

HIST 4320: Texas History

Introduction:

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the social, cultural, and political changes in Texas from pre-European contact to the present day. We will examine the diverse experiences of the peoples of Texas and the state's transformation over time.

Instructor: Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

Email: mdotson@uttyler.edu

Office: CAS 117

Office Hours: MWF 11:15 – 12:15 *or* by appointment

Note on emails: If you reach out to me during the week, I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. If you contact me during the weekend *or* during a scheduled university break, I will do my best to respond to you within 48 hours.

Required Text:

Campbell, Randolph B. *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Brands, H.W. *Lone Star Nation: The Epic Story of the Battle for Texas Independence*. New York: Anchor, 2005.

Course Objectives:

Following the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and explain the major events and figures that have shaped Texas history
- Analyze the social, cultural, and political developments in Texas over time
- Outline and explain the diverse experiences of various groups in Texas
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills through historical inquiry

Expectations and Etiquette:

It is expected that everyone in this course, including the instructor, will maintain respect for one another. I encourage you to form your own thoughts surrounding the course material, but please note not everyone will share *all* of your sentiments. It is okay to disagree with someone, but it *will* be done respectfully and thoughtfully.

If the instructor determines that your behavior is inappropriate, you will be forwarded to the appropriate campus administrator and/or the campus police.

Methods of Evaluation:

Exams (45%) – Students will take two major exams in this course. Both exams will include a variety of question formats, including, but not limited to short answer, true/false, multiple choice, and essay.

Class Participation (30%) – In addition to attendance, any daily quizzes and/or assignments will fall into this category. We will take at *minimum* two off-campus class “field trips.” If you are unable to attend, you *must* complete an alternative assignment.

Research Paper (25%) - Each student will select a topic that is relevant to our course. Research papers are due by 11:59 pm on November 22. Papers must meet the following parameters:

- You **must** use at least five academic secondary sources. You are encouraged, but not required to utilize primary sources in your research.
- Your paper **must** be properly formatted in the Turabian/Chicago style. Your paper should be double-spaced and written in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins.
- The final paper **must** be between eight and twelve pages. Please note that your cover page, footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography do **not** count towards your overall page length.
- One letter grade will be deducted for **every** calendar day the paper is late.

Grade Scale:

A: ≥ 89.5
B: 79.5 – 89.4
C: 69.5 – 79.4
D: 59.5 – 69.4
F: $59.4 \leq$

Key Dates*:

August 26:	First Day of Class
October 11:	Midterm Exam
November 4:	Last Day to Withdraw from a Class
November 22:	Research Papers Due
November 25-29:	Thanksgiving Break
TBD:	Final Exam

*See Canvas for a weekly description of class topics.

Note: At the end of the semester, final grades will **not** be rounded up.

Assignment & Exam Parameters:

Students are **not** allowed to take exams early, unless they are traveling for a university-sponsored event. Students are **required** to arrange work, travel, and social events around all assigned due dates. There are **no** make-up assignments or exams in this course. If you fail to complete an exam or assignment you will receive a zero grade. Unless otherwise noted, you are **not** allowed to use any resources (internet, textbook, notes, etc.) on exams. If the professor determines you have violated this rule, you will **automatically** fail the exam. In the event this happens a second time, you will **automatically** fail the course.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & This Course:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is **not** permitted at all.