

History of Texas

HIST 4320.001

Course Logistics and Instructor Contact Information

Course Title: History of Texas

Course Number and Section: HIST 4320.001

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Monday, 6:00-8:55 pm

Instructor Name: Dr. James L. Newsom

Office Location: CAS 130

Phone Number: (903) 566-7371

Email: jnewsom@uttyler.edu

Best way to contact: email

Office Hours: Days/Times AND by appointment: 11:30-1:30 MW; 5-6 M. Other times by appointment. Office hours will be virtual or in-person.

Office Hours Zoom Meeting Room ID: 974 581 2321 (Passcode: 2023Fall)

Class Meeting Zoom: 861 4292 1178 (Passcode: 2023Fall)

Course Information

Required Texts:

Robert A. Calvert, Arnolde De Leon, and Gregg Cantrell. *The History of Texas*. 6th Edition | Steve Hardin. *Texian Iliad*.*

Carol O'Keefe Wilson. *In the Governor's Shadow*.

**Please note that this required book (Texian Iliad) is freely available through the library as an e-textbook.* Please visit this page (<https://libguides.uttyler.edu/c.php?g=1066647&p=9862751> Links to an external site.) and look for course HIST-4320.

Method of Instruction:

Lecture is the primary teaching method. I will hold face-to-face lectures in the assigned classroom on the assigned days unless the Administration changes their current policies. Face-to-Face is THE designated method of delivery for this class. I understand your concerns in these trying times and I will, however, make accommodations for those either not vaccinated and/or fearful of being around other people and will make Zoom sessions available. The lectures will also be recorded and posted to Canvas. Due to the large file size, each Monday night class might be divided into two videos. By necessity these will be posted a few hours after the class ends—the recordings are not a substitute for attending either in person or virtually—they are for your note taking convenience and review. I may well contact each of you via zoom for one-on-one

conferences and/or discussions. IF the unthinkable should happen and due to campus, state, or national reasons we are forced to quarantine again, I will continue with the Zoom sessions. You will be advised as to the mode of delivery if this should become necessary.

Methods of Evaluation:

The student's mastery of the subject material will be determined through exams. An exam will be given in class only on each scheduled test day. Do not be late—it will reduce the amount of time you have to complete the exam. The Class Participation grade I determine based upon online participation or in-class participation, my evaluation of your participation in class discussions and behavior. Each exam will be based upon the content of lectures, discussions, and your readings. Test format will be essay. I will provide the blue books for you to use on the exam.

Graded Assignments:

Mid-Term Exam	35%
Final Exam	40%
Book Review	15%
Course Participation	10%

Grade Standard:

A = 90-100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D= 60 - 69

F = 0 - 59

You should have the readings from *Texian Iliad* and *In the Governor's Shadow* read by the exam days indicated on the schedule. I will have an essay question regarding the readings on each exam. *The History of Texas* is your textbook and will provide readings to support lectures. Most of the exams' content will be drawn from this text and lectures. You have two hours to complete the exam—6-8 PM on each exam night.

In addition to the exams, you are asked to write a three to five page book review of a book on Texas History. All books must be approved by the instructor within the stipulated time frame. Information regarding the book review will be made available to you via Canvas.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory either in class or on Zoom. I will pass an attendance sheet and at some point during the class, I will provide an attendance word for you to type into the chat box on Zoom for those attending virtually. Per university policy, you are allowed one week of absence--i.e. for a one night a week class--one absence without penalty.

Behavior: Whether face-to-face or via live video, all students will maintain respect and courtesy for their classmates and for the instructor. Frequent violations of this rule will result in a lowered class participation grade and egregious violations may result in the instructor lowering the student's semester grade. Remember, although the United States practices democracy in the form of a representative constitutional republic, this class is a benevolent dictatorship. If student conduct becomes unacceptable, the instructor will ask the student to leave and not return.

Tentative Calendar of Instruction:

- Aug. 21 Introduction, Syllabus Discussion; Pre-Columbian Texans (Ch. 1)
Aug. 28 Spanish Explorers and the Comanche (Ch. 1)
Sept. 04 **LABOR DAY—NO CLASS**
Sept. 11 France in Texas; Spanish Texas (Ch. 2)
Book Title for Review Due
Sept. 18 Mexican Texas: Coming of the Anglos (Ch. 3)
Mexican Texas: The Empresarios & Salutary Neglect (Ch. 3)
Sept. 25 Coming of the Revolution (Ch. 3)
Oct. 02 Texas Revolution (Ch. 3)
Oct. 09 **ONLINE--Mid-Term Exam; Book Essay Question from *Texian Iliad***

Oct. 16 The Republic of Texas (Ch. 4)
Oct. 23 Mexican-American War and Statehood (Ch. 4)
Oct. 30 Rise to Rebellion and Civil War (Ch. 5)
LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
Nov. 06 Reconstruction (Ch. 6)
Nov. 13 Gilded Age Texas and Progressive (Ch. 8-10)
Nov. 20 **THANKSGIVING BREAK—NO CLASS**
Nov. 27 Prosperity, Depression and World War II (Ch. 11)
Book Review Due
Dec. 04 **Final Exam; Book Essay Question from *In the Governor's Shadow***
(6:00-8:00 PM)