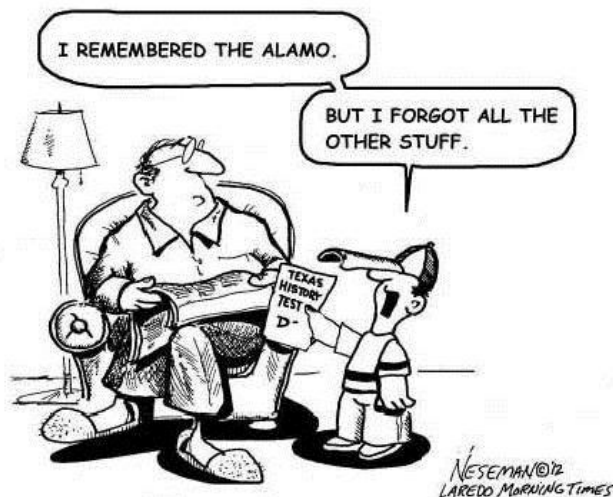


HIST 3700: TEXAS HISTORY

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 9:35am-10:55am | LIFE A106 | Fall 2026



(We're here to fix that . . .)

INSTRUCTOR	TEACHING ASSOCIATE
Dr. Andrew J. Torget	Ms. Libby Morin
Andrew.Torget@unt.edu	Libby.Morin@unt.edu
Office: Wooten 258	Office: Wooten 252
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm. If you cannot meet during these times, email me and we can set up a convenient time.	Office Hours: Tuesdays, 8:20am-9:20am; Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm. If you cannot meet during these times, email me and we can set up a convenient time.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the development of Texas from its earliest settlements through the twenty-first century. Our focus will be on the interactions between different peoples—Indians, Spaniards, Frenchmen, Mexicans, Mexican Americans, Anglo Americans, African Americans—who shaped and reshaped Texas over several centuries. Lectures and readings will concentrate on the broad political, economic, and social development of Texas, while placing the region within larger historical trends that shaped the United States and Mexico. The course is **intensive in both reading and writing**, focused on developing analytical thinking skills.

COMMUNICATION

The best and most reliable way to contact us is via email at (Andrew.Torget@unt.edu) or (Libby.Morin@unt.edu). We will do everything we can to respond to you within 24 hours during the workweek (although occasionally we might take up to 48 hours). Please note that Dr. Torget does not regularly check email during the evenings or on weekends but will prioritize responding to your email as soon possible.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Readings for this course will consist of a series of articles, chapters, and primary sources that will be posted on Canvas. In addition to saving you the expense of purchasing textbooks, this ensures that readings each week will be directly applicable to what we are discussing in lecture. Each week's readings will be posted onto Canvas by the Friday that precedes the week they are assigned.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

For this course, you will need access to the following technology:

- A computer with internet access.
 - Ready access to Canvas (<https://unt.instructure.com/>), which we will be using extensively for the class. If you need a primer on Canvas, please visit: <https://online.unt.edu/canvas-basics-unt-students>.
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader or another program to read PDFs.
 - A word processing program to write papers.
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ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade Breakdown:

Exam One	20 percent
Exam Two	20 percent
Exam Three	20 percent
Investigation Papers	20 percent
Reaction Papers	10 percent
Attendance	10 percent

- Grading will be on a ten-point scale: an A is 90-100; B is 80-89; C is 70-79; D is 60-69; below 60 is an F.
- The exams will consist of short answers and essays and we will provide a study guide in advance.

- You will have two “investigation paper” assignments, which will ask you to write an analytical essay based on original research you will conduct in an online archive. We will post an assignment sheet on Canvas (as well as discuss it in class) that explains these assignments in detail.
 - Most weeks, you will write and submit short reaction papers on the assigned readings. We will provide a detailed guide to doing these papers.
 - For specific due dates, please see the course schedule below.
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that reaction papers and investigation papers will be turned in through Canvas and will always be due by midnight on Thursday for the week they are assigned. The schedule is also subject to change as necessary over the course of the semester.

Week 1: Beginnings, Explorers, Settlers (August 18, 20)

- No readings or assignments this week.

Week 2: Indian Country (August 25, 27)

- Due by midnight on August 27: **Reaction Paper 1.**

Week 3: The Collapse of New Spain (September 1, 3)

- Due by midnight on September 3: **Reaction Paper 2.**

Week 4: Mexico’s Far North (September 8, 10)

- Due by midnight on September 10: **Investigation Paper 1.**

Week 5: Revolution and Republic (September 15, 17)

- September 17: **EXAM ONE in class!**

Week 6: Annexation and U.S.-Mexico War (September 22, 24)

- No readings or assignments this week.

Week 7: Slavery and Expansion (September 29, October 1)

- Due by midnight on October 1: **Reaction Paper 3.**

Week 8: Secession and Civil War (October 6, 8)

- Due by midnight on October 8: **Reaction Paper 4.**

Week 9: Reconstruction and Redemption (October 13, 15)

- Due by midnight on October 15: **Reaction Paper 5.**

Week 10: Cattle Drives and Indian Wars (October 20, 22)

- October 22: **EXAM TWO in class!**

Week 11: Cotton, Farmers, Rebellion (October 27, 29)

- No readings or assignments this week.

Week 12: Oil, Cities, Reform (November 3, 5)

- Due by midnight on November 5: **Investigation Paper 2.**

Week 13: Great Depression and New Deal (November 10, 12)

- Due by midnight on November 12: **Reaction Paper 6.**

Week 14: World War II and Texas Transformed (November 17, 19)

- Due by midnight on November 19: **Reaction Paper 7.**

THANKSGIVING BREAK! No class November 24 or 26.

Week 15: Modern Texas (December 1, 3)

- No readings and no assignments.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION (Exam Three) will be given in our normal classroom on Thursday, December 10, from 8:00am-10:00am.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

- Over the semesters, the most reliable predictor of someone's final grade in this course has always been their attendance. Exams draw almost exclusively from lectures, and I urge you to attend as regularly as possible.
- As such, **10 percent of your grade is straightforward attendance.** We will assess attendance based on the sign-in sheets passed out during each lecture. And because the unexpected still happens, everyone gets two "free" absences throughout the semester which will not deduct from your grade.

Canvas (<https://unt.instructure.com/>) will be the central clearinghouse for this course, and we will use it for a variety of purposes:

- I will post PowerPoint slides for my lectures each week on Canvas.
- Weekly assignments and any course announcements will be posted on Canvas, in addition to being announced during class.
- Some assignments, such as reaction and investigation papers, will be turned in and graded through Canvas.

Course Learning Objectives. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Identify, explain, and contextualize key figures, events, and trends in Texas history.
- Place the evolution of Texas within the larger context of the development of the United States and Mexico.
- Analyze historical information, evidence, and arguments.
- Conduct original research in a historical archive.
- Write an effective analytical essay.

General Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** Please become familiar with the University's policy of academic dishonesty found in the Student Code of Conduct (<http://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012>). The content of the Student Code applies to this course and I refer all cases of cheating and plagiarism to the Provost's office. There will be absolutely no toleration for academic dishonesty or plagiarism. If you choose to cheat or plagiarize on any assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment and you may fail the course.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** This course requires that YOU engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. All work submitted by students shall be generated solely by the students themselves. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, CoPilot, Claude, and others to generate responses to course assignments (such as reaction papers, investigation papers, etc.) is prohibited. Using GenAI to complete any part of any assignment or coursework in this class will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Any submitted work that is determined (at the sole discretion of the instructor) to have been AI-generated will be assigned a zero and addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>.
- **Adult Content Disclaimer:** Texas history is complicated and throughout this semester we will undoubtedly touch on mature and sensitive topics. When controversial subjects arise, be prepared to discuss them as mature adults and with respect toward your colleagues and professor. If you have personal concerns about individual topics or subjects, please discuss those with me as soon as possible.
- **Student behavior** that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and

electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

Recordings Policy

- Anyone enrolled in the class may make audio recording of my lectures for their own personal use in studying for the course. However, making video recordings or taking images of any aspect of the class or lecture (including images or video recordings of either the professor or students) are prohibited.
- Absolutely no recordings of any kind (images, video, audio, or otherwise) of the class, lectures, assignments, or any other part of the class and its materials may be posted online for any reason. Among other things, this is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and a potential violation of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Extra Credit:

There are two – but only two – circumstances wherein I give extra credit:

1. On rare occasions, if attendance happens to be low for a particular lecture, I will give extra credit points to those who came to class that day. Most of life is about having the grit to show up and put in the time, and I reward that when I can.
2. If you memorize and can recite the Gettysburg Address – one of the seminal documents of American history – I will award you five extra points on any one of your exam grades. Anyone can do this at any point in the semester.

Extra Assistance:

If you ever need extra assistance with any aspect of the course, your first step should be to contact me or our Teaching Associate so we can help. In addition, there are several other valuable resources available to you:

- **History Help Center:** The School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry operates a Help Center (HC) located in Wooten Hall 220 (phone: 940-565-4772). The HC is staffed by graduate students in history and can provide help with studying for an exam, advice on how to study, take notes, and the like.
- **UNT Writing Center:** The UNT Writing Center offers help with all aspects of writing and is a terrific resource. For more information, see: <http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>.
- **UNT Learning Center:** UNT maintains an excellent Learning Center geared entirely toward providing students with resources for improving classroom success, with specialized tutoring and programs on issues such as time management and test-taking strategies. For more information, see: <http://learningcenter.unt.edu/>.
- **UNT Career Center:** UNT has an excellent Career Center—with a dedicated advisor for History Majors—to help you discover potential careers, learn to market yourself, create effective resumes, prepare for interviews, and build valuable networks: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU

Food/Housing Insecurity

Any student with difficulty accessing sufficient food or who lacks a safe and stable place to live is urged to contact the Dean of Students (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/>). For information about the UNT Food Pantry, please see: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry>.

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>).
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>).
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>).
- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>).
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>).

Office of Disability Access Statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault:

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs. You may reach UNT's Survivor Advocate directly at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry>)