

## HIST 5379: Age of Jackson/Antebellum America

University of Texas at Tyler

Tuesday: 6:00-8:45 pm

BUS 259

Fall 2016

**Instructor:** Prof. Matt Stith  
**Email:** mstith@uttyler.edu  
**Office:** BUS 238  
**Office Hours:** T/R, 11:00-12:30; Or by appointment.

### Course Description:

This course offers a close examination of the history and historiography concerning the the period in American history between 1815 and 1848. We will read, write, and think about important historiographical discussions and historical narratives regarding the social, cultural, political, and military history of the Antebellum Era.

### Important Note:

I encourage you to meet with me regularly to discuss or clarify lecture, discussion, or reading—or to talk about history in general. My job (and satisfaction) is as much to work with students on an individual basis as it is to lecture and facilitate discussion. Please keep this in mind throughout the semester.

### Presentation:

Please prepare and deliver ONE lecture on the topic next to your name on the schedule below and on the date given. This lecture should last between 45-55 minutes, and the content must be suited for a junior/senior level college course PLUS a brief historiographical discussion (5ish minutes) at the end, e.g. these relevant books are important to this topic because . . . Presentations are worth 100 points and will be graded on content and clarity. Audio/Visual tools in addition to handouts/outlines are highly encouraged.

### Presentation Schedule

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| September 13: | Wiggins; Transportation Rev.                       |
| September 20: | Smith; Financial Revolution                        |
| September 27: | Simpson; Trade and Tariffs                         |
| October 4:    | Shaw; Compromise of 1820                           |
| October 11:   | Ryman; Temperance Movement                         |
| October 18:   | O'Toole; Cult of Domesticity                       |
| October 25:   | McDaniel; Health and Medicine                      |
| November 1:   | McCrary; American Renaissance                      |
| November 8:   | McClendon; Nat Turner                              |
| November 15:  | Luke; The Grimke Sisters                           |
| November 29:  | Kregel; Education Reform                           |
| December 6:   | Burns; Women's Rights<br>Baird; John James Audubon |

### Review Essays:

Please write FOUR 1,200-word review essays in which you carefully evaluate the assigned reading and craft a clear, nuanced, thoughtful, and persuasive analysis of each of the assigned readings for that essay. Every essay must be balanced with relevant information in Howe's, *What Hath God Wrought*. Each essay is worth 50 points.

### Attendance and Participation:

Active and informed participation is mandatory. Poor, hostile, or no discussion (outside of the formal presentations) will result in the loss of a letter grade. Five percent will be subtracted from your *final* grade for each unexcused absence. One simply cannot miss graduate classes.

### Historiographical Essay:

Please prepare a 2,000+ word (6-8 page, double-spaced) historiographical essay in which you answer the following: *How have historiographical debates regarding the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of American slavery evolved in the past 100 years? Your essay must be informed by both historiography and historical context.* To pass, your essay must incorporate at least eight books. It is worth 100 points and due during final's week.

### Point Breakdown:

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Presentation:                   | 100        |
| Review Essays: (4x50pts)        | 200        |
| <u>Historiographical Essay:</u> | <u>100</u> |
| Total:                          | 400        |

### Academic Honesty:

Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will result in immediate failure of the class and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler. Plagiarism, put simply, is using another's work as your own without proper citation or usage. This includes everything from copying and pasting from the Internet to failing to cite an idea from another source that you put in your own words. I strongly recommend reviewing the university policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website:  
<http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/>

## Course Schedule

### **PART I: Introduction and Narrative**

- **Week 1 (8/30)**
  - o Class Introduction
- **Week 2 (9/6)**
  - o Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007) [Prologue—pg. 410]
- **Week 3 (9/13)**
  - o Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007) [pg. 411—855]

### **PART II: Adams, Jackson, and Clay**

- **Week 4 (9/20)**
  - o James Traub, *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit* (New York: Basic Books, 2016) [xi-pg. 246]
- **Week 5 (9/27)**
  - o James Traub, *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit* (New York: Basic Books, 2016) [pg. 247- end]
- **Week 6 (10/4)**
  - o Jon Meacham, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* (New York: Random House, 2008)
- **Week 7 (10/11)**
  - o David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler, *Henry Clay: The Essential American* (New York: Random House, 2010) [xi-pg. 316]
  - o ESSAY ONE DUE by 11:59pm on Wednesday, October 12, via Blackboard.

### **PART III: Cultural, Geographical, and Racial Transformation**

- **Week 8 (10/18)**
  - o Steve Inskeep, *Jacksonland: President Andrew Jackson, Cherokee Chief John Ross, and the Great American Land Grab* (New York: Penguin Press, 2015)
- **Week 9 (10/25)**
  - o Nathan O. Hatch, *The Democratization of American Christianity* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989)
- **Week 10 (11/1)**
  - o Drew Gilpin Faust, *James Henry Hammond and the Old South: A Design for Mastery* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985)
  - o ESSAY TWO DUE by 11:59pm on Wednesday, November 2, via Blackboard.

### **PART IV: Slavery**

- **Week 11 (11/8)**
  - o John W. Blassingame, *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*, Revised and Enlarged Edition (1979; New York: Oxford University Press, 1973)
- **Week 12 (11/15)**
  - o Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- **Week 13 (11/22) THANKSGIVING**
- **Week 14 (11/29)**
  - o Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2014)
  - o ESSAY THREE DUE by 11:59pm on Wednesday, November 30, via Blackboard.

### **PART V: War and Expansion**

- **Week 15 (12/6)**
  - o Amy S. Greenberg, *A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2012)
  - o David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler, *Henry Clay: The Essential American* (New York: Random House, 2010) [pg. 317-492]
  - o ESSAY FOUR DUE by 11:59pm on Friday, December 9, via Blackboard.
- **Historiographical Essay (Final)**
  - o Due by 11:59pm on Friday, December 16.

## University-Wide Syllabus Policies

The following University policies must appear on each course syllabus or be provided as an informational sheet (web-links to these policies may be used in the print or electronic syllabus)

<http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf>

## Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

## Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

## State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

## Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (<http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/>) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu).

## Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

## Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

## Social Security and FERPA 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. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

## Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Service.