

**The University of Texas at Tyler**  
**HIST 4379: Antebellum America (“The Age of Jackson”)**  
**TR: 12:30-1:50**  
**BUS 260**  
 Spring 2015

**Instructor:** Dr. Matt Stith  
**Email:** mstith@uttyler.edu  
**Office:** BUS 238  
**Office Hours:** TR. 11:00-12:00; T, 4:00-5:00; Or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

We will explore the time period between 1815 and 1848, most appropriately called Antebellum America. In so doing, we will use social, cultural, political, military, and environmental history to both understand and interpret the era.

**Important Note:**

I encourage you to meet with me regularly to discuss or clarify lecture, discussion, or reading—or to talk about early American 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.

**Required Reading:**

- Robert Pierce Forbes, *The Missouri Compromise and Its Aftermath: Slavery and the Meaning of America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007)
- Jon Meacham, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* (New York: Random House, 2008)
- Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Amy S. Greenberg, *A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico* (New York: Random House, 2012)

**Book Reviews:**

A one page, single-spaced, typed book review is required for each assigned book. A passing review will include: 1) A careful explanation and evaluation of the author’s argument/purpose, 2) a brief summary of the central theme, and 3) whether or not the author succeeds in proving their over-arching argument. Each review is worth 10 points, for a total of 40 points.

**Exams:**

There will be two exams, including the final, worth 100 points each. We will have a study session during the class before each exam. The final is *not* comprehensive. The exams will consist of two essay questions worth equal amounts. Typically, one essay will cover class lecture and discussion and the other will focus almost entirely on assigned reading.

**Research Paper:**

Students will write an 8-10 page research paper on some aspect of antebellum America. The paper *must* be based on primary source material and be flawlessly written. It is worth 100 points. Detailed guidelines will be distributed early in the semester.

**Attendance and Participation:**

This is an upper-level university course. Attendance and participation are mandatory.

**Point Breakdown:**

Book Reviews (10pts x 4):	40 pts
Exam I (Mid-Term):	100 pts
Exam II (Final):	100 pts
Research Paper:	100 pts
<b>Total:</b>	<b>340 pts</b>

**Important Dates:**

- Thursday, Jan. 29: **Review 1 Due**, Forbes, *The Missouri Compromise*
- Thursday, Feb. 19 : **Review 2 Due**, Meacham, *American Lion*
- Thursday, Feb. 26: **Exam I (Mid-Term)**
- Thursday, March 19: **Review 3 Due**, Johnson, *Soul by Soul*
- Thursday, April 2: **No Class; Work on Research Paper**
- Thursday, April 9: **No Class; Work on Research Paper**
- Thursday, April 16: **Review 4 Due**, Greenberg, *A Wicked War*
- Thursday, April 23: **Research Paper Due**
- Wednesday, Dec. 12: **Exam II (Final)**

**Class Lecture Schedule:**

Instead of a class by class calendar on this syllabus, I will distribute a detailed outline for every major topic we cover (see topics below). Our pace will be dictated by classroom discussion, not an arbitrary syllabus schedule.

- Part 1: Defining Antebellum America
- Part 2: Madison, Monroe, and the Era of Good and Bad Feelings
- Part 3: Growth, Nature, and the New American Economy
- Part 4: Slavery in Antebellum America
- Part 5: Antebellum Reform
- Part 6: Andrew Jackson and His Age
- Part 7: Expansion, War, and Compromise

**Classroom Conduct:**

Come to class prepared with cell phones on silent. Be courteous to your fellow classmates by not talking out of turn or by being otherwise disruptive. Show up to class on time. Chronic late entrances will result in hateful glares from the instructor and fellow students AND will count as absences so far as the attendance grade is concerned. Finally, if you plan to text, sleep, or use a computer for anything but note-taking, do not come to class.

**Make-up Policy:**

If you miss an exam due to an **emergency**, talk with me as soon as you return to arrange a make-up. Ten percentage points per day will be deducted from any assignment turned in late.

**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/>

### **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://www2.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 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 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 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](mailto: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.