

Topics in History: 18th and 19th Century U.S. Presidents HIST 4397.001

Course Logistics and Instructor Contact Information

Course Title: 18th and 19th Century United States Presidents
Course Number and Section: HIST 4397.001
Scheduled Class Days and Times: MWF, 10:10 - 11:05

Instructor Name: Dr. James L. Newsom
Office Location: CAS 130
Phone Number: (903) 566-7371
Email: jnewsom@uttyler.edu
Best way to contact: email

Office Hours: Days/Times AND by appointment: 11:30 - 1:30 MW; 5-6 M. Other times by appointment. Office hours will be virtual and/or in-person.

Office Hours Zoom Meeting Room ID: 974 581 2321 (Passcode: 2023Fall)

Class Meeting Zoom: 876 2221 0675 (Passcode: 2023Fall)

Course Information

Textbooks:

1. Abrams, Jeanne E. *First Ladies of the Republic*. 9781479890507.*
2. Borneman, Walter R. *Polk*. 9780812976748.
3. Greenberger, Scott. *The Unexpected President: The Life and Times of Chester A. Arthur*. 9780306922701.

***Please note that this required book (*First Ladies of the Republic*) is freely available through the library as an e-textbook.** Please visit this page

(<https://libguides.uttyler.edu/c.php?g=1066647&p=9862751>) and look for course HIST-4397.

Methods of Instruction: Lecture is the primary teaching method; however, class discussions, outside projects, and outside reading will be used. This is an in-person, face-to-face class, not a distance learning class. I do, however, provide a Zoom option each day for those who can not be in class for whatever reason. Technology works until it is needed and then it will fail every time--to avoid these problems, in class is always the best. These are, however, trying times and I understand the need for the use of Zoom. I will also record each class lecture and post it to Canvas (under Modules) for you review at your leisure -- this does not replace either live or virtual attendance during lecture.

Methods of Evaluation: The student's mastery of the subject material will be determined through exams. An exam will be given on each scheduled test day. Do not be late—it will reduce the amount of time you have to complete the exam. The first two exams are each worth 30% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. The remaining 10% of your grade is based upon class participation. I determine this grade based upon class attendance and my evaluation of your participation in class discussions and behavior. Every absence after the third grace absence (the equivalent of one week of class time) is worth 10 points deducted from your class participation grade. Each exam will be based upon the content of lectures, discussions, and your readings. Test format will be in-class essays.

Exam #1—30%

Exam #2—30%

Final Exam -30%

Class Participation—10%

Attendance: All students are expected to attend every class meeting either in person or on Zoom. Failure to sign the class attendance roster or provide the given attendance word through "Chat" on Zoom is an absence. Make-up exams will be given only to students with, in the opinion of the instructor, a valid reason for missing the exam. Each student is only allowed one make-up exam; all other missed exams will receive a zero. Make-up exams will not receive the in-class benefits of bonus questions and/or a grade curve (if given). Failure to take the make-up will result in a zero for that exam.

Behavior: All students will maintain respect and courtesy for their classmates and for the instructor. Do not use pagers, cell phones, communicators, signal fires, or other disruptive communicative devices during class. Turn off such annoying hindrances to the learning process before class begins. Frequent violations of this rule will result in a lowered class participation grade and egregious violations may result in the instructor lowering the student's semester grade. No profanity, sleeping, talking that interrupts the instructor, lewd, rude, or socially unacceptable behavior (and even some socially acceptable behavior may not be allowed in class). "Free love" should not be practiced in this class—hands off others and yourself. Remember, although the United States practices democracy

in the form of a representative constitutional republic, this class is a benevolent dictatorship. If student conduct becomes unacceptable, the instructor will ask the student to leave and not return.

Tentative Calendar of Instruction:

Week 1:

Aug. 21 Introduction, Syllabus Discussion
Aug. 23 The Origins of the Presidency
Aug. 25 The Constitution and the Presidency

Week 2:

Aug. 28 George Washington
Aug. 30 George Washington
Sept. 02 George Washington

Week 3:

Sept. 4 Labor Day—NO CLASS
Sept. 6 George Washington
Sept. 8 John Adams

Week 4:

Sept. 11 Thomas Jefferson
Sept. 13 Thomas Jefferson
Sept. 15 James Madison

Week 5:

Sept. 18 James Monroe
Sept. 20 John Quincy Adams
Sept. 22 **Exam #1**

Week 6:

Sept. 25 Andrew Jackson
Sept. 27 Andrew Jackson
Sept. 29 Andrew Jackson

Week 7:

Oct. 2 Martin Van Buren
Oct. 4 Martin Van Buren
Oct. 6 William Henry Harrison

Week 8:

Oct. 9 John Tyler

Oct. 11 James K. Polk

Oct. 13 James K. Polk

Week 9:

Oct. 16 Franklin Pierce

Oct. 18 James Buchanan

Oct. 20 **Exam #2**

Week 10:

Oct. 23 Abraham Lincoln

Oct. 25 Abraham Lincoln

Oct. 27 Abraham Lincoln

Week 11:

Oct. 30 Andrew Johnson

Nov. 1 Ulysses S. Grant

Nov. 3 Ulysses S. Grant

Week 12:

Nov. 6 Rutherford B. Hayes

Nov. 8 James A. Garfield

Nov. 10 Chester A. Arthur

Week 13:

Nov. 13 Grover Cleveland

Nov. 15 Benjamin Harrison

Nov. 17 Grover Cleveland

Week 14:

Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Break—NO CLASS

Week: 15

Nov. 27 William McKinley

Nov. 29 William McKinley

Dec. 01 William McKinley Book Review Due

Dec. 6 Final Exam (10:15-12:15 AM)

