

*Texas A&M University Central Texas*  
*Department of Humanities*

**Fall 2020**  
**HIST 3310 American Beginnings:**  
**A Brave New World for All**

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis  
Meeting Room: Online Webex and Canvas  
TTR: 1:00-2:15PM  
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Office Hours: By Appointment



**This is a blended online course which will mostly be done via Canvas but there will be days that we will meet via Webex at the scheduled time.**

**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.

**Required Texts**

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

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

Zelner, Kyle F. *A Rabble in Arms: Massachusetts Towns and Militiamen During King Philip's War*. New York: New York University Press, 2010.

## 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:

Assignments	Max Points	Your grade
Final Exam	250 points	
Book Review 1 Zelner	150 points	
Book Review 2 Breen	150 points	
Annotated Bibliography	150 points	
Paper Proposal	100 points	
Video Presentation of Topic	100 points	
Biography Research Paper	200 points	

## 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. Your participation each week consists completing the modules each which includes readings, video lectures, and an open forum. The open forums are where you can ask questions about the modules.

## Exam

There will be one exam in this class. Exams for this class will be cumulative and will reflect persistent themes, ideas, and terminology that run throughout American History. The exam will be proctored.

## **Writing Assignments**

### **Book Reviews**

There will be two 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 Project**

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 (virtually) and begin searching out primary documents they can base their research. We have digital databases!

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

The student then will write a short proposal for their research paper. This would be similar to a conference proposal no more than 300 words long and is worth 10% of the grade.

The annotated bibliography will consist of at least 8 monographs and 3 journal articles. This assignment will be worth 15% of the grade.

The final essay will be ten pages of text worth 20% of the grade.

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

### **Oral Presentation**

Students will give a 5-8 minute presentation on their research topic in class via studio worth 10% of the grade. Each student will make a PowerPoint presentation via Studio and post it in Canvas for the class to see it.

### **Important Reminder**

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS EXCUSED.**

### **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.**

### **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.

### **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

### **Incomplete Policy**

**Students that find themselves facing an unexpected, life altering circumstance before the drop deadline 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.**

### **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](mailto: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.*

## **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:

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

Subsequent citations:

<sup>5</sup> 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 email 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.

### **COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES**

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings—Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
- If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student

to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.

- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

## **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**

By Appointment only

## **Academic Support Services**

### **University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Fall 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. 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. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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 85,000 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 24 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](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

**For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](#)**

\*\*\*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**

**(THE MOST UPDATE SCHEDULE AND READINGS WILL BE IN THE CANVAS MODULES)**

### **Week 1 Class Introduction and Pre-contact America**

Reading Assignment: Read the Syllabus and do the online activities; *American Colonies*, pgs. 4–49

### **Week 2 Contact on the Atlantic Frontier**

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

### **Week 3 Jamestown and the Early Chesapeake**

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

### **Week 4 The Tobacco Colonies and The Birth of American Slavery**

Recommended Reading: Book Review 1 Pagan is Due on Monday September 17<sup>th</sup> 2018

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

Recommended Reading *American Colonies*: 138-158.

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

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

**Week 7 New England Economy and Culture**

**Week 8 Witch Hysteria in New England**

Reading Assignment:

**Week 9 The Deep South**

Reading Assignments: *American Colonies*, pgs. 204–244

**Week 10 The Middle Colonies**

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

**Week 11 The Golden Age of Pirates and British Atlantic World**

Reading Assignment:

**Week 12 Eighteen Century America**

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

**Week 13 The Spiritual America**

Reading Assignment: *American Colonies*, 338–362

**Week 14 Imperial Warfare in North America**

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

**Week 15 On the Brink of Revolution**

**Week 16: Final Exam**