



HIST 553.01W: Modern America

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring, 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Derrick D. McKisick

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences #119

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday

Office Phone: 903.886.5222

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University Email Address: derrick.mckisick@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: I will respond that day or the next business day.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Ashworth, John. Slavery, Capitalism, and Politics in the Antebellum Republic (Volume 1: Compromise, 1820-1850). ISBN: 0-521-47994-0

Baptist, Edward E. The Half Has Never been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism. ISBN: 978-0-465-04966-0

Blight, David W. Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom. ISBN: 978-1-4165-9388

Cronon, William. Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West. ISBN: 978-0-393-30873-0

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Harlan, Louis R. Booker T. Washington: Wizard of Tuskegee, 1901-1915. ISBN: 0-19-504229-8

McGerr, Michael. A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920. ISBN:978-0195183658

Fleming, Crystal. Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching. ISBN: 978-0674061859

Painter, Nell Irvin. Standing at Armageddon: A Grassroots History of the Progressive Era, 1877-1917. ISBN:978-0393331929

West, Elliott. The Last Indian War: The Nez Pearce Story. ISBN: 978-0199769186

Wood, Amy L. Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in America, 1890-1940. ISBN: 978-0-8078-3254-7

Selected downloadable journal articles will be made available through the course's D2L site.

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Rampolla, Mary L. A Pocket Guide to Writing History. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2018.

16th Edition of the Chicago Manual of Style

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.*

Course Description

This course traces the development of modern America from the Antebellum period thru the end of WWI. Within these critical years, the United States emerged from a country severely divided on issues surrounding race, rebellion, reconstruction, and finally, reform to one that had been transformed through immigration, urbanization, and industrialization into a leading world power. Over the course of the semester, this class will examine the events and historical interpretations that are at the heart of the historical understanding of this critical period in the transformation of the United States.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable)

1. Student will develop a familiarity with the historiographical development of American history from Reconstruction to the end of World War I.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Instructional Methods

The course requires a combination of writing assignments and discussion boards. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE submitted by 11:59 pm each Saturday of the semester (No Late Assignment will be accepted for full credit). The instructional week will from Sunday to Saturday. The late assignment will be assessed a five-point penalty for each day that it is late. Students are expected to read the required readings to participate fully in the discussion board discussions.

Required Reading: All students will be required to read and to discuss the assigned books. The books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore, internet websites (Amazon), and at a variety of regional retailers.

TURNITIN.COM: All typed assignments, exams, papers, and reviews must be uploaded to the appropriate listing of the course's dropbox. Turn-It-In will only read writing submissions with a doc or docx extension. If you submit a PDF, Turn-It-In can't read it; therefore, the paper will not be graded. Each assignment dropbox automatically uploads the work to turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. This is a requirement for the course, and the students will receive a zero if they have not completed this process and submitted a paper that Turn-It-In can assess.

Writing Assignments

All writing assignments must be typed in 12 pt. New Times Roman font, doubled spaced, stapled and paginated with a 1" margin. Additionally, all assignments must include, on the first page, your name, assignment, my name, course number, and date. Students must submit an electronic copy to dropbox that turnitin.com can analyze. If the student does not, the assignment will not be graded and receive a zero.

Discussion Board

During the course of the semester, there will be weekly discussion board questions based on assigned readings listed in the syllabus. All students must post an answer to the question and respond to the responses of two different classmates. There are three parts that count for a total of ten points. Your initial post counts for five points and your responses to your classmates count for five points if you receive full credit. To receive credit for the assignment, each student must respond to the discussion question with a 250-word post and respond to at least two classmate's questions with at least 150-word responses each that directly address their response. The first response counts for five points and each response to questions from your classmates count for five points for ten total points. **If you do not participate in all parts of each discussion board thread, you will not receive full credit for your response.**

Discussion Board Post (Quantity)

- You are required to post one original message for each topic.
- The post should be 250-words that directly address the discussion question, not merely describing the historical events or person in the discussion prompt. Each response should indicate awareness of historical context and importance.
- You must respond to at least two of your classmate's questions and your response must be at least 150-words each that directly address your classmate's response and question.

Discussion Board Post (Quality)

- Your posts must demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the topic being discussed.
- You must demonstrate connections between readings, historical context, and theory.
- You should relate discussion responses to material covered earlier in the course to give your responses clarity and context.
- Your post should go beyond reciting facts, but it should examine the material at a critical level and include relevant information from the reading to support your argument.

Discussion Board (Timeliness)

- You must provide at least three days for your classmates to respond, so it is incumbent on each student to post and respond as soon as possible to give each person an opportunity to participate. If you do not post a response with an ample amount of time for your classmates to respond, you will not receive credit for your discussion board post.
- You will be given one week to respond to each topic.

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Essays

The students of this course are required to complete several essays during the course of the semester and to write book reviews for each of the assigned books. Book reviews /Receptions are due on the day the book is discussed. Students must provide a paper copy to the professor and submit an electronic copy to the dropbox. Each student is required to complete two reception reports for books assigned during the semester. The book review and reception reports guides will be posted in D2L.

Turnitin

It is the student's responsibility to submit all written work to Turnitin.com, which is part of the D2L dropbox system. Any work not successfully submitted thru Turnitin.com will be given a zero. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Historiographical Paper

A twenty to twenty-five page research paper is required of all students in the course. Students are free to consider any topic within the course theme, but the topic must be cleared with the instructor. The paper must have twenty secondary sources (history monographs- books and peer-reviewed journal articles). Students will turn in a prospectus (50 points) during the seventh week of class. A late proposal and final paper will be docked (10 points) per day, regardless of the excuse. Bibliography and footnotes or endnotes are required in the prospectus and final draft of the paper in accordance with *The Chicago Manual of Style* or Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Success in this course requires reading various types of materials, responding appropriately to discussion board questions, written assignments and papers.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

Course Requirements

Book Review x 5	100 pts.
Reception Paper x 5	100 pts.
Discussion Board 10x10	100 pts.
Historiographical Proposal	25 pts.
Historiographical Paper	75 pts.

Grades

A 400- 359 (100%-90.00%); B 358-319 (89.99%-80.00%); C 318-278 (79.99-70.00%), D 276-238 (69.99-60.00), F 237 (59.99- below)

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browsset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Reg_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browsset)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty,

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students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx) and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

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.

Note: It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.

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- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the 'Tech Support' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

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.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu).
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Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>


The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

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

FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

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LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response time and feedback on assessments are stated clearly.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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

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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)
<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

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Email: 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.

Web url:

<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.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One: (February 2-8) Antebellum America and Economy

Mandatory Reading: John Ashworth, *Slavery, Capitalism, and the politics in the Antebellum Republic* (Volume: 1, Compromise, 1820-1850)

Discussion Board

Book Review Due

Week Two: (February 9- 15) United States Southern Economy

Mandatory Reading: Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*

Discussion Board

Reception Paper Due

Week Three: (February 16-22) The Transformation of the West

Mandatory Reading: William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*.

Discussion Board

Reception Paper Due

Week Four: (February 23- 29) Native American West

Mandatory Reading: Elliott West, *The Last Indian War: The Nez Pearce Story*.

Discussion Board

Book Review Due

Historiographical Paper Proposal Due

Week Five: (March 1-7) Post- Reconstruction

Mandatory Reading: David Blight, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

Discussion Board

Reception Report Due

Spring Break March 9-13

Week Six: (March 15-21) The Nadir

Mandatory Reading: Louis R. Harlan, *Booker T. Washington: The Wizard of Tuskegee, 1901-1915*.

Discussion Board

Book Review

Week Seven: (March 22-28) Gender and Violence

Mandatory Reading: Crystal Fiemster, *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching*

Discussion Board

Book Review

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Week Eight: (March 29 – April 4) Racialized Violence

Mandatory Reading: Amy L. Wood, *Lynching and Spectacle: Witnessing Racial Violence in American, 1890-1940*.

Discussion Board

Reception Paper Due

Week Nine: (April 5-11) Populism

Required Reading: Nell Irvin Painter, *Standing at Armageddon: A Grassroots History of the Progressive Era*.

Discussion Board

Book Review

Week Ten: (April 12-18) Progressivism

Required Reading: Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*.

Discussion Board

Reception Report Due

Week Eleven: (April 19-25) Individual Paper Consultation

Week Twelve: Final Paper Due (May 2, 2020)