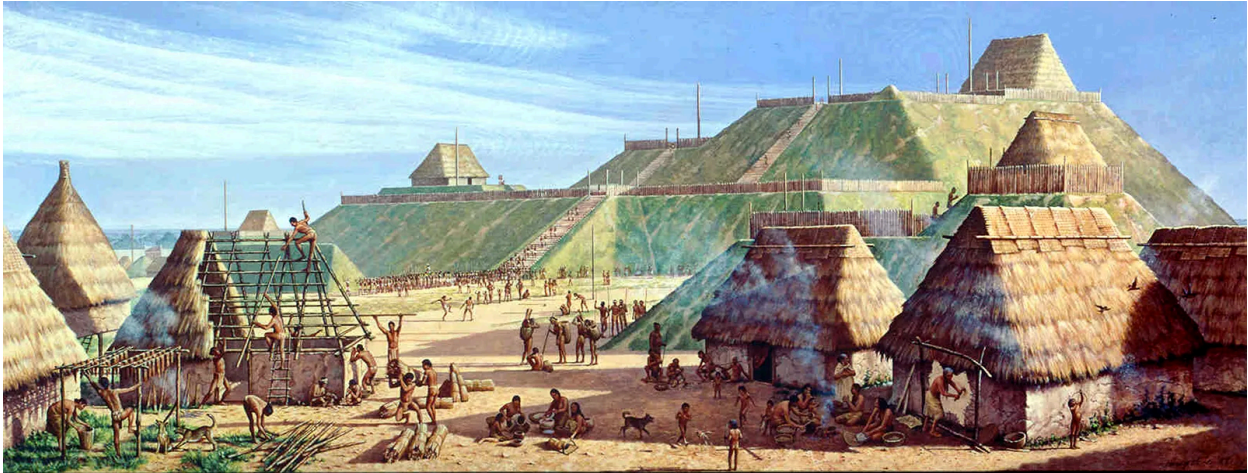

Early United States History

HIST 1301.002 | MWF 1:25-2:20pm | Arts and Sciences 00104 | No Prerequisites



Professor: Dr. Tim Seiter | **Email:** TSeiter@UTTyler.edu | **Office:** CAS 130 | **Hours:** Appt.

This course surveys significant themes and events in United States history, beginning with the Big Bang nearly fourteen billion years ago and ending with the Reconstruction period in 1877. Students will explore the development of our nation through pivotal moments such as the arrival of European settlers in North America, the formation of colonial societies, the Revolutionary War, U.S. expansion westward, and the Civil War. At the end of the semester, students will see how events before the twentieth century continue to affect our nation today. Additionally, students will learn how to locate high-quality primary and secondary sources and will also understand how historians produce excellent scholarship.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and reflect on how the United States came to be.
2. Recognize that history is far less objective than most make it seem.
3. Identify where to find accurate sources of information.
4. Think critically and creatively about a complex array of subjects and themes, including environmental change, fear mongering, Native dominance, and race.
5. Learn that *everything* has a history.
6. Become aware of what professional historians do for a living.

Assignments

Reading Reports - 40%

- Answer questions about the assigned readings, submit your answers before class, and discuss the readings during class.
- Example: <http://tinyurl.com/rz7tz49m>.

Grading Scale

A: > 89.5
B: 79.5 - 89.4
C: 69.5 - 79.4
D: 59.5 - 69.4
F: 59.4 or below

Special Project Pitch - 10%

- Create a grading rubric for your special project and put together a compelling pitch. This can be written or video recorded.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/3dns8h6y>

Special Project - 30%

- Create a project that connects to a subject we learned about this semester and expands upon that topic.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/3dns8h6y>

Final Connection Exam - 20%

- Connect the class's major themes in a final essay that you can complete at home.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/4f848ysz>

Due dates for every assignment are labeled on the course calendar below.

Extra Credit

Academic Events: A multitude of UT Tyler departments regularly host public lectures and events on campus. Students may receive up to *one* point on their final grade for doing the following: (1) Provide evidence that you attended the entire event. (2) Write an essay of at least 300 words that provides the lecture's primary argument(s), a summary of content, and a discussion of at least one way in which the presentation relates to a historical topic from our course. (3) Email me the essay within two weeks of the event.

Living History Journal: Take care of the journal you chose at the beginning of the semester, and on the last day of class, add information that will help the next cohort of students. Doing so will earn you 5% on your final grade.

Pop Quizzes: Periodically throughout the semester, I will distribute a pop quiz to our class. If you pass that pop quiz (70% or higher), I will drop your lowest reading report grade.

Class Policies

AI: In rare cases, generative AI may be used with prior instructor permission and appropriate attribution. If permission is not obtained and AI usage is detected, then the assignment will receive a zero, and the student will be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate “F” for the course.

Attendance: I will keep attendance, but I will not penalize you for missing class. However, the greater the number of classes you skip, the more difficult it will be to pass.

Late Work: All assignments received late (without an excused absence) will receive a 10-point deduction from the total grade for every 24-hour period they are late, beginning at the due date/time. Assignments received more than five days late (without communication with the professor) will receive a grade of "zero."

Readings & Schedule

All of the required readings are freely available on Canvas.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Readings/Due Dates</u>
8/25	Monday	Class Introduction: Expectations	Subjectivity	
8/27	Wednesday	Discussion: The Historian's Profession	Subjectivity	
8/29	Friday	Discussion: The Power of History and How to Cite Properly	Subjectivity	William Arens, <i>The Man-Eating Myth</i>
Week 2				
9/1	Monday	Labor Day	History as a Profession	[No Class]
9/3	Wednesday	Lecture: What are primary and secondary sources? How do I use Chicago style citations?	History as a Profession	
9/5	Friday	Activity: How to find accurate sources of information.	History as a Profession	In-class citation assignment.
Week 3				
9/8	Monday	Lecture: First Peoples in the Americas and Cahokia	Environmental History	[Census Day]
9/10	Wednesday	Lecture: The Little Ice Age	Environmental History	

9/12	Friday	Activity: Atypical Sources and Oysters	Environmental History	Barr, "There's No Such Thing as Prehistory"
Week 4				
9/15	Monday	Lecture: Crosby's <i>Ecological Imperialism</i> , The Columbian Exchange, <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> , and Tenochtitlan	First Encounters	
9/17	Wednesday	Lecture: First Encounters and the ambiguity of history.	First Encounters	
9/19	Friday	Discussion: Cabeza de Vaca	First Encounters	Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, <i>La Relación</i> Columbian Exchange Extra Credit
Week 5				
9/22	Monday	Lecture: Powhatan and Jamestown	Survival	
9/24	Wednesday	Lecture: Pocahontas, An Accurate History	Survival	
9/26	Friday	Lecture: Matoaka Goes to London	Survival	"Does Disney's <i>Pocahontas</i> Do More Harm Than Good?" "Why One Cannot Ignore Pocahontas" "What <i>Pocahontas</i> Tells Us About Disney, for Better and Worse" Disney's <i>Pocahontas</i>
Week 6				
9/29	Monday	Lecture: Protestants and Catholics	Religion	
10/1	Wednesday	Lecture: Missions and Praying Towns	Religion	
10/3	Friday	Lecture: Metacom's War, Bacon's Rebellion, and the French and Indian War	Religion	69 News "The Walking Purchase," 2 mins. Steven C. Harper, "Making History: Documenting the 1737 Walking Purchase"
Week 7				
10/6	Monday	Lecture: Taken and Sold, Olaudah Equiano	Enslavement	

10/8	Wednesday	Lecture and Activity: The Middle Passage and Envisioning Tight Packing	Enslavement	
10/10	Friday	Discussion: Legacies of Enslavement	Enslavement	Leslie M. Harris, "I Helped Fact-Check the 1619 Project. The Times Ignored Me."
Week 8				
10/13	Monday	Lecture: The Common Cause: The Enslaved and Indians	Common Cause	
10/15	Wednesday	In-Class Work: The American Revolution	Common Cause	
10/17	Friday	In-Class Work: Anti-Procrastination Special Project Pitch Research	Common Cause	Special Project Pitch Due (10%)
Week 9				
10/20	Monday	Lecture: A Coup or a Legitimate Convention?	Foundations	[Last Day to Withdraw]
10/22	Wednesday	Lecture: A Brilliant Solution	Foundations	
10/24	Friday	Lecture: Our Constitution	Foundations	Prager University vs. Adam Ruins Everything
Week 10				
10/27	Monday	Lecture: The Whiskey Rebellion and The Illuminati	Enemies Within	
10/29	Wednesday	Lecture: The French Revolution	Enemies Within	
10/31	Friday	Lecture: The Alien Enemy Act of 1798 and the War of 1812	Enemies Within	"The Alien Enemy Act of 1798"
Week 11				
11/3	Monday	Lecture: George Washington, Westward Expansion, and the Frontier Thesis	Native Dominance	
11/5	Wednesday	Activity: Archival Sleuthing	Native Dominance	
11/7	Friday	Discussion: The Power of Native Peoples	Native Dominance	Pekka Hämäläinen's, <i>Comanche Empire</i>
Week 12				
11/10	Monday	Lecture: Historiography and the Texas Revolution	U.S. Aggression	
11/12	Wednesday	Lecture: A Wicked War	U.S. Aggression	
11/14	Friday	Lecture: Balances and Imbalances, and another War on the Horizon.	U.S. Aggression	<i>Forget the Alamo, The 1836 Project, and the Texas State Historical Association</i>

Week 13				
11/17	Monday	Lecture: Cotton is King	Economies	
11/19	Wednesday	Lecture: Industrialization and Gender Roles	Economies	
11/21	Friday	In-Class Work: Anti-Procrastination	Economies	TBD
Week 14				
11/24	Monday	[No Class]	Rest & Relaxation	
11/26	Wednesday	[No Class]	Rest & Relaxation	
11/28	Friday	[No Class]	Rest & Relaxation	[No Assignments]
Week 15				
12/1	Monday	Pop Quiz: Enslavement? States Rights? A Clear Answer.	The Civil War	
12/3	Wednesday	Lecture: Reconstruction, a Missed Opportunity.	The Civil War	
12/5	Friday	Discussion and In-Class Work: Class Chosen Theme	The Civil War	Special Project Due (30%)
Week 16				
TBD	12/8 — 12/12	Final Exam and Final Day (12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m)	Finals	Living History Journal (5%) Final Connection Exam Due at Midnight (15%)

The class schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.

Other Syllabus Statements

Academic Honesty (and Dishonesty): Violations of the UT Tyler Honor Code will be acted upon in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. Any act of academic dishonesty (plagiarism or cheating) will result in an immediate grade of zero on the assignment and be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate "F" for the course.

Disability Accommodations: Students who need academic accommodations for a disability must first register with the UT Tyler Office of Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR). Students can visit <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/disability-services/> to begin the process. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, but rather require advance notice in order to implement.

Sexual Harassment: All forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, are violations of UT Tyler's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy

and may also violate Texas law. Students who wish to file a complaint or to receive more information about the grievance process may contact Blake Bumbard, UT Tyler's Title IX Coordinator, at bbumbard@uttyler.edu or 903.565.5760. Please note that faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. If students notify faculty or staff of sexual harassment, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Medical-Related Absences: To ensure academic continuity and avoid any course penalties, students should follow procedures described by their instructors in order to be provided with appropriate modifications to assignments, deadlines, and exams.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled university extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments that were missed as a result of their participation. However, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for make-up work with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examinations or other missed assignments.

Mental Health Resources: On-Call and Ongoing Counseling Services: Throughout the academic year, students may encounter different stressors or go through life experiences that impact their mental health and academic performance. Students who are in distress or have concerns about their mental health can schedule a same-day or next-day appointment to speak with a counselor by calling Counseling Services. Counselors are available at any time, day or night for students in crisis at this number: 903.566.7254.

Additionally, for any kind of crisis, you can reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Crisis Text Line by calling or texting 988. You can also reach Trans Lifeline at 877.565.8860.