HIS 315K: The United States, 1492-1865
Texas Common Number: HIST 1301

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Aragorn Miller, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None.

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview
This American history course follows the narrative of the history of the United States from before Europeans arrived in the Western Hemisphere to the end of the Civil War in 1865. It begins by tracing the establishment of European colonies in what the explorers called the “New World.” It continues to the emergence of a distinctive society and culture in the British colonies and the eventual creation of the United States of America during the Revolutionary War. The remaining portion of the course follows the new nation during its shift from the “early republic” period—featuring the establishment of a functioning government, an entrenched party system, a market and industrial economy, and revolutions in social and religious thought—to the sectional crisis period, in which debates over slavery and westward expansion culminated in the cataclysm of the Civil War.
Required Materials
Additional required readings are available directly in the course.

Course Organization
The course is divided into fourteen lessons that cover United States’ history from before Europeans arrived in the Western Hemisphere to the end of the Civil War in 1865. Each lesson begins with a list of learning objectives that you are expected to achieve by the end of the lesson. The instructor’s commentaries and the assignments are all designed to help you learn the lesson objectives. Each lesson covers a chapter or more in the textbook as well as additional readings.

The instructor’s commentary is the course author’s remarks on the lesson. Here, you will be introduced to the lesson, its major themes and significant issues. Relevant information that is not in your textbook may also be presented here.

*Instructor-Graded Assignments*
Each lesson contains an assignment that will be graded by your instructor. Each assignment requires you to answer two essay questions and five identification questions of your choosing. For each of the identification terms you choose to answer, you will identify and briefly discuss its historical context and significance. Usually, it takes two or three sentences for the identification and context, and another sentence or two for the historical significance. For the essay questions, be sure to answer all parts of the questions. Perhaps a good guideline is the conventional 3–5 paragraph argumentative essay many of us learned in high school, or about 500–750 words. Support general statements with specific examples from the reading. These examples do not have to be long; often a sentence or two will be sufficient to demonstrate to your instructor how the evidence supports your answer.

*Exams*
This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm will cover lessons 1–7. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which will consist of identification and essay questions like those in your assignments. You will be asked to answer 5 of 8 identification questions (50%) and to choose from one of two essay questions (50%). The midterm exam is worth 30% of the course grade.

The final is comprehensive and will cover lessons 1–14. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which will consist of identification and essay questions like those in your assignments. You will be asked to answer 10 of 20 identification questions (50%). In the essay section you will answer 1 cumulative question and 1 of 2 essay questions from the second half of the course for a total of two essays (50%). The final exam is worth 40% of the course grade.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.
## Course Outline

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### Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 14 Instructor-Graded Assignments: 30%
- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 40%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

- **A** 100-93%  **B+** 89-87%  **C+** 79-77%  **D+** 69-67%  **F** 59-0%
- **A-** 92-90%  **B** 86-83%  **C** 76-73%  **D** 66-63%  **B-** 82-80%  **C-** 72-70%  **D-** 62-60%
Getting Help
• Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
• For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
• For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information
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