

University of North Texas
Department of History
HIST 2610.012: United States History to 1865
Fall 2012
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 to 3:20 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Alex Mendoza
Office: WH 233
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 p.m., 3:30-5:00 p.m., or by appointment
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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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:

- **Carol Berkin, *Making America* (brief edition), volume I**
- **Randolph Campbell, ed., *Reader in American History*, volume I**

GRADING:

The grade breakdown is as follows:

- **Exam I** **25%**
- **Exam II** **25%**
- **Final Exam** **25%**
- **Quizzes (2)** **20% (10% each)**
- **Paper** **05%**

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:

Three exams (two midterms and a final) will be administered during the semester. 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 25% of overall grade.**

QUIZZES:

In addition to the scheduled tests, students are required to take Three (3) quizzes this semester from the Campbell reader. The format for the quizzes will be multiple-choice. Specific instructions for each quiz will be distributed later this semester. **Each quiz is worth 10% of student's overall grade and the lowest grade of the three will be dropped at the end of the semester (thus, top 2 quiz grades for a 20% total).**

HISTORICAL PAPER:

Students will be required to write a 2-3 page paper on a historical era covered in HIST 2610. A detailed description of the essay requirements will be distributed later during the semester. **The paper is worth 5% of the student's overall grade** and will be due on the last week of class, **Tuesday, December 4**. Students who fail to turn in the assigned paper will be penalized a letter grade a day (including weekends) until the instructor personally receives the assignment.

USE OF BLACKBOARD:

The instructor will use UNT's Blackboard platform to distribute information throughout the semester. Lecture outlines, exam reviews, the four semester quizzes 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.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Attendance in class is an individual student responsibility. Because class lectures do not merely repeat material in the reading assignments, regular attendance and note-taking in class is highly recommended. For the purposes of helping the professor, monitor examinations and get a general idea of class attendance trends, attendance may be checked via sign-sheets. However, grade penalties for non-attendance will not be applied.

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 already mastered 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. Students may attend as many times as they choose. 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/>.

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. 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. 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 (Berkin Text)
01	Aug 30	Course Description/The New World	Berkin (B) , et al., chapters 1-2
02	Sep 04	The British Colonies	B , chapter 3
03	Sep 06	Colonial Life	B , chapter 4
04	Sep 11	Colonial Slavery	B , chapters 3-4
	Sep 13	Colonial Slavery II Quiz 1—Campbell <i>Reader</i>	Campbell <i>Reader</i> : chapters 1-7
05	Sep 18	A Revolutionary Crisis	B , chapter 5
06	Sep 20	The American Revolution	B , chapter 6
07	Sep 25	A Leap in the Dark: The United States, Post Revolution	B , chapter 7
	Sep 27	Exam I	
08	Oct 02	The Age of Washington	B , chapter 7
09	Oct 04	Jefferson, a Man of the People	B , chapters 8-9
10	Oct 09	The War of 1812: The Second American Revolution	B , chapter 9
11	Oct 11	The Dynamics of Growth	B , chapters 10-11
	Oct 16	Transportation Revolution Quiz 2—Campbell <i>Reader</i>	Campbell <i>Reader</i> : chapters 8-13
12	Oct 18	The Old South and the Cotton Kingdom	B , chapter 11
13	Oct 23	Andrew Jackson & the Age of the Common Man	B , chapter 12
14	Oct 25	Anglo-Indian Relations	B , chapter 12
	Oct 30	Exam II	
15	Nov 01	Abolitionists and Reform	B , chapter 12
16	Nov 06	Territorial Expansion	B , chapter 13
17	Nov 08	Developing Sectionalism	B , chapter 13
18	Nov 13	The Outbreak of War	B , chapter 13
	Nov 15	Mobilization Quiz 3—Campbell <i>Reader</i>	Campbell <i>Reader</i> : chapters 14-20
19	Nov 20	Reading/Writing Day	
	Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day: No Classes Scheduled	
20	Nov 27	The Civil War (Military)	B , chapter 14
21	Nov 29	The Civil War (Society)	B , chapter 14
22	Dec 04	The Impact of the Civil War History Paper Due	B , chapters 14-15
23	Dec 06	Summary Day	

Final Exam

Thursday December 13, 2012 (1:30 to 3:30 p.m.)