

Course Information for HIST 2301 (13/FA)

Above all, Texas is a nation in every sense of the word. – John Steinbeck

Instructor: Robert Glen Findley

Office: Deaderick Hall 201

Office Hours: 08:00AM-11:00AM MW
06:30PM-07:00PM MW
08:30AM-09:30AM TTh
12:30PM-01:00PM TTh

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Course description: A survey of the political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of Texas from the pre-Columbian era to the present. Themes that may be addressed in Texas History include: Spanish colonization and Spanish Texas; Mexican Texas; the Republic of Texas; statehood and secession; oil, industrialization, and urbanization; civil rights; and modern Texas.

Course objective: Study of the past tells us where we are, where we came from and, to a large extent, where we are going. The survey course in Texas history is designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and understanding of the state's institutions through the study of their past development. This course should also provide the student with a better understanding of such germane disciplines as political science (especially Texas government), sociology, philosophy, literature, and economics in addition to preparing the student for careers in teaching, government service, international relations and the law.

Textbook: Calvert, et al., *The History of Texas*, 4th edition.

Course outline:

Unit One: Spanish, Mexican, and The Republic of Texas (chs. 1-4)

Unit Two: Statehood, Secession, and Reconstruction (chs. 5-8)

Unit Three: Modern Texas (chs. 9-13)

Course outcomes:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on Texas history.

Examinations: During the course of this semester there will be three unit examinations and six short quizzes. Scantron Answer Forms (882-E green) will be required for each exam. Paper for the short answer portion will be furnished. The examinations will be administered on (or about) the following dates: **TBD**. The quizzes will occur at random.

Examination make-up policy: Remember that making up a missed examination is a privilege and not a right! If you have to miss an exam, see me for further instructions. There are no make-ups for the quizzes.

Grading policy: All examinations (and project) are weighted equally and will count for 80% of the course grade. The short quizzes/assignments will count for the other 20%. The final course grade will be assigned based on the following averages: **90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, and below 60=F**. Once a course grade is assigned, it is **final!!!** The need to retain eligibility (athletic or otherwise), keep your scholarship, please your parents, get into law school, medical school, etc., may be important reasons to change a grade, but they are not valid. **A final grade is just that—final.**

Academic dishonesty: Cheating and/or plagiarism is not be tolerated. Suspected cheating or plagiarism may result in a reexamination in a controlled environment, a failing grade, or dismissal from the course. As per OC Board Policy **the option lies with the instructor:** *In cases of **academic dishonesty**, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties.*

Academic assistance: Help with preparing for exams, writing essays, setting up student e-mail, Blackboard, etc., is available at the Student Success Center. Contact them at 335-6878 or <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/>

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory and, along with class participation, may influence part of the student's final grade. Roll will be taken every day that we are not testing. If the student is late to class, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that he/she is not counted absent. Excused absences may require documentation. Also, be aware that all material covered in class is your (and not the instructor's) responsibility.

Drops/withdrawals: The last day to drop/withdraw for this semester is **Tuesday 12 November 2013**. Drops/withdrawals initiated after this date are granted in only the most extraordinary circumstances and are at the discretion of the instructor. Keep in mind that this is a student responsibility.

Bonus points: If you attend class, take notes, read the assigned material and studies for the exams, "extra credit" is generally not necessary. However, since students often request opportunities for "extra credit," I have decided to offer up to ten **pre-average** points for any **one** of the following:

- 1) by registering to vote if you are not registered
- 2) if you are already registered, getting someone else (family member, friend, etc) to register
- 3) by voting in a national, state, or local election
- 4) by donating blood (may be done by proxy)
- 5) by joining and participating in the Student Government Association

Documentation will be required and bonus points awarded at my discretion. Ten is the maximum.

Special needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Issues with special needs will be referred to the Office of Disability Services.

Classroom conduct policy:

- **Attend class ... it's the easiest part of your college/university experience**
- **Be on time ... don't leave ... it's rude, it's disrespectful, and it's duly noted**
- **Stay awake ... look fascinated, even if you are bored out of your mind**
- **Don't talk during lecture ... do volunteer to answer questions and submit pertinent comments**
- **DO NOT WORK ON OTHER ASSIGNMENTS OR READ OTHER MATERIALS DURING LECTURE!!!**
- **A CELLPHONE GOING OFF DURING AN EXAM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE!!!**