**History 10603 (Sec. 015)**

**U.S. History to 1877**

**Spring 2017**

**Professor: Dr. Gregg Cantrell**

**Office**: 218 Reed Hall

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**Office Hours:** Mon-Wed., 10:00-11:50; T-Th 11:00-11:50; and by appointment. I will be here many other hours and will be happy to meet with you any time. It’s never a bad idea to give me a call before your stop by, just to make sure I'm there. E-mail is often the most reliable way to reach me, but you should not assume that I will always read and respond to emails the same day they’re sent.

**Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Brennan Rivas

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this is course is to teach basic facts and examine important events and people in American history, to teach students to think critically and communicate effectively, and to become more enlightened citizens of the United States by achieving an understanding of the forces that have shaped our nation's history.

**Grades and Attendance:** The course will be a reading-intensive course centered around five scholarly monographs (that is, specialized books on specific historical topics), all to be read outside of class, plus a group of primary-source documents to be read near the end of the semester. The course will be conducted as a lecture-and-discussion course, with emphasis placed on class participation. There will be book quizzes over each of the five monographs. Each book quiz counts 10% of your semester grade, but you get to drop your lowest one, meaning that the book quizzes altogether comprise 40% of the semester grade. There will be three major exams during the semester, with the first two counting each counting 15% and the third (which contains an additional comprehensive component) counting 20%. Finally, there will be an exercise utilizing primary source documents near the end of the semester, which will also count 10% of your grade. (I will give more information on this as it draws near.) I will keep records on attendance and class participation, and these will be used in borderline cases to determine the final semester grade. The book quizzes will consist of six short-answer questions, from which you answer five, and one brief essay question. The goal of the quizzes is to encourage you to read the books on time and to reward you for having done so. Each major exam will consist of two mandatory essay questions plus six short “I.D.”-type questions, of which you will answer five. The essay questions will be designed to allow you to display your understanding of the readings and to relate those readings to broader themes in American history. Make-up exams will be administered at the professor's convenience for those who miss an exam for a university-approved reason (see TCU regulations). In the case of an exam missed due to illness, you must document your illness with a written doctor's excuse. If you are going to miss an exam for ANY reason, you must let me know ahead of time unless you are too ill to use a telephone. I will be very flexible about make-up exams if you let me know of your absence in advance; I will be very *inflexible* if you do not notify me in advance of a missed exam. An email message sent the morning of the exam is not sufficient notification, unless it is a true emergency.

**Grading System on Major Exams:** Grading history essays is a subjective and imprecise art. On the exams, you will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F), with pluses or minuses when appropriate. An exam which is excellent overall receives an “A”; one which is good receives a “B”; one which is average receives a “C”; one which is poor receives a “D”; one which is failing receives an “F”. I will explain in class how these letter grades can be converted to numerical grades for purposes of calculating final course grades. This course is not graded on the university’s optional plus-minus system. To ensure that you don’t fall just short of the grade you desire, attend class regularly and participate in discussions, and I’ll give you the benefit of the doubt.

**Miscellaneous Classroom Rules**: Cell phones must be turned off and put away before class. Cell phones or other devices going off in class will result in a warning the first time; the second time, you will be required to leave the classroom for the duration of the period. I do not allow the use of laptops or tablets in class. You need to come prepared to take notes the old-fashioned way (with paper and pen). No one will be allowed to leave the classroom during an exam unless you have received *prior permission* from the professor or it is a true medical emergency. (That means go to the restroom *before* the exam!) Extra time will not be allowed for students arriving late for an exam or quiz. If you wish to have the full amount of time to work on your exam or quiz, get to class on time.

**Textbook:**

I do not *require* you to buy a textbook. However, I recommend that you find a good, fairly modern (within the past 15 years) college-level survey text, such as Oakes, *Of the People*; Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation*; Faragher, *Out of Many*; Henretta, *America’s History*; Kennedy, *The American Pageant*, Norton, *A People and a Nation*; or Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*. You can find a previous edition (not the current one) for cheap at a used bookstore or online. The “brief” or “concise” edition is fine, and you’ll only be needing the first half (US history up to 1877). These are useful to look up names and dates, review material that we covered in class, or study for exams.

**Monographs (required reading):**

Edmund Morgan, *The Puritan Dilemma: The Story of John Winthrop*

T. H.  Breen and Stephen Innes, *Myne Owne Ground: Race and Freedom on Virginia’s Eastern Shore*

Charles S. Sydnor, *American Revolutionaries in the Making: Political Practices in Washington’s Virginia*

W. J. Rorabaugh, *The Alcoholic Republic: An American Tradition*

Melton A. McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave*

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, TOPICS, EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS \***

Class Activities/Topics Reading (to be done outside of class)

Week 1

Jan. 17 course intro. “Academically Adrift” (in-class reading)

Jan. 19 A “New” World start *Myne Owne Ground*

Week 2

Jan. 24 Exploring America continue *Myne Owne Ground*

Jan. 26 The Founding of Virginia continue *Myne Owne Ground*

Week 3

Jan. 31 *Myne Owne Ground* quiz; the Origins of Slavery

Feb. 2 *Puritanism* start *The Puritan Dilemma*

Week 4

Feb. 7 A New England town continue *The Puritan Dilemma*

Feb. 9 Colonial Society in the 1700s continue *The Puritan Dilemma*

Week 5

Feb. 14 *The Puritan Dilemma* quiz; Colonial Society

Feb. 16 first major exam start *American Revolutionaries*

Week 6

Feb. 21 Colonial Politics continue *American Revolutionaries*

Feb. 23 America and the British Empire continue *American Revolutionaries*

Week 7

Feb. 27 The Revolutionary Frontier; a Family Divided continue *American Revolutionaries*

Mar. 2 *American Revolutionaries quiz*; topic TBA

Week 8

Mar. 7 Creating a Framework of Government start *Alcoholic Republic*

Mar. 9 The Constitution of a Republic continue *Alcoholic Republic*

Week 9

Mar. 21 The Transformation of American Life continue *Alcoholic Republic*

Mar. 23 Revivals and Reform continue *Alcoholic Republic*

Week 10

Mar. 28 *Alcoholic Republic* quiz; True Womanhood

Mar. 30 second major exam start *Celia*

Week 11

Apr. 4 Slavery Revitalized; the Proslavery Argument continue *Celia*

Apr. 6 True Womanhood; Abolitionism continue *Celia*

Week 12

Apr. 11 Free Soil; Manifest Destiny continue *Celia*

Apr. 13 The Political Crisis of the 1850s continue *Celia*

Week 13

Apr. 18 *Celia* quiz; The First Modern War

Apr. 20 Lincoln: A Study in Presidential Greatness start primary source documents

Week 14

Apr. 25 Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution continue primary source documents

Apr. 27 Reconstruction: Primary source exercise

Week 15

May 3 Redemption; review for final

Thursday, May 11 Third/Final exam, 8:00-10:30

**\* Please note that this schedule is tentative; dates of exams or quizzes could change if we get ahead or behind. Any changes in the printed schedule will be announced at least a week (two class periods) in advance. It is *your responsibility* to know when quizzes and exams are being given.**

**Friendly words of advice and warning:**  This class is *all about the reading*. It *is* a heavy reading load, but it’s manageable if you don’t put if off until the night before the quiz or exam. The first key to doing well is to read some every day. There are about 100 days in the semester, and you have about 1200 pages of reading in the six monographs; that’s about 12 pages a day. (The textbook is for review and reference; how much time you spend reading it is up to you.) Doing your reading on time will also enable you to participate in class discussions and understand the material better. You cannot do well on the quizzes and exams without having done your required reading. The second key to doing well is to come to class faithfully; we will discuss the books almost every class period, and the exams draw heavily from the lectures as well as the books. The third key to doing well in this class is to ask questions when you don't understand something. The only dumb question is the one you didn't ask! If the question can't be answered to your satisfaction in the class period, come see me in my office. I'll be happy to explain something that was unclear the first time around. And please don't hesitate to challenge something I've said in class; once or twice in my life I may have been wrong! ;-)

**Special Accommodation Request Procedure**

If you require accommodations for a disability, please contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities, Center for Academic Services, Sadler Hall 11, TCU Box 297710, 817-257-7486. Once you have met with me to deliver and discuss an official accommodations letter from TCU's Academic Services, I will be able to arrange for your modifications related to this course. If you have emergency medical information or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please discuss this with me as soon as possible.