



HIST 355-01E Debates in Texas History & MemoryCOURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr Nick Nelson
Office Location: Ferguson 145
Office Hours: TBD
University Email Address: robert.nelson@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24-36 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Books:

- Randolph B. Campbell. Gone to Texas. 3rd edition
- Angela Boswell. Women In Texas History. (Available online from our library)
- 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; we are only using the Introduction and Chapters, 1, 3, 4, & 11)
- Bruce Glasrud, Light Townsend Cummins, & Cary D. Wintz. Discovering Texas History.
- 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 (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will demonstrate familiarity with historical understanding of key events in Texas history in-line with recent historiography.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

2. Students will demonstrate familiarity with historical memory regarding the Texas past.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This will be primarily a lecture, readings, and discussion 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:	Category 1:	60%	(60 points)
	Quizzes-Writing:	20%	(20 points)
	Quizzes-Answer:	20%	(20 points)
			(100 points total)

Category 1: the three highest scores of these four assignments will count:

Midterm Exam Essay:	20%	(20 points)
Final Exam Essay:	20%	(20 points)
Book Review:	20%	(20 points)
Discussion:	20%	(20 points)

Quizzes:

Quiz writing assignments require you to write multiple choice questions & workshop to refine them with other students during specified class periods (which will be announced later).

Quizzes answering assignments will be on D2L and will be open for a 1 week period. There are 2 of these. There will be no makeups, nor will late quizzes be accepted.

Required Readings:

Everyone will read the books in the required section above and one additional book of their choice. No one will read the same additional book as another student. This additional book will be used for the book review assignment.

TURNITIN.COM:

The book review must be submitted electronically in D2L before the 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 on lecture days and missed notes will negatively affect your ability to pass quizzes. Additionally, missing discussion days or the exercises to refine quiz questions will reduce your grade. Please do not be late.

Class Calendar & Due Dates

The calendar will 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

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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

The 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 in the final paragraph 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 upload a file to the course website. Each weekday a paper is late without a documented excuse I will deduct 10% off its earned grade.

STUDENT ACADEMIC HONESTY QUIZ

No submissions of other assignments will be accepted before this quiz is complete. Standard late penalties will be applied to these assignments. You must read and understand the policies on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism to succeed in this course.

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 PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance

You must attend class. I will track attendance. If you are not attending, you will not be capable of completing course requirements correctly. Excessive absences for this course are **FOUR** or more for purposes of the University Attendance Policy and Procedures as linked below.

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.

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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 is 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

You may use a non-phone device for taking notes. Do not use your device for any other purpose during class, as it distracts those around you. All cell-phones and pagers should be turned off or set to silent and placed out of sight 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 may 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 devices 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 may be asked to leave the exam room.

Extra-credit

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(Tentative Calendar, this will be updated with Discussion & Group Work days following our first class meeting)

13 Jan, Monday: 1st Class Day. Intro material

5 March: Midterm

11-15 March: Spring Break

20 March: Online Quiz 1 Due (5pm)

7 April: Book Review Due

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7 May, Monday: Quiz 2 due (5pm)

7 May, Wednesday: Final, 10:30am

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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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

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](#)

[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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

[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 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>

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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.

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.

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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.