



HIST 597-01E Teaching Texas History

COURSE SYLLABUS: Winter Mini 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nick Nelson
Office Location: Ferguson 145
Office Hours: by appointment
University Email Address: Robert.Nelson@tamuc.edu
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Books:

- Randolph B. Campbell. *Gone to Texas*.
- Angela Boswell. *Women In Texas History*.
- Andrew Torget. *Seeds of Empire*.
- Gregg Cantrell, Elizabeth Hayes Turner, et al. *Lone Star Pasts: Memory & History in Texas*. (This is available online from our library for free)
- Bruce Glasrud, Light Townsend Cummins, & Cary D. Wintz. *Discovering Texas History*.
- Additional required readings as assigned.

Course Description

A topical examination of Texas history, geared to current and future teachers. This course examines political, economic racial, ethnic gender, and social issues in Texas history.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to write field appropriate book reviews.
2. Students will demonstrate familiarity with historical understanding of key events in Texas history.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This will be primarily a discussion, readings, and research course. We will meet via Zoom for a portion of the scheduled time & you will have assignments to comprise the remaining time.

GRADING

Grade structure:

Grading breakdown:	Participation:	40%	(40 points)
	Quiz Writing:	10%	(10 points)
	TEKS-Lessons:	20%	(20 points)
	Historiography:	25%	(25 points)
	Book Review:	25%	(25 points)
			(100 points total)

Quiz Writing:

Quiz writing assignments require you to write multiple choice questions & workshop to refine them with other students. You will base these questions on material in the books by Campbell & Boswell only. We will discuss tips for writing good multiple choice, and their efficacy as a teach tool during the class. This will be a useful resource for you: <https://ctl.utexas.edu/multiple-choice-questions>

TEKS-Lessons:

Each student will prepare two lessons, based on the material from this class and appropriate to the level they teach or intend to teach at. This lesson, designed to take up one or more class periods, should be focused on a particular topic or time period. It will be shared with the class for the purposes of workshop & critique. This may be lecture, classroom materials, exercises, or other material as appropriate.

Historiography:

You will write a short paper, due the final week, considering how historiography and memory are present and challenged in the books you have read for this course. You should also consider in this paper how this complicates the teaching of a real history of Texas, including how both history and myth are reflected in the TEKS. You should not write more than 10 pages.

Required Readings & Reviews:

Everyone will read *Gone to Texas* and *Women In Texas History* and *Discovering Texas History* and *Lone Star Pasts*. Each student will also read and review Torget's *Seeds of Empire* You will write a book review over *Seeds of Empire* and the additional book (see below for Book Reviews).

TURNITIN.COM:

The book reviews 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 is necessary. Your participation in discussion will affect your grade as above. Please do not be late.

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Class Calendar & Due Dates

The calendar may be 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 at the end discussion of two published academic reviews of the book, and should be no less than 3 full pages & absolutely no more than 5 pages. You must turn a file uploaded to the course website. Each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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 [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

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

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](#)

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[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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

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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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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

TBD

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