**HIST 1312-014**

**(Available on Blackboard)**

**History of the United States since 1865**

***(Fall 2015)***

**INSTRUCTOR FOR THIS COURSE SECTION:** Mr. Michael Deliz

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**WEBSITE:** www.michaeldeliz.com

**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS:** Make an appointment by email and then we can video chat by Skype or any other preferred service.

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT:** An introduction to the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States since 1865. This course is designed to help students understand and evaluate their society, comprehend the historical experience, and further develop reading and writing competencies and critical thinking skills. A great portion of the course will focus upon primary source historical documents and their interpretation.

**CLASS PREREQUISITES**: Completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, ENGL 1301

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS**:

1. **Corbett, et al. *U.S. History***:This is a FREE textbook. The book is viewable online and can also be downloaded as a PDF document. A link to the textbook is available through Blackboard.
2. Other documents for reading assignments will be made available on Blackboard.
3. Access to the internet.

**HOW TO ACCESS THE COURSE:** This course resides in Blackboard ([elearn.uta.edu](https://elearn.uta.edu/)) and will be made available to registered students at the start of the semester. *Note that you will not be able to see the class listed in Blackboard until it is opened to students*.

**INTERNET CONNECTION:** To successfully complete this course you will need regular access to a computer and reliable Internet service. If you are using a tablet or laptop, you have the option to connect to the campus WiFi while on campus. You can also use the computers in the UTA library or the campus computer labs (remember to use headphones in such public locations). Whether you will regularly access the system from home or from campus, be sure to seek out alternative locales where you can access the internet in case of localized internet outages.

**SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:** There are two basic software programs you will need for this course and you may already have these installed. You will need an up-to-date internet browser (such as Firefox or Chrome) and a word processing application (such as Microsoft Word or GoogleDocs).

*About internet browsers****:***The recommended browser for Blackboard is Firefox.  Because the browser is a key tool in communicating with the course you should also have secondary browser such as Chrome available on your computer just in case. Any of the latest editions of the popular browsers will work with Blackboard, but if you run into issues viewing material on Blackboard make sure to try viewing with a different browser. In the past, users of Safari and users of browsers on mobile devices have experienced some technical issues.

*About word-processing applications*: If you do not already have it, Microsoft Office is available from the UTA Bookstore for a substantial discount. If you do not have Microsoft Office, and want to save some money you may want to look into free alternatives such as GoogleDocs (<https://www.google.com/docs/about/>) or LibreOffice (<https://www.libreoffice.org/>).

**REQUIRED COMPUTER SKILLS:** Online students need basic computer skills to do well in this course.  Basic computer skills include:

* Accessing and logging into Blackboard
* Sending and receiving email through your Mavs student email account
* Attaching files and opening attachments
* Using the basics of Microsoft Office software or alternatives.

**NOTE:** If you fear that the these basic skills are beyond your current skill-set please visit Nancy Grande, the History Department Undergraduate Advisor, and request to be placed into a traditional in-classroom class.

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:** If you have not already done so, you should check to make sure that your system is configured correctly.  Go to <http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/system-configuration.php> to see a list of requirements.  If you are not at the most recent update, you may have issues opening some items in Blackboard***.***

*If you encounter technical problems:* Technical issues can be cause by many factors and diagnosing them can be difficult and time consuming, make sure you identify alternative modes of accessing the course in case your system fails. Look for alternative internet access points such as local coffee shop or by using the campus computers. There are also laptops that can be checked-out for use at the library. Contact UTA’s OIT Help Desk if technical issues are beyond your skill set (<https://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/helpdesk/>).

**UTA CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES:**

The state of Texas requires specific objectives for general education “core” courses.  The state objectives for General Education History courses require that students learn critical thinking and communication skills (written, oral, visual) ; teamwork skills;; personal responsibility (ethics) and social responsibility (civics).  This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in social and behavioral sciences.

* **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
* **Communication Skills**: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
* **Teamwork**: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
* **Personal Responsibility**: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
* **Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**:

During this course, students will learn how to:

* identify key events, peoples, individuals, terms, periods, and chronology of the history of the United States; distinguish between historical fact and historical interpretation; and connect historical events in chronological chain(s) of cause and effect
* develop critical thinking skills by discussing the living nature of history, using historical evidence to critique competing interpretations of the same historical events, explaining the nature of historical controversies
* synthesize diverse historical information and evidence related to broad themes of U.S. history and present this information in coherent, well-articulated, and well-substantiated analytical discussions and other written assignments
* develop the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making by examining the motivations and actions of key figures in U.S. history
* develop an understanding of civic and social responsibility by examining interactions within and between regional, national, and global communities in U.S. history
* demonstrate basic awareness of the historical geography of the United States
* make historical connections to present-day current events.

**FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:**

I expect that students will

* not cheat, plagiarize, collude or commit other acts of academic dishonesty
* participate fully by being prepared for discussions and other assignments. Being prepared means doing your reading, watching videos, perusing all links in this website and covering all materials presented
* do college-level work in all written assignments.  You will receive specific and detailed instructions for all assessments within this course, follow them.  Proofread for grammar and prose (turning in sloppy work with many grammatical errors is not college level - if you have problems with writing on a college level, utilize the services of the Writing Center)
* turn in work on time
* show respect to your instructor and your fellow students in all interactions
* ask for help when needed

**ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS:**

* **EXAMS:** There will be **two (2) exams** (a midterm and a final).
* **LECTURE QUIZZES**: There will be **twelve (12) quizzes**; the two lowest scores will be dropped, so only ten (10) will count.
* **LECTURE DISCUSSIONS:** There will be **twelve (12) discussions**; The two lowest scores will de dropped, so only ten (10) will count
* **GROUP PROJECT:** There is **one (1) group project** which will requirecooperation with other students in the course.
* **TERM PAPER**: All students must complete **one (1) research paper** using the standards and practices of the field of History as detailed in the term paper instructions.

**GRADING POLICY:**

The coursework for this course accumulates to 350 points, those points are distributed as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Points |
| Mid-Term Exam | 50 |
| Final Exam | 50 |
| Group Project | 50 |
| Term Paper | 50 |
| Lecture Quizzes (best 10 of 12, at 10 pts. each) | 100 |
| Lecture Discussions (best 10 of 12, at 10 pts. each) | 50 |
| Total | 350 |

Final course grades will be calculated using a ten-point scale as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| % Range | Final Grade |
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89.99 | B |
| 70-79.99 | C |
| 60 – 69.99 | D |
| <59.99 | F |

**ATTENDANCE:** Student log-ins are recorded on Blackboard and so are the student interactions with the modules. This interaction (watching video lectures, reading assigned texts, and completing the assignments ) counts as your attendance on a weekly basis. Regular attendance is expected, and ultimately it is impossible to complete this course, much less pass it successfully, without a weekly commitment to engage the material. For this reason attendance is not figured as a separate grade but is already calculated within the value of the assignments. However, attendance will be used to favorably “bump up” students to the higher grade if at the end of the semester the final grade percentage is within the margin for rounding up (= or > than 0.5%).

**Extra-Credit**: I will judge this on a class-wide basis. There will not be any individual extra-credit, but if the class as a whole appears to need an extra assignment or some kind of grade adjustment I will consider it as it is needed.

**TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments and assessments will be uploaded or completed through the Blackboard course module and all submitted assignments will be run through SafeAssign checking for plagiarism. No emailed submissions are accepted for grading. If you are having technical issues with completing or uploading and assignment in Blackboard, you must notify me via email *prior to the deadline for completion/submission*. If you are having problems uploading a completed assignment, you must attach your assignment file to your email notifying my of your technical issues as evidence you completed the assignment on time. Once your technical issue is resolved, you will be required to submit the same file through Blackboard for grading. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm *Central Time*.

**LATE PAPER AND MAKE-UP POLICY:** If you know there is going to be a conflict with a due date or expect an interruption in your course participation, contact me ***before*** the window of opportunity for that assignment/test closes and we will come up with an appropriate plan of action.

**GRADE GREVANCES**: You will typically receive your grade and feedback on an assignment within one week. If, for some reason, there will be a delay in return of grades, I will post an announcement and send a class email with further details. I will also make an announcement when the grading of an assignment is complete and all grades are posted. If you feel I made an error in evaluating your grade contact me. Any appeal of a grade beyond the instructor in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

[see <http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19>]

**EXPECTATIONS FOR TIME SPENT IN STUDY**: In a traditional long semester face-to-face course, a general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 2-3 hours per week working outside of class. This is a three credit hour course, therefore students enrolled in an on-campus version of this course would expect to spend at least an additional *6-9* hours per week of their own time (in addition to the three hours of face to face classroom time) in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**PARTICIPATION:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. Since this is an online course, attendance means regularly (at minimum weekly) accessing the course module and moving through the materials in a timely manner. There is no grade based upon simply accessing the module. Students are responsible for being aware of all windows of opportunity for completing assignments and tests. The full course calendar is available in the Blackboard course module and an overview is provided below.

**DROP POLICY:** contact ***your advisor*** for drop policies. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**A RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** It is the goal of the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts to create and maintain a respectful learning environment in online courses. The official policy concerning communications within this course is stated below:

*When contacting your instructor via email, remember to construct your messages both respectfully and carefully (be as specific as possible with your questions). In this course, as with any other UTA course, your communication with students and faculty should be the utmost professional. When communicating with your peers and instructor, there will be NO discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, ideology, political affiliation, veteran status, age, physical handicap, or marital status. Keep in mind that instructors reserve the right to manage a positive learning environment and thus will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. All UTA students are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with UTA's Standard Code of Conduct. Students violating these codes will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.*

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. ***Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.***

The History Department takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Copying or closely paraphrasing directly from the text or internet sites without proper citation as plagiarism. If in doubt, cite. ***If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty on an assignment, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you are found guilty of cheating on a second assignment, you will receive an F (0) for the course.*** We will refer all cases of suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

*NOTICE: All assignments submitted to Blackboard will be run through SafeAssign to check for plagiarism.*

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**TITLE IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:** *The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.*

This course consists of **15 topics** divided into **4 units**. You will have windows of opportunity to complete the content materials and assignments associated with each unit. Units will open according to the overview calendar below. You may work through the course materials in a unit at your own pace, but be cognizant of any due dates associated with the unit assignments. A full and detailed schedule (including any interim due dates for assignments, projects and discussions) can be found in the master course calendar in the Blackboard course module.

Each topic will contain assigned readings from the texts as well as links to other materials, websites, lecture videos, etc. Work in order from top to bottom in both the Unit folder and each individual topic folder. Pay particular attention to the unit overview and the study guides for each individual topic.