Texas A&M University Central Texas
Department of Humanities

Summer 2019
HIST 5322 Road to Disunion:
Sectionalism and Slavery in Antebellum America

8 Week Course

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis
Meeting Room: Online
Office: HH 216H
E-Mail: themmis@tamuct.edu
Phone: 254-501-5931
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This class delves into the history of America from 1815-1850. The Antebellum period in American history and is a complex story that has been intensely studied. Through discussions, readings, research, and writing this course will explore themes of slavery and sectionalism in American history. This course will strengthen your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, and provide a foundation for understanding the United States before the Civil War. 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


Recommended Texts


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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar and Online Participation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>All semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Reviews x4</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Final Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scoring:

Final Grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Writing Assignments

Book Reviews

There will be four 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.
Research Paper

Students will write a research paper associated with Antebellum America. Each student will write a Fifteen-Twenty page research paper on a topic of their choice. Each week on Thursday there will be an online discussion about the research process. Each week you must be researching and working on the paper.

An Annotated Bibliography including both primary and secondary sources will be do in week 3.

There will be a Rough Draft of the paper that will be due Week 6.

The Final Draft will be do at the end of the course.

Important Reminder

NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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:


Subsequent citations:


**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.

**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 Overview of Antebellum America ONLINE ONLY**
Assignment: Read the Syllabus; Online Activities: Start *River of Dark Dreams* will discuss Tuesday

**Week 2 Cotton Kingdom**

**Week 3 Women and Slavery**

**Week 4 Life in the Slave Market**

Two book reviews done this week.

**Week 5 Rise of the New Political System ONLINE ONLY**

**Week 6 Violence and Sectionalism**

**Week 7 The Fate of Their Country**
Week 8 The Rise of the Republican Party and the Coming Civil War ONLINE ONLY


All assignments due by Friday July 26th, 2019