SYLLABUS FOR HIS 133.013 or HIS 133.014
AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1877

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe
Office Hours: MWF 10-11, T-Th 9:30-10, or by appointment

Class Time: MWF 8-9 or 9-10
Room: F 474 for the 8 AM class and F 475 for the 9 AM class
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310
e-mail: staaffe@sfasu.edu

Objective and Purpose: The purpose of this class is for students to understand and evaluate the various social, political, ideological, and economic factors that shaped American history to 1877. Students will demonstrate their mastery of material through their performance on exams. By the end of the semester students will be able to use their newly acquired knowledge to interpret, analyze, and assess historical sources and contemporary interpretations of the past so as to recognize their biases and place current societal debates in historical context.

Text: Tindall and Shi’s America: A Narrative, vol. 1.

MakeUps: You have 24 hours to contact me if you miss a test. I will give all make-up exams on Friday, 17 November at 6:30 AM.

Grading Rationale:
First Midterm 33%
Second Midterm 33%
Final 33%

There are also two optional assignments that I will discuss after the first exam.

Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less. You must complete and pick up all assignments, except the final, to pass the class.

Attendance Policy: You can miss up to and including six hours of class without penalty. For each hour missed thereafter, for any reason whatsoever, I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating: If I catch you cheating on an exam or the paper, I will fail you for the exam or for the course.

Disability Services: If you have a proven disability, I am willing to make reasonable accommodations. I define what is and is not “reasonable.” You must visit me in my office before I grant any reasonable accommodation.

Pet Peeve: If I catch you with your cellphone out or using any electronic devices during class, I can and will throw you out, and you won’t be allowed back until you write a paper for me. You cannot use computers in class either unless you talk with me first.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments:
Week 1:
Mon 28 Aug  Cultural Encounter
Wed 30 Aug  Virginia Settled
Fri 1 Sep  Virginia Society

Week 2:
Mon 4 Sep  Discussion
Wed 6 Sep  Puritan New England
Fri 8 Sep  Puritan Society

Week 3:
Mon 11 Sep  Great Awakening
## Week 4:
- **Mon 18 Sep**: Colonial Government and Economics
- **Wed 20 Sep**: Salem Witch Trials
- **Fri 22 Sep**: French and Indian Wars

## Week 5:
- **Mon 25 Sep**: American Revolution
- **Wed 27 Sep**: Discussion
- **Fri 29 Sep**: Independence

## Week 6:
- **Mon 2 Oct**: First Exam
- **Wed 4 Oct**: Revolutionary War
- **Fri 6 Oct**: Articles of Confederation Era

## Week 7:
- **Mon 9 Oct**: The Constitution
- **Wed 11 Oct**: Discussion
- **Fri 13 Oct**: Washington Administration

## Week 8:
- **Mon 16 Oct**: Adams Administration
- **Wed 18 Oct**: (Democratic) Republicans in Charge
- **Fri 20 Oct**: War of 1812

## Week 9:
- **Mon 23 Oct**: Era of Good Feelings
- **Wed 25 Oct**: Discussion
- **Fri 27 Oct**: Jacksonian America

## Week 10:
- **Mon 30 Oct**: Second Party System in Action
- **Wed 1 Nov**: Texas and the Mexican War
- **Fri 3 Nov**: Discussion

## Week 11:
- **Mon 6 Nov**: Second Exam
- **Wed 8 Nov**: Southern Society and Slavery
- **Fri 10 Nov**: Revival and Reform

## Week 12:
- **Mon 13 Nov**: Countdown to the Civil War I
- **Wed 15 Nov**: Countdown to the Civil War II
- **Fri 17 Nov**: 1860 Election, Secession, and War

## Week 13:
- **Mon 27 Nov**: Discussion
- **Wed 29 Nov**: Civil War on the Battlefield
- **Fri 1 Dec**: Union at War

## Final Exam:
- For the 8 AM class it’s on Wednesday, 13 December at 8 AM
- For the 9 AM class it’s on Monday, 11 December at 8 AM
Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
HIS 133 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives towards both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for classes designated for inclusion in the American History Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Courses in this Foundational Component Area focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States.

Courses in this area, such as HIS 133, include instruction in the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

In addition to learning the above, students in HIS 133 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written and visual communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of how humans in the past have engaged effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical decisions.

General Education Core Curriculum
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA e-mail account. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be submitted to LiveText every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Source Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>10 Dec 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Source Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>10 Dec 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Source Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>10 Dec 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Source Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>10 Dec 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source Analysis Assignment
To measure the success of student acquisition of these mandated skills, one assignment during the semester will require critical analysis of an historical event in United States history from the period before 1877. Each student will be provided a selection of primary and/or secondary sources to interpret and evaluate, place in historical context, and utilize to construct an analytical essay. The essay will require that students think critically about the sources, examine how individual choices and decisions influenced the course of history, and consider the ways in which people engage with regional, national, or global communities.

Completion of this assignment is required by the university and is an important component in the successful completion of this course. Further instructions will be provided at the appropriate time.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

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**Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).