
Texas History

HIST 4320 | Tu 6:00PM - 8:45PM | College of Arts & Sciences 257 | No Prerequisites



Prof: Dr. Tim Seiter | **Email:** TSeiter@UTTyler.edu | **Office:** CAS 130 | **Hours:** Tu 3-6pm

This course surveys significant themes and events in Texas history. We will explore well-trodden subjects such as the Texas Revolution, and lesser-known, but just as significant events, such as the Battle of Medina, La Matanza, and the forced removal of Native peoples from Texas. Throughout the semester, students will engage in an interactive learning experience. For example, we will dedicate an entire week to a “Reacting to the Past”-style role-playing game focused on Spanish Texas. By the end of the course, students will also understand how events from before the twentieth century continue to shape Texas today.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and reflect on how Texas 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 on Texas.
4. Think critically and creatively about a complex array of subjects and themes, including environmental change, Native dominance, and racial discrimination.
5. Learn that *everything* has a history.
6. Become aware of what professional historians do for a living.

Assignments

Discussion Leader - 20%

- Choose a day to lead discussion, review the assigned materials, and guide our class conversation after giving a presentation on the book you read.
- Signup sheet: <https://tinyurl.com/ea3k58mf>

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

Role Playing Participation - 10%

- Fully participate in the Spanish Texas role-playing game to earn full credit. If you cannot attend, you will instead complete a book review assigned by Dr. Seiter.

A History of Something Texan - 30%

- Write and present a history of something Texan to the class. A full explanation of this project will be given on the first day of class.

Pitch & Progress Reports - 10%

- First, submit a pitch for your History of Something Texas. Then, every week after, provide evidence that you are making progress on your project.

Final Connection Exam - 30%

- Connect the class's major themes in a final Blue Book essay.

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.

In-Class Extra Credit: Throughout the semester, there will be multiple opportunities to earn extra credit through regular class attendance and in-class activities.

Class Policies

AI: 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 is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

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 will also likely receive an immediate "F" for the course.

Attendance: I will keep attendance, but I will not penalize you for missing class. However, the more classes you miss, the more difficult it will be to pass this course. This is especially the case because the Final Connection Exam requires you to use examples taken directly from our lectures.

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>
8/26	Tuesday	Class Introduction: Expectations, The Historian's Profession, and How to Cite Properly	Subjectivity	Reading Comprehension Test <i>William Arens, The Man-Eating Myth</i>
Week 2				
9/1	Tuesday	Texas's Pre-Human Landscape	Environmental	Excerpt from William C. Foster,

		and Homo Sapien Arrival	History	<i>Climate and Culture Change in North America AD 900–1600</i>
Week 3				
9/8	Tuesday	Lecture: Native Peoples of Texas and Their Trade Routes	Native Peoples	Juliana Barr, “There’s No Such Thing as Prehistory”
Week 4				
9/15	Tuesday	Cabeza de Vaca and the Blackspot, Colombian Exchange, Black Spot, Sieur de La Salle and The Talons	Imperial Contests	Huntington and Franklin, “The Talon Brothers’ Interrogation”
Week 5 (~1700s)				
9/22	Tuesday	Life in Spanish Texas, Presidio La Bahía, The End of Spanish Texas, Spanish Texas Role Playing Game	Spanish Texas	Jesus F. de la Teja, ““Why Urbano and María Trinidad Can’t Get Married: Social Relations in Late Colonial San Antonio.”
Week 6 (1810-1850s)				
9/29	Tuesday	Spanish Texas Roleplaying Game	Mexican Texas	[No Readings]
Week 7 (1820s-1830s)				
10/6	Tuesday	Westward Expansion, Filibusters, Stephen F. Austin, Capitalism, and Cotton; Historiography and the TSHA Revolution; History of Something Texan	Stealing Texas	Andrés Reséndez, <i>Changing National Identities at the Frontier</i>
10/9	Friday	Homework Due	Stealing Texas	History of Something Texan Pitch Due
Week 8 (~1830s)				
10/13	Tuesday	The Texas Rangers, The Karankawas, the Tonkawas, and the Coahuiltecans	Native Erasure	“The Karankawa Want You to Know They’re Not Extinct” & Adrian Chavana’s “San Antonio Mission Indian Survivance: 1793-1940”
10/16	Friday	Homework Due	Native Erasure	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 9 (~1840s)				
10/20	Tuesday	The Mexican-American War, the Comanches, and Borders	Mexican-American War	Pekka Hämäläinen, “Comanche Empire” & Critiques
10/24	Friday	Homework Due	Mexican-American War	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 10 (~1860s)				

10/27	Tuesday	Enslavement in Early America and Texas, the Civil War, and Railroads	Civil War	Annette Gordon-Reed, <i>On Juneteenth</i>
10/30	Friday	Homework Due	Civil War	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 11 (1870s-1900s)				
11/3	Tuesday	The Failures of Reconstruction & The Makings of Lynching Culture	Racial Discrimination	Terry Anne Scott, <i>Lynching and Leisure</i>
11/6	Friday	Homework Due	Racial Discrimination	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 12 (1870s-1930s)				
11/10	Tuesday	Lecture: Railroads, Cattle, Oil, and Timber and The Texas Rangers and La Matanza (1910-1920)	Changing Economies and Theft	Monica Muñoz Martínez, <i>The Injustice Never Leaves You</i>
11/13	Friday	Homework Due	Changing Economies	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 13 (1900s-1950s)				
11/17	Tuesday	Lecture: World War I and Bonnie and Clyde; Texas and Texans in World War II	World Wars	World War I & II Oral Histories
11/20	Friday	Homework Due	World Wars	History of Something Texan Progress Report
Week 14 (N/A)				
11/24	Tuesday	[No Class]	Rest & Relaxation	[No Assignments]
Week 15 (1950s-Present)				
12/1	Tuesday	Portfolio Presentations	History of Something Texan	History of Something Texan Presentation Due
12/4	Friday	Project Due		History of Something Texan Project Due
Week 16				
12/10	Wednesday	Final Exam and Final Day (12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m)	Finals	Final Connection Exam Due

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.