HIST 5377: American Borderlands
Monday, 6:00-8:45pm
CAS 212
Fall 2019

Instructor: Prof. Matt Stith
Email: mstith@uttyler.edu
Office: CAS 127
Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 1:00-2:00pm; Mon. 4:30-5:30pm; Or by Appointment

Course Description:
This is an intensive graduate readings course on the history and historiography of American Borderlands. There are many different ways to interpret and teach “American Borderlands.” My interpretation centers on the evolving cultural frontier in North America from the period of sustained European contact in the late 1400s to the twentieth century borderlands with modern Mexico and Canada. Imagine multiple overlapping circles that each represents a different culture or society. The purpose of this class is to examine the points where those circles converge, how scholars have interpreted these overlaps, and how such convergence ultimately impacted the course of American history.

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.

Content Objectives:
Throughout this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate a mastery of American Borderlands history and historiography.
2. Develop analytical skills through thinking deeply, reading actively, and writing carefully.
3. Gain enhanced skill in verbal and written communication.

Class-Wide Books:
Required:
- Pekka Hamalainen, *Comanche Empire* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008)

Recommended:

Mini-Lectures:
Each student will deliver six graded presentations throughout the semester. Your mini-lecture should focus on your assigned individual reading that week. Your assigned reading will be based on your given number. See reading list and schedule below. The presentation should be no shorter than fifteen minutes and no longer than twenty. You are welcome and encouraged to
use PowerPoint or any other visual aids that you think might enhance your presentation. Each presentation is worth 10 points. A more detailed guideline will be distributed soon.

**Book Reviews:**
A one page, single-spaced, 600-word review is required for all 12 books you read. The review is due on Canvas before class begins on the day the book is assigned.

**Attendance and Participation:**
Active and informed participation in addition to assigned presentations is mandatory. Poor or no discussion (outside of the formal presentations) will result in the loss of participation points. Kindness and decorum will be practiced at all times.

**Historiographical Paper:** You will prepare a 2,000+ word (6-8 page) historiographical essay based on the books/essays provided on the assignment guidelines—which I will distribute early in the semester. This essay will form the basis for the MA comprehensive exam question that might be asked regarding this course/topic. It is worth 100 points and due by 11:59pm on Wednesday, December 11, via Canvas.

**Point Breakdown:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>6 x 10 = 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>12 x 10 = 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Participation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>300</td>
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</tbody>
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**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/](http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/)

**Reading List and Schedule:**

- **Week 1 (8/26): Introduction the Course and to the Field of History (Readings on Canvas)**
  - Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” (1893)

- **Week 2 (9/2): Labor Day (No Class)**

- **Week 3 (9/9): Natives and Newcomers**

- **Week 4 (9/16): Contact**


**Week 5: (9/23): Early Texas Borderlands**


**Week 6: (9/30): Native Americans in Colonial America**


**Week 7 (10/7): Revolutionary America, West and East**


**Week 8 (10/14): Atlantic World**


**Week 9 (10/21): Early American-Spanish-French-Mexican Borderlands**

- 2) Elizabeth A.H. John, *Storms Brewed in Other Men’s Words: The Confrontation of Indians, Spanish, and French in the Southwest, 1540-1795* ()

**Week 10 (10/28): Empires**

- (All) Pekka Hamalainen, *Comanche Empire* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008)

**Week 11 (11/4): Nineteenth Century Borderlands**

- **Week 12 (11/11): The Frontier West**

- **Week 13 (11/18): The American West, Part Deux**

- **Week 14 (11/25): Thanksgiving Break**

- **Week 15 (12/2): Modern Borderlands**
University of Texas at Tyler Policies

UT Tyler Honor Code
Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

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

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

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. (For Spring, the Census Date is January 29) 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 (January 29) is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. 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.

Student Accessibility and Resources
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 psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD 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 (SAR) office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. 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 office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@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 Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
   • copying from another student's test paper;
   • using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
   • failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
   • possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
   • using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
   • collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
   • discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
• divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
• substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
• paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
• falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
• taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
• misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by Turn-It-In, available through Canvas.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

• UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
• UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
• The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.

UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)