

Texas A&M University Central Texas
Department of Humanities

Fall 2018
HIST 3310 American Beginnings: A Brave
New World

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis
Meeting Room: FH 310
MW: 11-12:15PM
Office: FH 217C
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Phone: 254-501-5931
Office Hours: MW 2:30-4:30PM or by
appointment



Course Description and Objectives:

This class delves into the history of America since 1492. The Colonial period in American history lasted over 250 years (1492-1765) and is a complex story that is often neglected in American History. Through lecture, discussions, readings, and multimedia, this course will explore themes in American history. This course will strengthen your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and provide a foundation for understanding the modern world. You will demonstrate the ability to develop and focus on one topic in writing assignments and present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form. You will also demonstrate the ability to use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Lastly, you will hopefully leave this class with a better understanding of America's past and how it has shaped the present.

The course objectives:

- To draw connections between the past and the present.
- To understand historical debates.
- To work with primary documents and develop an understanding of how historians use documents to interpret the past.
- To critically analyze a historical text.
- To write clear and coherent essays that develop a historical argument.

This course is classified as *Writing Intensive* therefore writing will be an essential part of your assessment. You will be given several opportunities to improve your writing skills on various assignments including book reviews and drafts of research papers. Revising is a key part of the writing process, so you will receive feedback on all written assignments.

Required Texts

Little, Ann. *The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016.

Pagan, John Ruston. *Ann Orthwood's Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003

Rediker, Marcus. *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: Merchant Seamen, Pirates, and the Anglo-American Maritime World, 1700-1750*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Taylor, Alan. *American Colonies*. New York: Viking, 2001.

Recommended Texts

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 2018.

There can be other articles and book chapters that the Professor may provide electronically each week.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Seminar Participation/ Attendance	50 points	All semester
Exam 1 (Midterm)	100 points	Week 7
Exam 2 (Final)	200 points	TBA
Book Review 1 (Pagan)	100 points	Week 4
Book Review 2 (Little)	100 points	Week 9
Book Review 3 (Rediker)	100 points	Week 11
Introduction Paragraph (Thesis)	50 points	Week 5
Oral Presentation of Topic	100 points	Week 15
Biography Research Paper	200 points	Rough Draft Due Week 10

Scoring:

Final Grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A	=	900-1000 points
B	=	800-899 points
C	=	700-799 points
D	=	600-699 points
F	=	Below 600 points

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are crucial elements of the learning experience. Attendance is your responsibility. Attendance will be taken daily. In addition, attendance means staying for the whole class. Do not leave early without speaking to me beforehand. Failure to regularly attend class will result in dire consequences such as failing the class. Please come to class prepared and ready to discuss the readings assigned for the day.

Exams

There will be two exams in this class. Exams for this class will not be cumulative, although they will reflect persistent themes, ideas, and terminology that run throughout American History. The exams will be identification terms and essays.

Writing Assignments

Book Reviews

There will be three critical reviews of monographs. Each review will be 900-1100 words long and be modeled after critical reviews in academic journals such as the *American Historical Review* or *The William and Mary Quarterly*. A book review concentrates on identifying and critiquing on the author's thesis. What is the author trying to argue, what evidence do they use, and do you agree and disagree? It is not just a simple summary of the book.

Biography Research Paper

You will perform primary and secondary historical research on one individual who lived in Colonial America (1580-1763) and write a biographic paper (10 pages of text) with appropriate footnotes and bibliography. The topic choice is the student's decision (within the class's subject area), but it must be reached in consultation with the instructor. Students should get to the library early and begin searching out primary documents they can base their research.

Please let the instructor know your person of interest by Week 3 via email.

The student then will write an Introductory Paragraph (with thesis statement) worth 10% of the grade. This would be similar to a conference proposal.

The essay will be 2,000-3,000 words and be worth 20% of the grade.

There will be period research checks throughout the semester (orally or written)

There will be an ungraded rough draft due Week 10.

Oral Presentation

Students will give a 10 minute presentation on their research topic in class worth 10% of the grade.

Important Reminder

Late Papers will be penalized 10% (or 1 letter grade) for every class day they are late. Weekends do not count as class days.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You must follow to honesty codes set forth in the student handbook. Plagiarism is a serious offense. This or any other violation of the university's Code of Student Conduct can result in penalties that can include up to an F in the class and expulsion from the university. For the official definition of what constitutes plagiarism, see the Student Handbook.

The instructor reserves the right to use electronic resources to detect plagiarism.

If you have any questions about this, please see me.

FORMATTING

Essays must comply with the following formatting guidelines. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Essays must be submitted as hard copies (electronic copies of papers will not be accepted).

Your papers must be typewritten, with 12 pt. font in Times New Roman and double-spaced lines. The header of your paper should be single-spaced and in the following format:

Your Name
Paper, HIS 343
Dr. Timothy Hemmis
janedoe@yahoo.com
Due Date

Your paper should have 1" margins on the top and bottom and 1.25" margins on the left right margins. Evidence must be cited using footnotes. Use of alternate forms of citation, such as the MLA format, is not acceptable. Finally, your essays must be stapled (no "dog ears," paper clips, or binders) and the pages numbered! If you have questions about the proper format of your essay, please see me during my office hours.

The essay must include evidence from the text, and you must cite that evidence using footnotes. Use the following examples as models:

First citation:

¹ Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 45.

Subsequent citations:

⁵ Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 74.

Unexcused/ Late Work or Absences from Exams:

The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in a paper or homework on time are illnesses requiring medical care, required university activities, religious holidays, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation is required. In certain other circumstances, I will allow you to turn in an assignment early or take an exam in advance, but you must see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last possible minute.

Academic Accommodations:

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion web page [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>].

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the Student Affairs web page [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Cell Phones

In accordance with College policy, the use of all personal electronic communication devices in this class (or laboratory) is prohibited. Students are required to turn off or silence their personal electronic communication devices during this class.

Office Hours

I am available in my office hours to answer your questions and look over drafts before paper your papers are due.

Academic Support Services

Tutoring is available to all students, both on-campus and online. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Room 111. Please contact Academic Support Programs if you are interested in tutoring at

(254) 501-5830 or by e-mailing c.garza@tamuct.edu.

***This syllabus is a mutual contract between the professor and student and the student and professor. It will not be altered lightly, however if circumstances make it necessary, the changes will be made as far in advance as is possible.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Class Introduction and Pre-contact America

Reading Assignment: Read the Syllabus and Join the Online Class; *American Colonies*, pgs. 4–49

Week 2 Contact on the Atlantic Frontier

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 50–113;

No Class on Monday: Labor Day

Week 3 Jamestown and the Early Chesapeake

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 118–157;

No Class Meeting on Monday September 10th. Online Class Only!

Week 4 The Tobacco Colonies and The Birth of American Slavery

Recommended Reading: Book Review 1 Pagan is Due on Monday September 17th 2018

No Class Meeting on Wednesday September 19th

Week 5 A City on a Hill: The Origins of New England

Recommended Reading *American Colonies*: 138-158.

Intro Paragraph Due

Week 6 New England at War: The Pequot and King Phillip's Wars

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 158–203;

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Week 7 New England Economy and Culture / Midterm Exam

Reading Assignment:

Midterm Exam October 10th

Week 8 Witch Hysteria in New England

Reading Assignment:

Week 9 The Deep South

Reading Assignments: *American Colonies*, pgs. 204–244 Book Review 2 Little is due October 24, 2018

Week 10 The Middle Colonies

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 245–272

Rough Draft of Research Paper is Due on Wednesday

Week 11 The Golden Age of Pirates and British Atlantic World

Reading Assignment: Book Review of Rediker due November 7, 2018

Week 12 Eighteen Century America

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 276-337

No Class Monday Nov 12

Week 13 The Spiritual America

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, 338–362

No Class on Wednesday; Thanksgiving Break

Week 14 Imperial Warfare in North America

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, pgs. 364–395; 420–44

Week 15 On the Brink of Revolution

Weekly Presentation on Topics done this week

Biography Paper is Due on Wednesday

Week 16: Final Exam

TBA