SYLLABUS FOR HIS 1301.00 and 1301.009
AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1877

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe  Home Phone: 936-462-7417
Class Time: MWF at 9 AM or 10 AM  Office Phone: 468-2378
Room: LAN 142 or LAN 102  e-mail: staaffe@sfasu.edu
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310
Office Hours: MWF 11-12, T-Th 12:15-1, or by appointment

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 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 Monday, 15 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, 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 23 Aug  Cultural Encounter
Wed 25 Aug  Virginia Settled
Fri 27 Aug  Virginia Culture and Society

Week 2:
Mon 30 Aug  Discussion
Wed 1 Sep  Puritan New England
Fri 3 Sep  Puritan Culture and Society

Week 3:
Tindall and Shi, chapter 3
Mon 6 Sep  Great Awakening
Wed 8 Sep  Discussion
Fri 9 Sep  Colonial Government and Economics

Week 4:
Mon 13 Sep  Colonial Slavery
Wed 15 Sep  Salem Witch Trials
Fri 17 Sep  French and Indian Wars

Week 5:  Tindall and Shi, chapters 4-5
Mon 20 Sep  Discussion
Wed 22 Sep  Exam
Fri 24 Sep  Causes of the American Revolution

Week 6:  Tindall and Shi, chapter 6
Mon 27 Sep  Independence
Wed 29 Sep  Revolutionary War
Fri 1 Oct  Discussion

Week 7:  Tindall and Shi, chapter 7
Mon 4 Oct  Articles of Confederation
Wed 6 Oct  Constitutional Convention
Fri 8 Oct  Washington Administration

Week 8:  Tindall and Shi, chapters 8-9
Mon 11 Oct  Discussion
Wed 13 Oct  Adams Administration
Fri 15 Oct  (Democratic) Republican Domestic Policies

Week 9:  Tindall and Shi, chapters 10, 13
Mon 18 Oct  War of 1812
Wed 20 Oct  Era of Good Feelings
Fri 22 Oct  Discussion

Week 10:  Tindall and Shi, chapters 11-12
Mon 25 Oct  Jacksonian America
Wed 27 Oct  Second Party System Era
Fri 29 Oct  Texas and the Mexican War

Week 11:  Tindall and Shi, chapter 14
Mon 1 Nov  Discussion
Wed 3 Nov  Exam
Fri 5 Nov  Southern Society

Week 12:  Tindall and Shi, chapter 15
Mon 8 Nov  Revival and Reform
Wed 10 Nov  Countdown to the Civil War
Fri 12 Nov  1860 Election, Secession, and War

Week 13:  Tindall and Shi, chapter 16
Mon 15 Nov  Discussion
Wed 17 Nov  Civil War on the Battlefield
Fri 19 Nov  Union at War

Week 14:
Mon 29 Nov  Confederacy at War
Wed 1 Dec  Reconstruction
Fri 3 Dec  Discussion

Final Exam:  for the 9 AM class it’s on Wednesday, 8 Dec, at 8 AM
for the 10 AM class it’s on Monday, 6 Dec, at 10:30 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.

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

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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/disabilitieservices/.