

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
**HIST 4379: Antebellum America**  
**Online**  
 Spring 2021

**Instructor:** Prof. Matt Stith  
**Email:** [mstith@uttyler.edu](mailto:mstith@uttyler.edu)  
**Office:** CAS 127  
**Office Hours:** T: 10:50-12:50; R: 10:50-12:50; In-Person, via Zoom, or by appointment.



Henry Clay; Lucy Stone; Frederick Douglass

*“I expect to plead not for the slave only, but for suffering humanity everywhere. Especially do I mean the labor for the elevation of my sex.”*  
 ~ Lucy Stone, 1847

**Course Description:**

We will explore the time period between 1815 and 1848 (and little bits on either side of those years). In so doing, we will use social, cultural, political, military, and environmental history to both understand and interpret the era.

**Content Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a strong understanding of American history during the Antebellum period (1815-1848).
2. Think critically and objectively about the Antebellum period and its place in the course of American history.
3. Develop analytical skills through thinking, speaking, and writing about American history generally and the Antebellum period specifically.

**Important Note:**

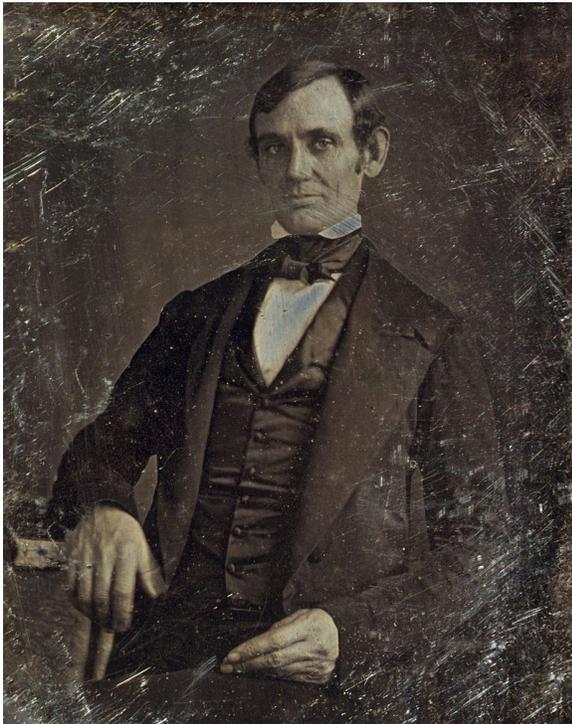
I encourage you to meet with me regularly to discuss or clarify lecture, discussion, or reading—or to talk about history in general. My job (and satisfaction) is as much to work with students on an individual basis as it is to lecture. Please keep this in mind throughout the semester.

**Required Reading:**

- Book:
  - o Claudio Saunt, *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory* (W.W. Norton, 2020); ISBN: 978-0393541564

- Readings on Canvas:

- o “A Nation of Drunkards,” pp. 3-22; “Whiskey Feed,” pp. 93-122; “The Pursuit of Happiness,” pp. 147-184, in W. J. Rorabaugh, *The Alcoholic Republic: An American Tradition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979) [On Canvas]
- o Emily J. Arendt, “Two Dollars a Day, and Roast Beef: Whig Culinary Partisanship and the Election of 1840,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 40 (Spring 2020): 83-115.
- o Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Transl. and Ed., Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop (1835; University of Chicago Press, 2000), pp. 558-604. [On Canvas]
- o “Tongues, 1819-1824,” pp. 145-169, in *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2014) [On Canvas]
- o “The Pull and Power of Violence: The Cilley-Graves Duel (1838),” pp. 75-111, in Joanne Freeman, *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War* (New York: Picador, 2018) [On Canvas]
- o Selections from Allan Peskin, ed., *Volunteers: The Mexican War Journals of Private Richard Coulter and Sergeant Thomas Barclay, Company E, Second Pennsylvania Infantry* (Kent State University Press, 1991) [On Canvas]



A. Lincoln (c. 1846-47)

**Reading Analyses:**

Claudio Saunt’s *Unworthy Republic* includes five sections. Each section contains 2-3 chapters. For each section, please write a two-page, double-spaced analysis of Saunt’s major points and arguments in each chapter and the section as a whole. The first two are due by the first exam. The last three are due by the last exam.

**Exams:**

There will be two exams worth 100 points each. I will distribute a study guide a week before each exam. The final is *not* comprehensive. The exams will consist of two essay questions worth equal amounts. Typically, one essay will cover class lecture and discussion and the other will focus almost entirely on assigned reading.

**Historic Newspaper Project:**

Early in the semester, I will assign each of you a single year between 1815 and 1848. Using only newspapers from that year, you will write an 8-10 page paper exploring how Americans, through newspapers, viewed and understood your year. The paper is worth 100 points and due at the end of the semester. Detailed guidelines will be distributed early in the semester.

**Newspaper Project Presentation:**

Please record an 8-10 presentation in Zoom (using PowerPoint and a video of you in the corner speaking like my videos) in which you explain the evolution of your newspaper project along with the main points of your paper. More detailed guidelines will be posted early in the semester.

**Attendance and Participation:**

This is an upper-level university course. Attendance and participation are mandatory.



Angelina and Sarah Grimke

**Point Breakdown:**

Reading Analyses (20pts x 5):	100 pts
Exam I (Mid-Term):	100 pts
Exam II (Final):	100 pts
Newspaper Project:	100 pts
<u>Newspaper Project Presentation:</u>	50 pts
Total:	450 pts

**Important Dates:**

**Friday, Feb. 26:** Exam I; First Two *Unworthy Republic* Analyses Due by 11:59pm on Canvas<sup>1</sup>

**Friday, April 16:** Newspaper Project AND Presentation due by 11:59pm on Canvas<sup>2</sup>

**Friday, April 23:** Exam II; Last Three *Unworthy Republic* Analyses Due by 11:59pm on Canvas<sup>3</sup>

**Class Lecture Schedule:**

Instead of a class by class calendar on this syllabus, I will distribute a detailed outline for every major topic we cover (see topics below).

- Part 1: Defining Antebellum America
- Part 2: Madison, Monroe, and the Era of Good and Bad Feelings
- Part 3: Growth, Nature, and the New American Economy
- Part 4: Slavery in Antebellum America
- Part 5: Antebellum Reform
- Part 6: Andrew Jackson and His Age
- Part 7: Expansion, War, and Compromise

**Classroom Conduct:**

Be nice.

**Make-up Policy:**

I'll work with you on anything missed.

**Academic Honesty:**

Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will result in immediate failure of the class and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler.

Plagiarism, put simply, is using another's work as your own without proper citation or usage. This includes everything from copying and pasting from the Internet to failing to cite an idea from another source that you put in your own words. I strongly recommend reviewing the university

policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website: <http://www.utt Tyler.edu/judicialaffairs/>



Arthur Fitzwilliam Tait, "The Life of a Hunter—A Tight Fix"

**Bear Hunt.**—On Tuesday last, at sunset-  
ing, a large Bear was seen to cross the pub-  
lic road, in Winhall, Bennington county.—  
Ten or 12 men and boys immediately turn-  
ed out, armed with muskets and clubs; old  
Bruin was soon surrounded, and finding  
his retreat cut off, and a dog at his heels,  
he ascended a tree, where, at an elevation  
of 30 feet, he anxiously waited the motion  
of his pursuers. The darkness concealing  
him, one of the hunters, Dr. Leonard, clim-  
ed a neighboring tree, from whence the first  
fire jostled Bruin from his seat; but catch-  
ing a limb by one paw, he recovered his po-  
sition and received a second dose of "blue  
pills" without winking; the third brought  
him to the ground—he recovered and ran  
twenty rods before he fell to rise no more.  
He measured in length 5 feet 8 inches, in  
girth 3 fet 10 inches, and was estimated to  
weigh 350 lbs.—*Brattleboro pap.*

Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, NC, July 1, 1824

<sup>1</sup> You can turn-in the analyses ANY time during the semester.

*You do not need to wait until the due date.*

<sup>2</sup> You can turn-in the newspaper project and/or presentation ANY time during the semester. *You do not need to wait until the due date.*

<sup>3</sup> See footnote one.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

#### Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. (For Fall, the Census Date is Sept. 12.) Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

**The Census Date** (Sept. 12th) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability/Accessibility Services** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079. **Student Absence due to Religious Observance** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

"Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- Taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

"Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](tel:903.566.7254) (903.566.7254)

## Additional Syllabus Information

### **Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories**

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by [Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations](#). The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its [Honor Code](#) and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu).

### **Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.