

The University of Texas at Tyler
Department of History
HIST 4320—The History of Texas

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of Texas history beginning with the Native Americans and exploring the major social, political, and economic developments into the modern era.

TEXT:

- **Kenneth Howell, et al, *The History of Texas*, 1st ed., (ISBN: 18909-19535)**

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to identify, explain, and give examples of significant developments in Texas history from the colonial period to the modern era.
- Students will be able to examine and analyze historical development through knowledge of institutional, social, cultural, and political evolution and change from the colonial period to the modern era.
- Students will be able to use different forms of historical information, apply critical analysis to this information, and show evidence of this analytical ability through exams and writing assignments.

GRADING:

Three exams (two midterms and a final), a journal article review, a research paper, and a class participation component comprise the grading. The grade breakdown is as follows:

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| ▪ Exam I | 20% |
| ▪ Exam II | 20% |
| ▪ Final Exam | 20% |
| ▪ Article Review | 10% |
| ▪ Research Paper | 20% |
| ▪ Class Participation & Attendance | 10% |

Generally speaking, a grade of 90.00% corresponds to a borderline A- and 89.99% to a B+; 80% is the line between a B- and a C+ and so on. Grades will not be curved in this course. No extra credit will be accepted to substitute for poor test grades. It is the professor's policy not to grant incompletes under any circumstances.

EXAMS:

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams will be comprised of matching, short identification and an essay component. Each test will focus on lectures and assigned readings.

ARTICLE REVIEW:

Students are required to select an article from the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* (Texas History) of their choosing. Once students have chosen their topic, they will be required to write a 2-3 page review essay on the approved article (no substitutes). The essay will analyze and respond to the study in a critical fashion. A detailed description of the essay requirements will be distributed later during the semester. **The essay is worth 10% of student's overall grade** and will be due on **Tuesday, March 3**. Students who fail to turn in the assigned review will be penalized two letter grades a day (including weekends) until the professor personally receives the assignment (sorry no emailed papers or papers slipped under the office door). **A more detailed preparation guide will be forthcoming.**

RESEARCH PAPER:

Students will be required to write a 5-6 page research paper on what the state of Texas was like during their respective birth dates. Students will use a four-week window (two weeks forward plus two weeks backward) from their date of birth and report on the Lone Star State's political, economic, and social status by reading state/local newspapers reporting the important topics covering that era.

A detailed description of the essay requirements will be distributed later during the semester. **The paper is worth 20% of student's overall grade** and will be due on the date of the final exam, **Tuesday, May 5**. Students who fail to turn in the assigned paper will be penalized a letter grade a day (including weekends) until the professor personally receives the assignment.

CLASS PARTICIPATION COMPONENT:

Ten percent of your grade will be based on a subjective class participation/attendance component. In regards to participation, I will occasionally call on students to answer questions or to explore themes related to the individual topics. From time to time, I will pose questions to the class, but feel free to initiate your own comments and ask questions related to course material, and respond to the questions and comments made by others. Your ability to engage the History of Texas as a junior-senior university level course will be considered. Obviously, since you have to attend class to contribute to the class, there will be a strong emphasis on attendance for the class participation component.

CLASS DEPARTMENT:

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the professor; students are prohibited from engaging in any other forms of distraction (talking, reading the newspaper, etc.). Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

WITHDRAWALS:

It is your responsibility to understand The University of Texas at Tyler's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. Please consult the Registrar's office for deadlines and procedures.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

In my courses all students are responsible for adhering to a certain standard of behavior when it comes to honesty and plagiarism. I expect each individual to adhere to these standards so that every member of the class knows that his or her work is being held to an equal standard. A student who cheats or plagiarizes in **ANY** fashion will receive an “F” for the course. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of the work of another person as your own. It includes the purchase of papers, failure to acknowledge sources properly in a paper, or failure to place the writing of another author in proper quotation marks. For additional information, see “A student Guide to Conduct and Discipline at the University of Texas at Tyler” (<http://www.uttyler.edu/mainsite/conduct.html>).

MAKEUP EXAM POLICY:

Tests may not be taken early. Students must arrange work schedules, job interviews, and vacation/travel plans (even those last minute travel deals which always come up, especially in a spring semester) in order to take the exams on the scheduled dates. There are no make-ups unless you have some kind of documented medical emergency, in which case all make-ups will be given at the end of the semester at the same time as designated by the professor. No excuses will be accepted more than 48 hours after the scheduled test date. Make-up exams will be given only to students who in my opinion have a legitimate excuse, such as a severe illness, or absence due to a University-sponsored activity. The burden of supplying sufficient documentary proof rests upon the student. Students who have “last-minute” travel plans and might need to take an exam early will be referred to this portion of the syllabus. Make-up tests are given at the end of the semester along with your final exam. Students will be allowed only one makeup exam on that date. Due to material restrictions the number of choices for the identifications and essay questions will be limited; thus, the makeup exam/quiz will be composed of an entirely different format covering the same material. It is the student’s responsibility to prepare for such a test. No study guides will be provided.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. I will make every reasonable accommodation to assist students with disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to let me know of the disability for accommodation to his/her needs. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with Federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation for his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 111. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579).

NOTE TAKING:

You are expected to take notes during lectures, discussions, and, if applicable, videos. I do not lecture directly from your book and you will end up missing key points in the lecture and the point(s) I am trying to make. If you miss a class, check with your fellow students to see if someone will lend you their notes. The professor does not provide lecture notes.

REPORTING OF GRADES:

No grades will be given out by phone or email, as this can potentially violate student confidentiality. All grades will be posted via the university password protected **CAMPUSCONNECT**.

GRADE REPLACEMENT:

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog, p. 35)

CLASSROOM POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS:

Students are required to do the assigned reading and come to class prepared to ask questions or participate in discussion of course material if desired. Students unwilling to participate in lecture and class discussion formats should not enroll in the course. Class discussion is the essential mode of instruction in this course. Students are expected to participate actively in discussion and to respect the ideas of all participants.

Students are expected to complete written assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized a letter grade a day. Assignments turned in after the beginning of class will be designated as late. A penalty of a letter grade a day (including weekends) will accrue until the professor personally receives the assignment. Please take note of pre-existing medical conditions, computer/printer difficulties, job conflicts, and travel plans, etc. when viewing the course requirements. **There will be no exceptions to the late penalty.**

THE WRITING CENTER:

Located in BUS 202, the UT-Tyler Writing Center provides professional writing tutoring for all students in all disciplines. If you wish to use the Writing Center, you should plan for a minimum of two hour-long tutorials per assignment: the first to provide an initial consultation and drafting plan, and the second to follow up. Be prepared to take an active role in your learning, as you will be asked to discuss your work during your tutorial. While Writing Center tutors are happy to provide constructive criticism and teach effective writing techniques, under no circumstances will they fix, repair, or operate on your paper. Appointments: 903-565-5995. www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU:

1. Please try not to be late to class.
2. Take all exams on the scheduled dates. All make-ups are left for the end of the semester and are subject to professor's approval. Visit office hours if you need help or have additional questions.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ME:

1. My lectures will be well-prepared and organized.
2. I will see that your papers and exams are graded promptly and accurately and I will remain accessible throughout the semester and hold office hours regularly.

NOTE:

Please keep in mind that there are only two exams and a final for the semester, in addition to three other grade components. There are no assignments or extra credit opportunities to substitute for poor grades or non attendance. It is understood that remaining in this class constitutes an agreed to abide by the terms outlined in this syllabus and an acceptance of the requirements outlined in this document. This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion. All changes will be provided verbally in class.

HIST 4320 Schedule for Lecture Topics (subject to change)

Date	Lecture Topic	Assigned Reading (textbook)
Week One: Introduction (January 13)		
00	Introduction & Course Expectations	
01	Native American Cultures	Howell, et. al, <i>A Narrative History of Texas</i>, 1-18
Week Two: Library Research Day (January 20)		
	Search for articles	No class meeting
	Conduct preliminary investigation for papers	
Week Three: Spanish Texas (January 27)		
02	Spanish Exploration	Howell, 33-41
03	Spanish Texas	Howell, 41-50
Week Four: Mexican Texas (February 03)		
04	Mexican Texas	Howell, 50-55; 69-72
05	Anglo American Settlement	Howell, 72-84
Week Five: Borders and Conflict (February 10)		
06	The Gathering Storm	Howell, 97-106
07	Texas Revolution	Howell, 106-119
Week Six: Exam I (February 17)		
Week Seven: A New Nation (February 24)		
08	Republic Politics	Howell, 133-146
09	The Lone Star State	Howell, 161-181
Week Eight: Civil War Texas (March 3)		
10	Slavery in the Lone Star	Howell, 73, 75, 80-81, 161-162, 168-169, 210
11	Civil War Texas	Howell, 197-214
	Article Review Due (<i>Southwestern Historical Quarterly</i>)	
Week Nine: Spring Break (March 10)		
	No classes scheduled	
Week Ten: New Challenges (March 17)		
12	Reconstruction and Redemption	Howell, 229-247
13	“Into a Wild and Vivid Land”: Frontier Texas	Howell, 261-282; 323-343

Week Eleven: New Beginnings (March 24)

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| 14 | Populism | Howell, 295-307 |
| 15 | Lone Star Progressivism | Howell, 359-376 |

Week Twelve: Exam II (March 31)

Week Thirteen: The Modernization of Texas (April 7)

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| 16 | Roaring 20s Texas | Howell, 389-407 |
| 17 | Texas and the New Deal | Howell, 423-443, 461-476 |

Week Fourteen: Changes and Internal Conflicts (April 14)

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| 18 | From Cottonfields to Skyscrapers: Urbanization | Howell, 361-364, 493-511 |
| 19 | A Lone Star Education | Howell, 331-332, 342-343, 538, 570-572 |

Week Fifteen: Civil Rights Texas (April 21)

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| 20 | African Americans and Texas | Howell, 339-340, 393-394, 432, 465-466, 533-541 |
| 21 | Mexican Americans and Texas | Howell, 340-342, 541-542, 567-568 |

Week Sixteen: Changing Aspects of the Lone Star (April 28)

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| 22 | Texas and National Politics | Howell, 543-545, 563-567, 568-570, 572-582 |
| 23 | From <i>Bevos</i> to <i>Texans</i> : Lone Star Sports | Howell, 632-637 |

Final Exam (May 5, 6:00 to 8:40 p.m.)

Research Paper Due Date