

Dr. Donald K. Mitchener
Office: Wooten Hall Room 228
e-mail: donald.mitchener@unt.edu

Required Textbook:

Carnes and Garraty. *American Destiny: Narrative of a Nation*, 4th ed., Vol. I.

Purpose of Course:

To provide the student with an understanding of the political, economic, and social development of the United States from pre-history until the end of the Civil War. It is hoped that each student also will learn to apply this knowledge in the making of contemporary political, economic, and social decisions.

Course Requirements and Grading Policies:

There will be three (3) tests and a final. All will be graded on a strict 100-point scale.

The final will **NOT** be comprehensive.

The grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 90 - 100 points
B = 80 - 89 points
C = 70 - 79 points
D = 60 - 69 points
F = 59 and below

Tentative Calendar (Subject to Change)

The major exam schedule is as follows:

Test 1	Friday, 19 September
Test 2	Friday, 10 October
Test 3	Wednesday, 5 November
Final	Friday, 12 December (8 – 10 am)

No extra credit work outside of the opportunity provided on the final will be assigned or accepted.

Students will take three (3) tests and a final. There will be an up-to-15-point, extra-credit question on the final. **All** points will be added together and the total will be divided by the number of tests (4). The numerical result will be translated into a letter grade according to the table above.

Structure of Major Exams:

Major exams will consist of one (1) 30-point essay question, three (3) 10-point short answer questions, and twenty (20) 2-point fill-in-the-blank sentences. You will have 50 minutes each for tests 1, 2, and 3. You will have 2 hours for the final. Students will be given a review sheet before each major exam that contains questions and terms from which those on the exam will be chosen. It is expected that each student will use the review sheet to prepare for the test. Student essays are expected to be responsive to the questions asked, coherently constructed, and grammatically sound. The most important objective when answering essay questions should be the **demonstration** of what the student knows about the subject being addressed. Provide as many details as you can. Exam essays will be graded with these criteria in mind.

Punctuality and attendance:

Students are expected to be on time for all class meetings and examinations. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Attendance will be used, at the instructor's discretion, to determine whether or not the student receives the instructor's "benefit of the doubt" when grades are assigned at the end of the semester.

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday 12 noon – 4 pm in Wooten Hall Rm 228

Contacting Your Instructor:

It is best to contact your instructor via email. I am not in my office outside of office hours very often, but I check my email regularly. I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Information Concerning Grades:

FERPA rules require that information concerning grades be communicated directly to students by the instructor. This means that **I cannot communicate information concerning a student's grades via email or telephone.** The instructor and student must meet face-to-face.

Handout and Test Return Policy:

Those students missing class when instructional items and graded tests are distributed can pick up missed materials and graded tests during office hours.

Class Notes:

Special circumstances excepted, the instructor will *not* furnish class notes or copies of the presentations to students. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from one of your fellow students in the class.

Student Behavior:

Students are expected to act like responsible adults in class. This means no talking or engaging in any other disruptive activity once class has begun. Students may speak when called upon by the instructor or, within reason, when reacting to something done or said by the instructor. Students who fail to comply with this standard of behavior will receive two warnings. If a third warning proves necessary, then the offending student/students will be told to leave the classroom.

Persons who are late getting to class on the day of a test or on the day of the final will not be allowed to take the test/final if they arrive after any students have completed and handed in their tests. Know what day your exams are being given and get to class on time.

Students may not leave class while an exam is being administered. If you have special circumstances, you will need to meet with the instructor before the first exam so that arrangements can be made.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones will be turned *completely off*. If a student needs to have the cell phone on vibrate for some reason, he or she must see the instructor before class for permission.

During tests, cell phones and all other electronic devices must be put away so that they are not visible to the student. No text messaging allowed. Sending or receiving text messages during an exam will be considered prima facie evidence of cheating and will be handled accordingly.

Use of Computers in Class:

Students may use computers to take notes in class. However....

While the instructor understands the popularity and convenience of laptops for this purpose, he also knows that far too often students use their computers to play games and surf the Internet. The misuse of a computer during class in this manner not only harms the student engaged in the activity, but it also is a distraction to others around the student who might actually be in class for the purpose of taking notes in preparation for the tests. To protect the studious, students who misuse their computers in this way will, when caught, be told to shut off their computer.

Make-up Policy for Major Exams

A student missing the First, Second, or Third Exam must be made up within a week. This means, for instance, that if the exam is given on a Monday, then, if missed, it must be made up by the beginning of class on the following Monday. A make-up exam will be placed in the History Help Center for students who **meet with the instructor** and arrange to take the make-up. Make-up exams **will not** be automatically placed in the Help Center. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that a missed exam is made up within the specified one-week period. Unless other arrangements are made with the instructor, all students who do not make up a test within the one-week make-up period will receive a "0" ["zero"] for that exam. **THE MAKE-UP EXAM IS ONE ESSAY QUESTION FOR 100 POINTS.** If this appears to be harsh, the instructor's advice is that the student not miss the exam in the first place.

Disability Accommodation (ADA/ODA):

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. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

Academic Ethics (Cheating and Plagiarism):

Students will be held accountable for acts of cheating, dishonesty, or plagiarism as defined in the student handbook. This includes, by the way, the use of cell phones to text answers to one another during an exam. Any student found to be engaging in any form of dishonest conduct during the taking of an exam will be expelled from that particular class period and will receive a "0" ["zero"] for that exam.

History Help Center:

Located in Wooten Hall, Room 220, the History Help Center provides assistance to students enrolled in history courses at UNT.

The Instructor reserves the right to make changes to any and all of the forgoing descriptions, instructions and/or information at his discretion.

Lectures and Readings

(chapters from *American Destiny: Narrative of a Nation*, 4th ed., Vol. I)

1. Early Native American Overview	1
2. English and British Rulers	1
3. Roots of the English Reformation	1
4. European Expansion	1
5. The Colonial Period	2 – 3
6. Britain Gains Control of North America	3
7. The Rights of Englishmen and Political Life of the Early Colonies	3
8. Growing Differences with Britain	3
9. The American Revolution	4
10. The Nation Under the Articles of Confederation	4
11. Framing the Constitution	5
12. The Federalist Period	5
13. Thomas Jefferson as President	6
14. The War of 1812	7
15. The Post-War of 1812 Period	7 – 8
16. The Jacksonian Era	9 – 10
17. The United States Expands to the Pacific	7 & 11
18. Sectionalism and Slavery Lead to Disunion	7 & 12 – 13
19. The Civil War	14