women In Texas History*. Each student will also read and review Torget's *Seeds of Empire* and additional book of their choice. No one will read the same additional book as another student.

### TURNITIN.COM:

The book reviews and research paper must be submitted electronically in D2L before their assigned due date for a grade to be received. These submissions will be checked by TURNITIN.COM for plagiarism. Late submissions will count as late papers.

### Attendance and Participation

Attending class benefits you. I will track attendance for record-keeping purposes, and missed notes will negatively affect your ability to pass quizzes. Please do not be late.

### Class Calendar & Due Dates

The calendar may adjusted at my discretion as necessary. Such decisions will be announced **in class**. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. You may not disrupt the class to turn assignments in during the middle of class. Assignments turned in at the end of class or later will be considered late.

## **Book Reviews**

You are required to write two book reviews for the course. Each review should follow the formatting and style of the template book review that will be provided, be typed with 1-inch margins, free of grammatical and spelling errors, provide correct citation where necessary, include discussion of a published academic review of the assigned book, and should be no less than 3 full pages & absolutely no more than 5 pages. You must turn in a hard copy of the assignment on the day that it is due in addition to the file you upload to the course website. I will not accept electronic versions (email, etc.) of reviews in lieu of the hardcopy without prior permission. Furthermore, each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade.

## **Texas History Research Paper**

Students will each produce over the course of the semester an original research paper that includes the use of at least 3 separate primary sources and at least 10 secondary sources. The paper needs to be the approximate average length of a conference paper, thus ranging between 3000 and 3600 words, not including endnotes and bibliography in the word count. Each should be typed with 1-inch margins, free of grammatical and spelling errors, provide correct citation, and include the discussion of academically-produced secondary works where necessary. You must turn in a hard copy of the assignment on the day that it is due in addition to the file you upload to the corresponding D2L assignment which will also upload it automatically and check it for plagiarism via turnitin. I will not accept electronic versions (email, etc.) of the research papers in lieu of the hardcopy without prior permission. Late papers will incur an automatic deduction of 10% per weekday that they are late. I will provide further details regarding this assignment in a separate document, including information on the Research Proposal.

# **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT

If you need to reach me outside of class or office hours, please use email. I typically respond to email within 12 to 36 hours during the week. Do not expect a response during the weekend.

**When sending an email always do the following:**

- 1) Use a subject line. This tells me what the topic is and prevents your message from ending up in my junk mail.**
- 2) Include your class and section (or classtime). I need to know exactly which of my courses you are in.**
- 3) End the email with your name, that is “sign” your message. I also need to know who you are.**

# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures

### Attendance

Attending class benefits you. I will track attendance for record-keeping purposes. I will not lower your grade for not attending, but poor attendance does result in poor test scores.

### Academic Honesty and Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own work. Dishonesty will not be treated lightly. On each graded assignment I expect each student to honor the following pledge: "I hereby give my word that I have neither given nor received aid while completing this assignment." Any student found violating this policy will receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and further action may be taken.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper or exam from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages and passing it off as your own work. Cheating on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It may be acceptable to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see the instructor or visit the Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

### Cell-phones, Laptops, Pagers, etc

I recommend and ask that students not use laptop computers for taking notes. Do not use your laptop for any other purpose during class, as it distracts those around you. All cell-phones and pagers must be turned off or set to silent during class. **Do not check or use cell-phones or pagers during class**, unless given express permission by the instructor. Disrupting class by using one of these devices will get you an invitation to leave for the remainder of class; this includes texting. If you

aren't going to be mentally present in class, you can do that more efficiently from a different physical location.

On exam day, you may not use laptops and should turn off pagers and phones before entering the room. If a pager or phone goes off during the exam, wait for me to come to you before turning it off. Anyone using one of these electronic devices during an exam will automatically receive a grade of zero and be asked to leave the exam room.

### **Extra-credit**

I do not usually give extra credit. Do not ask; that will lower the possibility.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

#### **[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

#### **[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)**

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

# COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(Tentative Calendar, subject to delay)

**13 January:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class Day. Intro material

**7 February:** First Research Proposal Draft Due

**21 February:** Book Review on *Seeds of Empire* Due

**26-28 Feb:** No Class

**4 March:** Final Research Proposal Due

**9-13 March:** Spring Break

**18 March:** Online Midterm Quiz Due (11pm)

**30 March:** Second Book Review Due

**20 April:** Research paper due

**3 May:** Final Quiz due (11 pm)

**4 May, Monday:** Final Class meeting, 1:15pm

