



**HIST 264-01E American Slavery:
The First American Empire & Its Legacy
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2024**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Nick Nelson
Office Location: Ferguson 145
Office Hours: TBD; By Appointment
University Email Address: robert.nelson@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**
Communication Response Time: Normally 24-36 hours, except weekends

COURSE INFORMATION

Books: (both books are available for free as ebooks from our library)
David Brion Davis, *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*
Walter Johnson, *River of Dark Dreams : Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*
Additional online articles as linked

Course Description

The United States is a country characterized by diversity. Its history is the story of interactions between groups divided by race, ethnicity, language, income, religion, ideology, culture, and gender. This course explores the nature of encounters between social groups and the consequences such encounters had for American culture and politics. Topics such as Native American history, the Civil Rights Movement, and the labor movement may receive special attention. The course satisfies a Literature, Philosophy and Culture requirement for the core curriculum and may be repeated when topics change.

Course purpose

This course is intended to familiarize you with significant events and themes in the history of the United States related to slavery and its legacy.

.Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Personal Responsibility - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. Social Responsibility - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This will be primarily a lecture, readings, & discussion course. The lecture & readings will provide the information you need for creating evidence-based answers on the exams. You will need to prepare in advance to be ready to write a coherent, well supported answer during a timed exam. You will also take online quizzes over lecture material, outside readings, and assigned podcasts/videos.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100

B = 80%-89

C = 70%-79

D = 60%-69

F = 59 or Below

This course will include two in-class written exams and online quizzes.

Multiple Choice Quizzes: Quiz due dates are listed on the calendar below, they will each be available for multiple weeks in D2L. There are two reading quizzes that cover the text, lectures, & supplemental readings (SLO 4), and a Student Responsibility Quiz (SLO 3).

Exams: These will be essay and/or short answer questions. You must be able to write a coherent, well-structured essay or paragraph that adequately addresses the prompt. (SLO 1, 2, 4)

Weekly Reading assignments: These will be responses to the weekly readings, submitted in D2L. There will be instructions in D2L. (SLO 2)

Grading breakdown:	Quizzes 30%:	(30 points)
	Responsibility Quiz 5%	(5 points)
	Weekly Readings: 10%	(10 points)
	In-class Discussion: 15%	(15 points)
	Midterm: 20%	(20 points)
	Final: 20%	(20 points)
		(100 points total)

Make-ups:

Make-ups for the midterm exam will be arranged on a per case basis. However, you must complete it by noon one week after the original exam date. This means you must contact me ASAP to arrange a make-up. I don't want an excuse, **just let me you know missed it (do not tell me why) and ASK for a makeup**. It is best if you contact me the day of the missed exam. Make-ups may be a different format at my discretion. There are NO makeups for missing an online assignment due date, **nor are there after-the-fact makeups for the final exam.**

In-class Discussion: I have 11 weeks of discussion scheduled. Every day you substantially participate, you get 2 points. If we have a discussion day that no one is prepared enough to have a discussion, everyone gets a -1 point for the day. Any points over 15 earned in discussions will count as extra credit on your final score.

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

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.

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

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.

Extra-credit

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

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>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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)

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<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.

Student Support

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(Tentative Calendar, subject to delay)

26 Aug, Monday: 1st Class Day. Review syllabus, including reading schedule below.

2 Sep, Monday: Labor Day, no classes

20 Sep, Friday: Academic Honesty Quiz Due (11pm)

27 Sep, Friday: no class meeting

11 Oct, Friday: Midterm Essay Exam

11 Oct, Friday: First Reading Quiz Due (11pm) – no extensions

27-27 Nov, Monday-Friday: Thanksgiving Break, no classes

6 Dec, Friday: Final quiz due (11 pm) – no extensions

9-13 December: Finals week



READINGS ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR

30 August:

-*Inhuman Bondage*, Prologue & Ch 1

4 September:

-*Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 2

6 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch.s 3 & 4

11 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 5 & 6

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/british-north-america/olaudah-equiano-describes-the-middle-passage-1789/>

12 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 7

18 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 8

20 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, 9

25 September:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, 10

2 October:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 11

4 October:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, 12 & 13

9 October:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 14

11 October:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Intro & Ch 1

16 October:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 2 & Ch 3

18 October:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 4

30 October:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 5

1 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 6 & Ch 7

6 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 8

8 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 9

13 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 10

15 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 11

20 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 12

22 November:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 13

4 December:

- *River of Dark Dreams*, Ch 14

6 December:

- *Inhuman Bondage*, Ch 15 & Epilogue

-Read this reflection on Juneteenth by historian Annette Gordon-Reed:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/personal-history/growing-up-with-juneteenth>

- Read: <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/william-birney-and-the-abolitionist-memory-wars-november-2019/>