History 5635: 19th Century Texas History:
Myth, Memory, and Nationalism in the Lone Star State

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Texts: (all are required for the course):
Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans, Fehrenbach
Lone Star Mind: Reimagining Texas History, Cashion
Discovering Texas History. Glasrud, Cummins, and Wentz
Lone Star Pasts: Memory and History in Texas, Cantrell and Turner
Texian Illiad: A Military History of the Texas Revolution, Hardin
Sleuthing the Alamo: Davy Crockett’s Last Stand and Other Mysteries of the Texas Revolution, Crisp
Inherit the Alamo: Myth and Ritual at an American Shrine, Brear
Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865, Campbell
Myth, Memory, and Massacre: The Pease River Capture of Cynthia Ann Parker, Carlson and Crum

Course Objectives: The course will examine selected topics of 19th century Texas history, but it will be through the lens of how Texas developed a unique—if largely ahistorical—mythical narrative that instead of focusing on an honest history of the state’s past was more of a particular development of “Texas Nationalism,” a historical narrative that owed as much to folklore and the reinforcement of a triumphant march of White males into a fantasized “wilderness” of Native Americans and other non-Whites than it did to the actual historical record. The course will be conducted as a traditional seminar course in which we will do extensive reading in a number of works, have a full discussion in class over the readings, and then end the semester the writing of a historiographical paper.

Course Requirements: **Attendance without absence**
Participate in and contribute to discussions
Complete all assignments fully and on time

Approximate Grade Breakdown: Class Participation: 25%--includes attendance and discussion.
Book Reviews: written and oral: 50%
Historiographical Paper: 25%

Plagiarism: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught in such unethical activity will receive a zero for the assignment. Serious violations, such as stealing an exam or downloading a paper from the Internet, will result in automatic failure of the course. I will also report cheating to your dean as described in university policy A-9.1. Under this policy, students charged with more than one violation during their academic careers will be summoned before the University Committee on Academic Integrity. If the Committee validates the charges, it may place students on probation or suspend them. You may read the policy, including your right to appeal charges of dishonesty, at:
Special Arrangements: Any student who, because of a disablining condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from Disabled Students Services. Any arrangements made are strictly confidential.

Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days: A student who is absent from classes for the observation of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth (15) day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.

Class Schedule:

August 28: Intro to Class; Begin Reading Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans

Sept. 4: What is Texas Nationalism? Class Lecture and Discussion: finish reading Lone Star

Sept. 11: Approaches for an Honest Texas History: Lone Star Mind: Reimagining Texas History

Sept. 18: Class discussion over Fehrenbach and Cashion: Book Review over Lone Star Mind due

Sept. 25: Directed discussion and Reports over Discovering Texas History: Oral reports from class (more instruction on assignment in class)

Oct. 2: Continued directed discussion over Discovering Texas History

Oct. 9: Directed discussion and reports over Lone Star Pasts

Oct. 16: Discussion on Texian Illiad: Group 1 Lead

Oct 23: Sleuthing the Alamo: Group 2 lead: Group 1 Book Reviews on Texian Illiad due

Oct. 30: No Class

Nov. 6: Inherit the Alamo: Group 1 lead: Group 2 Book Review on Sleuthing the Alamo due

Nov. 13: Empire for Slavery: Group 2 lead: Group 1 Book Review on Inherit the Alamo due

Nov. 27: Myth, Memory, and Massacre, Group 1 lead: Group 2 Book Review on Empire for Slavery due

Dec. 4: Discussion and “brain-storming” on Historiographical paper: Group 1 and 2 Book Review on Myth, Memory, and Massacre due
Dec. 11: Off-campus dinner and meet; Historiographical Papers due