Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe  
Class Time: MWF at 8 AM or 9 AM  
Room: Ferguson 474  
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310  
Office Hours: MTWThF 10-11 or by appointment

Home Phone: 936-462-7417  
Office Phone: 468-2378  
e-mail: staaffe@sfasu.edu

Objective and Purpose: The purpose of this class is for students to understand and evaluate the various 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 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: I don’t take attendance, but if you don’t show up for class, you probably won’t pass.

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.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments:

**Week 1:** Tindall and Shi, chapter 1  
Mon 28 Aug   Cultural Encounter  
Wed 30 Aug   Virginia Settled  
Fri 1 Sep   Virginia Culture and Society

**Week 2:** Tindall and Shi, chapter 2  
Mon 4 Sep   *Discussion*  
Wed 6 Sep   Puritan New England  
Fri 8 Sep   Puritan Culture and Society

**Week 3:** Tindall and Shi, chapter 3  
Mon 11 Sep   Great Awakening  
Wed 13 Sep   *Discussion*  
Fri 15 Sep   Colonial Government and Economics
**Week 4:**
Mon 18 Sep Colonial Slavery
Wed 20 Sep Salem Witch Trials
Fri 22 Sep French and Indian Wars

**Week 5:**
Mon 25 Sep Discussion
Wed 27 Sep Exam
Fri 29 Sep Causes of the American Revolution

**Week 6:**
Mon 2 Oct Independence
Wed 4 Oct Revolutionary War
Fri 6 Oct Discussion

**Week 7:**
Mon 9 Oct Articles of Confederation
Wed 11 Oct Constitutional Convention
Fri 13 Oct Washington Administration

**Week 8:**
Mon 16 Oct Discussion
Wed 18 Oct Adams Administration
Fri 20 Oct (Democratic) Republican Domestic Policies

**Week 9:**
Mon 23 Oct War of 1812
Wed 25 Oct Era of Good Feelings
Fri 27 Oct Discussion

**Week 10:**
Mon 30 Oct Jacksonian America
Wed 1 Nov Second Party System Era
Fri 3 Nov Texas and the Mexican War

**Week 11:**
Mon 6 Nov Discussion
Wed 8 Nov Exam
Fri 10 Nov Southern Society

**Week 12:**
Mon 13 Nov Revival and Reform
Wed 15 Nov Countdown to the Civil War
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

**Week 14:**
Mon 4 Dec Confederacy at War
Wed 6 Dec Reconstruction
Fri 8 Dec Discussion

**Final Exam:**
for the 8 AM class it’s on Monday, 11 Dec, at 8 AM
for the 9 AM class it’s on Wednesday, 13 Dec, 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 1301 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 1301, 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 1301 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/disabilityservices/

Core Curriculum Objective Table
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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<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>
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