

Texas A&M University Central Texas
Department of Humanities

Fall 2019

“General Readings in US History: 1607-1865”

HIST: 5325 Readings in US History to 1877

Meeting Room: Heritage Hall 203

Time: Mondays 6-9Pm



Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis

Office: Heritage Hall 216H

E-Mail: themmis@tamuct.edu

Phone: 254-501-5931

Office Hours: by appointment.

Course Description and Objectives:

This class delves into the early history of America from 1607-1865. Early American History is a complex topic that is often neglected. As a reading seminar, this course will give you an in-depth understanding of Early America and its historiography. Each week there will be readings that are paramount to your success. This course will strengthen your critical thinking, reading, discussion, 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.

Required Texts

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 2015.

Monographs

See Course Schedule

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

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Seminar Participation	250 points	All semester
Final Exam	250 points	TBA
Book Reviews (10)	500 points (50 points each)	See Schedule

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 mandatory for Graduate Classes! 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, if you do not you will be considered absent.

Exam

There will be one final exam in this class. The exam for this class will be cumulative, although they will reflect persistent themes, ideas, and terminology that run throughout American History. It will be similar to a written comprehensive exam.

Writing Assignments

Each paper will be a critical review of the monograph assigned. 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.

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 the 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 failing the assignment, an F in the class and/or expulsion from the university. For the official definition of what constitutes plagiarism, see the Student Handbook.

All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

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, Course Name and Number

Dr. Timothy Hemmis

janedoe@tamuct.edu

Due Date

Your paper should have 1" margins on the top and bottom and 1.25" margins on the left and 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:

Students with a documented disability wishing to utilize academic accommodations should contact the Disability Support and Access at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212 as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be arranged. . For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.tamuct/disabilitysupport>.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by 911Cellular [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student

Cell Phones

In accordance with University 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.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline (November 10) should drop the course. Should a student encounter an unexpected, life altering circumstance after the drop deadline, that student may be eligible for an incomplete so long as all work due before the circumstance has been submitted and the student has a reasonable chance to pass the course should the work be completed as soon as the circumstance resolves itself. No student should expect to receive an incomplete.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

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 Department 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 Department 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](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion) webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and 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. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/index.php>. 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].

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Larry Davis at lldavis@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

The University Writing Center.

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading,

understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/].

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week 1 (August 26)

Introduction: Read the syllabus

Week 2 (September 2) Labor Day

Read: Karin Wulf's "Vast Early America: Three Simple Words for a Complex Reality"
<https://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/vast-early-america-three-simple-words/>

Read Cronon

Week 3 (September 9) Environmental Colonial New England

Cronon, William, and John Demos. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2003.

Week 4 (September 16) The Great Migration

Anderson, Virginia DeJohn. *New England's Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the Seventeenth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Week 5 (September 23) Colonial Slavery and Rebellion

Morgan, Edmund. *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*. New York: Norton, 1975.

Week 6 (September 30) Imperial War and Society

Spero, Patrick. *Frontier Country: The Politics of War in Early Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016

Week 7 (October 7) The Colonial Chesapeake

Breen, T. H. *Tobacco Culture: The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Week 8 (October 14) The War for Independence

Martin, James Kirby. *Respectable Army: The Military Origins of the Republic, 1763- 1789*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

Week 9 (October 21) Women in the Early Republic

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*. New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1999.

Week 10 (October 28) The Early Republic and the World

Conroy-Krutz, Emily. *Christian Imperialism: Converting the World in the Early American Republic*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018.

Week 11 (November 4) The American West in the Early Republic

Vinkovetsky, Ilya. *Russian America An Overseas Colony of a Continental Empire, 1804-1867*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Week 12 (November 11) Veteran's Day NO CLASS MEETING

ONLINE DISCUSSION

Park, Benjamin E. *American Nationalisms: Imagining Union in the Age of Revolutions, 1783-1833*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Week 13 (November 18) Slavery

Faust, Joyner, Charles W. *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984.

Week 14 (November 25) The Civil War

Drew Gilpin. *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

Week 15 (December 2) Remembering the Civil War

Cox, Karen L., *Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004.

Week 16 (TBD)

Final Exam

***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.