

## HIST 4377-001 – AMERICAN BORDERLANDS

### Course Description

The goal of this course is to enhance students' understanding of the major forces involved in the formation of American Borderlands from the pre-colonial period to the twentieth century. The principal theme will be the interrelated effects of race/ethnic/gender relationships on the societal evolution of the region. Additional emphasis will be placed on the cultural and economic factors that precipitated various events and trends. Significant individuals, occurrences, and population groups will also be studied in regards to their impact on the development of American Borderlands.

### Course Objectives: Students will:

- Know and be able to identify certain people, places and events significant to American Borderlands history.
- Analyze past trends and movements and form educated opinions on historical issues and events.
- Evaluate the similarities and disparities of various peoples and sub-regions within American Borderlands
- Demonstrate their understanding of course material through paper assignments and exams.

### Required Books

- Limerick, Patricia N. *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (1988)
- Merritt, Jane. *At the Crossroads: Indians & Empires on a Mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763* (2003)
- Nobles, Gregory H. *American Frontiers: Cultural Encounters and Continental Conquest* (1998)

### Instructor Information

Office hours will be held Tuesdays – 4:40-5:40, Thursdays – 1:45-2:45, 8:40-9:00. Appointments also can be arranged upon request. The best method for contacting me outside of office hours and class sessions is e-mail. My e-mail address is [dmurphree@uttyler.edu](mailto:dmurphree@uttyler.edu). Syllabi and other class information also can be obtained from my Web page 24 hours a day/7 days a week throughout the semester. The web address is <http://www.uttyler.edu/dmurphree>

### Social Security 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.

### Students with Disabilities

"If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services offices so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In

accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of 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)."

### 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)

### Attendance – Class Room Policies

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Instruction will consist of lectures and class discussions. Frequently, students will be asked to discuss course topics and readings. Participation is required and comprises **10%** of your Final Course Grade. Frequent tardiness, absences, or discipline problems (including cellular phone interruptions) may adversely affect a student's final grade. Any student who is disruptive in class will be asked to leave and may receive further disciplinary action from the university administration. I encourage you to record the names and telephone numbers of two other students in the class, in case you are absent and need information. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to religious observance should inform the instructor by the second-class meeting. **Student use of electronic devices, including cellular phones, is prohibited during class exams.**

### Academic Honesty

No forms of cheating will be tolerated. You are expected to know the definition of plagiarism. No form of collaboration is allowed in the preparation of the assigned papers. Students should not share underlined or annotated books, notes or rough and final drafts. Papers not totally prepared or written by the student should not be submitted. The penalty for violating these rules is an "F" in the course. 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>).

**\*Important\* STUDENTS SHOULD RETAIN ALL GRADED/RETURNED EXAMS AND PAPERS UNTIL THEY RECEIVE THEIR FINAL COURSE GRADE!**

### Grades

- 10% Classroom Participation
- 15% First Exam
- 15% Second Exam
- 15% Third Exam (Final)
- 10% Book Review #1
- 10% Book Review #2
- 10% Article Review

15% Research Paper

*Overall Percentages*

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = below 60%

**\* In order to pass this course, students must complete and submit all of the assignments listed above.**

Exams

Three exams, each comprising **15%** of the final grade, will be given in this course. Exams will consist of 1 essay and 2 identification/short answer essay questions derived from assigned readings and lectures. No make-up exams will be given, regardless of excuse. Those students who can provide legitimate documentation (as determined by instructor and university officials) explaining the reasons for their absence may take a **comprehensive** Final Exam, incorporating material covered on the missed exam(s) and comprising between 30% or 45% of the student's final grade, depending on the situation. Students should contact the instructor as soon as possible if an exam is missed.

Book Reviews

Throughout the course of the semester, students will write and submit **2** Book Reviews, each comprising **10%** of their final course grade. Book Reviews should give the reader a brief, clear idea of the nature, content, and purpose of the book and indicate its major contributions to the literature on the subject (new ideas, revision of old ideas, new evidence). Reviewers should both describe the work's key features **and** offer a sophisticated analysis of its strengths and weaknesses. Reviews should also include a discussion of how well the author has succeeded in his or her purpose, covered the subject as a whole, used available resources, organized material, and expressed the narrative. Critical evaluation may be either favorable or unfavorable but do not allow sympathy or difference of opinion to keep the review from being a fair and straightforward assessment. For additional information see [Book Review Guidelines - Writing Tutorial Services - Indiana University, Bloomington](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/bookreview.html) (<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/bookreview.html>).

Assigned Book

Date Due

- *At the Crossroads...*

- *Legacy of Conquest...*

All Book Reviews should be typewritten or computer-printed in a 12 pt. font, double-spaced and have standard margins (one inch on all sides). Each must be between **700** and **800** words in length. All will be graded on the student's understanding and presentation of content, clarity, spelling, grammar, and organization (See attached "Grading Guide for Written Assignments").

Article Review

Students also will write **1** Article Review that comprises **10%** of their final course grade. For this assignment, you should consult one of the following journals (in paper or electronic format) and select an article dealing with the role of France or Spain in American Borderlands history to 1900: *American Historical Review*, *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *American Indian Quarterly*, *Journal of Backcountry Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Journal of the Early American Republic*, *Western Historical Quarterly*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *The Americas*, *Journal of Military History*, *Ethnohistory*, *Journal of Social History*. After reading the chosen article, students should evaluate it

the same way that they would review a book, using the guidelines listed above. Article Reviews should be typewritten or computer-printed in a 12 pt. font, double-spaced and have standard margins (one inch on all sides). Each must be between **700** and **800** words in length. **A copy of the article reviewed must be attached to the paper submitted for grading and must be approved by the instructor prior to submission. Failure to do either will result in a 25-point reduction in the assignment's grade.** All will be graded on the student's understanding and presentation of content, clarity, spelling, grammar, and organization. Article Reviews are due on **November 20**. **Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per class period. No late papers will be accepted after the date/time of the Final Exam.**

### Research Papers

Students will write and submit **1** Research Paper that comprises **15%** of their Final Course grade. You must make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible (**before October 9**) to determine a topic and discuss the sources (8 primary/secondary works minimum, only 1 internet source allowed – see instructor for more information) you will use to complete the assignment (**Failure to do so will result in a 25-point reduction in the assignment's grade.**). Research Papers.

All papers should be typewritten or computer-printed in a 12 pt. font, double-spaced, have standard margins (one inch on all sides), and include a separate cover page. Each Research Paper must be between **3000** and **3300** words in length. All will be graded on the student's understanding and presentation of content, clarity, spelling, grammar, and organization (See attached "Grading Guide for Written Assignments").

Keep in mind that any quotation or ideas from the readings that you include in your papers must be cited (See previous section on Academic Honesty). Students should consult the link titled [Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students](http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/) (<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/WritingGuides/>) located on the instructor's course web page for information concerning the proper format for this paper. All citations should be in the form of footnotes or endnotes.

**Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per class period.** (Stapled, paper copies only. Electronic versions of assignments will not be accepted for any reason.) **No late papers will be accepted after the date/time of the Final Exam.**

### 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](http://www.uttyler.edu/writingcenter)

### Lecture Topics

\* Subject to change.

\* - Last day to withdraw from a course with a "W"

\* All readings from Nobles, *American Frontiers*

\*- Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes

- Introduction

- Defining American Borderlands (Introduction)

- Caribbean Borderlands (Chapter 1)
- The Atlantic Coast (Chapter 2)
- Northern New Spain (Chapter 2)
- New France and The Great Lakes (Chapter 2)
- Gulf of Mexico Hinterlands (Chapter 1)
- The Ohio and Mississippi Backcountry (Chapters 3 & 4)
- The Central Plains (Chapters 4 & 5)
- Greater California and the Northwest (Chapters 5 & 6)
- Modern Borderlands (Chapter 6)
- Connections and Conclusions (Epilogue)

**\*FINAL EXAM**

## **Grading Guide for Written Assignments**

The following numbers will be used in the grading of written assignments to signify errors and provide explanations for deducted points.

1. Spelling errors

**2. Unidentifiable or confusing thesis.**

3. Poor sentence structure (Confusing or unclear; run-on or incomplete sentence).

4. Unidentifiable or poor transition from point to point.

5. Lack of or poor use of evidence to support your arguments.

6. Missing or inadequate citations of others' words or ideas.

7. Incorrect information.

8. Incorrect use of grammar, punctuation, or capitalization.

9. Poor word choice.

**10. Failure to address topic or answer question sufficiently.**

11. Unsupported generalizations.

12. Poor organization.

13. Excessively long direct quotations.

14. Incorrect verb tense.

15. No subject-verb agreement

**16. Fails to meet required paper length/word requirement.**

17. Missing word.

18. Inconsistent use of terms.

19. Irrelevant information.

20. Repetitive Information.

**21. Other**