

**University of North Texas**  
**Department of History**  
**HIST 2610.001: United States History to 1865**  
**Monday-Thursday, 10:00-11:50 a.m.**

**Instructor: Dr. Alex Mendoza**

**Office: WH 233**

**Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 9:00 to 9:50 a.m., or by appointment**

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**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

- **Chris Menking**                      **Email: [ChristopherMenking@my.unt.edu](mailto:ChristopherMenking@my.unt.edu)**
  
- **Luke Truxal**                        **Email: [LukeTruxal@my.unt.edu](mailto:LukeTruxal@my.unt.edu)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

History 2610, the first half of the American History sequence, covers the period up to 1865. The course is designed to acquaint students with the basic concepts, events, and interpretations of the American historical experience. This course seeks to introduce the student to American history by covering the colonization of North America, the American Revolution, the expansion of the United States, race relations and slavery, the Civil War, and political history.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

To gain an appreciation for the influence of the period under study in this course on the events of today. How did the United States develop its political system? How has the Constitution influenced the development of the United States? Why, after well over a century, do the Civil War and Reconstruction still divide the nation in many ways? You will find answers to these questions and more in this class.

**TEXTS:**

- **James Oakes, et al., *Of the People: A History of the U.S.*, volume I (ISBN: 9780199924745)**

**GRADING:**

The grade breakdown is as follows:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| ▪ <b>Exam I</b>                         | <b>20%</b> |
| ▪ <b>Exam II</b>                        | <b>20%</b> |
| ▪ <b>Exam III</b>                       | <b>20%</b> |
| ▪ <b>Final Exam</b>                     | <b>25%</b> |
| ▪ <b>Blackboard Assignments (2)</b>     | <b>10%</b> |
| ▪ <b>Attendance/Class Participation</b> | <b>05%</b> |

Generally speaking, a grade of 90.00% corresponds to a borderline A- and 89.99% to a B+; 80% is the line between a B- and a C+ and so on. **Grades will not be curved in this course.** No extra credit will be accepted to substitute for poor test grades. It is the professor's policy not to grant incompletes.

## **EXAMS:**

Four exams (three tests and a final) will be administered during the summer session. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, short identification/fill-in-the blank, and an essay component. Each exam will focus on lectures and assigned readings from the textbook. **Each exam comprises 20% of overall grade and the final (comprehensive) is 25%.**

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

In addition to the scheduled tests, students are required to turn in **TWO** Blackboard assignments in class this Summer I. The assignments will come from documents which will be posted on the course Blackboard. The format for the assignments will rely on the reading of a primary source document and/or essay and a written response to the professor's questions in an essay-type format. Specific instructions for each assignment will be distributed during the first week of class. It is the student's responsibility to access Blackboard on the due dates (June 10 and June 23). **The average of the assignments will comprise 10% of the overall grade.**

## **ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

Five percent (**05%**) of your grade will be based on class attendance. In regards to the class attendance component, all students are allowed one absence to use at their discretion, regardless of the reason. After which, students will be deducted points from the final course grade. **Arriving late and leaving class early is subject to being counted as an absence.** As per class participation, I will occasionally call on students to answer questions or to explore themes related to the individual topics. From time to time, the professor will pose questions to the class, but feel free to initiate your own comments and ask questions related to course material, and respond to the questions and comments made by others.

## **USE OF BLACKBOARD:**

The instructor will use UNT's Blackboard platform to distribute information throughout the semester. Lecture outlines, exam reviews, the Blackboard assignments will all be found on the course Blackboard page. Students must learn the process of accessing course information and quiz materials on specific dates. The burden of responsibility lies with the students.

## **MAKEUP POLICY:**

Exams/Quizzes may **NOT** be taken early. Students must arrange work schedules and last-minute travel plans in order to take the tests & quizzes on the scheduled dates. There are no make-ups unless you have some kind of documented medical emergency or university sponsored activity. No excuses will be accepted more than 48 hours after the scheduled test date. Make-up exams will be given only to students who in my opinion have a legitimate excuse, such as a severe illness, or absence due to a University-sponsored activity. The burden of supplying sufficient documentary proof rests upon the student. **There are no reviews for the makeup exams, which are of an entirely different format than the original test.**

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION:**

A Supplemental Instruction (SI) component is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of the material taught in this course. SI sessions are led by a student who has been successful with the course material and has been trained to facilitate group sessions where students can meet to compare class notes, review and discuss important concepts, develop strategies for studying, and prepare for exams. Attendance at SI sessions is free and voluntary. On average, students who attend supplemental instruction once a week, earn a significantly higher course grade than those who do not attend. SI sessions begin the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program, and session schedule/updates, visit:

<http://learningcenter.unt.edu/si>

**HIST 2610.01 Supplemental Instructor: Shayleigh Ward: [shayleighward@gmail.com](mailto:shayleighward@gmail.com)**

## **DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

## **STUDENT ABSENCE FOR UNIVERSITY SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed. Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

## **NOTE TAKING:**

You are expected to take notes during lectures, discussions, and, if applicable, videos. Lecture outlines and exam study guides will assist you in this process. However, it is not enough simply to copy the lecture outline—you must take notes in order to do well on exams. Please do not try to follow along with me in your textbook—I do not lecture directly from your book and you will end up missing key points in the lecture and the point(s) I am trying to make. If you miss a class, check with your fellow students to see if someone will lend you their notes. The professor does not provide lecture notes.

## **USE OF EMAIL:**

Feel free to e-mail me in regard to anything related to the class, the topic, or professional requests. Please do not e-mail me or the Teaching Assistant in regard to specific grades. My class policy is to not discuss specific grades via email. We will not respond to grade queries for reasons of student privacy, or anything we deem inappropriate or unprofessional. I also retain the right to forward all such e-mails to university officials.

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES:**

- Cell Phones: Please remember to turn off phones prior to class.
- If you are having trouble with this class, please come by my office during office hours.

## **WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU:**

- Keep up with the readings & take all exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates
- Please do not come to class late. If there is a reason why you must be late, try to be quiet as you come in.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ME:**

- My lectures will be well-prepared and organized.
- I will see that your exams are graded as promptly and accurately as possible.

## **NOTE:**

**It is understood that remaining in this class constitutes an agreed to abide by the terms outlined in this syllabus and an acceptance of the requirements outlined in this document. This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion. All changes will be provided verbally in class.**

Schedule of Lecture Topics (subject to change)

Date	Lecture Subject	Assigned Reading (Oakes Text)
<b>Week One: From Colony to Independence</b>		
June 06	00 Course Description and Expectations 01 The New World	<b>Oakes (O)</b> , <i>Of the People</i> , Pgs., 5-30
June 07	02 The British Colonies 03 Colonial Slavery	<b>O</b> , pgs., 35-37, 45-57 <b>O</b> , pgs., 97-100, 125-129, 140-142
June 08	04 A Revolutionary Crisis 05 Causes of the American Revolution	<b>O</b> , pgs., 143-150 <b>O</b> , pgs., 155-181
June 09	06 The American Revolution 07 The American Revolution, cont.	<b>O</b> , pgs., 185-216
<b>June 10</b>	<b>Blackboard Assignment #1 (no class meeting)</b>	
<b>Week Two: The Early National Period</b>		
<b>June 13</b>	<b>Exam I</b>	
June 14	08 The Age of Washington 09 The Age of Jefferson	<b>O</b> , pgs., 221-228, 231-235, 240-248 <b>O</b> , pgs., 253-260
June 15	10 The War of 1812: The Second American Revolution 11 Nationalism and Sectionalism	<b>O</b> , pgs., 260-264 <b>O</b> , pgs., 264-272
June 16	12 Andrew Jackson & the Age of the Common Man 13 Andrew Jackson & the Age of the Common Man, cont.	<b>O</b> , pgs., 285-296, 309-322
<b>Week Three: Conflict and Change</b>		
<b>June 20</b>	<b>Exam II</b>	
June 21	14 Anglo-Indian Relations 15 American Government and the Economy	<b>O</b> , pgs., 272-274, 312-316 <b>O</b> , pgs., 270-272, 311-312
June 22	16 The Transportation Revolution 17 Antebellum Slavery	<b>O</b> , pgs., 267-271 <b>O</b> , pgs., 296-308
<b>June 23</b>	<b>Blackboard Assignment #2 (no class meeting)</b>	
<b>Week Four: The Antebellum Period</b>		
June 27	18 Reform and Abolitionism 19 Territorial Expansion	<b>O</b> , pgs., 327-352 <b>O</b> , pgs., 361-372
June 28	20 The War with Mexico	<b>O</b> , pgs., 373-381
<b>June 29</b>	<b>Exam III</b>	
June 30	21 Developing Sectionalism 22 The Outbreak of the Civil War	<b>O</b> , pgs., 385-405 <b>O</b> , pgs., 406-410
<b>Week Five: The Civil War Era</b>		
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Holiday—No Class Scheduled</b>	
July 5	23 The Civil War (Military), Part I 24 The Civil War (Society)	<b>O</b> , pgs., 415-428 <b>O</b> , pgs., 428-435, 439-442
July 6	25 The Civil War (Military), Part II 26 The Impact of the Civil War	<b>O</b> , pgs., 435-439, 442-446 <b>O</b> , pgs., 446-448
July 7	27 Summary Day	

**Comprehensive Final Exam (Week 1 to Week 5)**

**July 8, 10:00 to 11:50 a.m.**