University of Texas at Arlington

**HIST 1311**

**U.S. History to 1865**

**Spring 2017**

**Class Meetings:** MWF 9:00-9:50am UH121

**Instructor:** Dr. Jonathan Abel

**Contact:** jonathan.abel@uta.edu

**Office**: UH 228A MW 11:00am-12pm

**GTA:** William Hansard

**Course Objectives:** An introduction to the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States prior to 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 skills. Prerequisite: completion of or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 1301.

**Text:** Corbett., et al., *US History*. This text is free and available at <https://openstax.org/details/us-history>. Please use it at your leisure to follow along with course material. There are no assigned readings, homework, or other work from it.

**Course Requirements:**

**Tests**: 4 Exams worth 20% of final grade each

Test 1: Wednesday, 15 February

Test 2: Friday, 10 March

Test 3: Wednesday, 12 April

Test 4: Week of Finals

**Exam Content:**

25 Multiple Choice Questions worth 2 points each. (50 points)

1 Essay worth 50 Points

\*You’ll need to purchase 4 Scantron forms and 4 Blue/Green Books

**Makeup Exams**: Please do not miss a test. **Vacation is not an excuse for missing a test.** If you miss class on the day of the test, you must **email the GTA as soon as possible** to schedule a makeup within a week of the original test date.

**Paper Assignment:** Check Blackboard for the paper assignment, which will be 20% of your grade.

**Grading:**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows, evenly averaging your test grades and your paper assignment:

Average: Final grade:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

below 60 F

**UTA Core Curriculum Objectives:**

The state of Texas requires specific objectives for general education “core” courses.  The state objectives for “general ed” courses require that students learn critical thinking and communication (written, oral, visual) skills; teamwork skills; quantitative reasoning; personal responsibility (ethics) and social responsibility (civics).  This course partially satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington component area requirement in American History and addresses Critical Thinking, Communication, Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility objectives.

* **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.*Must be addressed in all core curriculum courses.*
* **Communication Skills**: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.*Must be addressed in all core curriculum courses.*
* **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:*
  + Mathematics
  + Life and Physical Sciences
  + Social and Behavioral Sciences
  + Component Area Option of Mathematics and Logic
* **Teamwork**: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:* 
  + Life and Physical Sciences
  + Creative Arts
  + Communication
* **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:*
  + Communication
  + Language, Philosophy and Culture
  + American History
  + Government/Political Science
* **Social Responsibility**: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities. *Must be addressed in all core courses that satisfy the following requirements:* 
  + Language, Philosophy and Culture
  + Creative Arts
  + American History
  + Government/Political Science
  + Social and Behavioral Sciences

**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

**FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:**

We 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

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. 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/>).

**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).

**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.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

**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>. **Please do not use Blackboard mail/messaging; instead, use your university email account.**

**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>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**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).

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of campus emergency, call the UTA Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

**Blackboard:** All relevant class materials, including this syllabus, are posted on the course Blackboard on the UTA website. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, please become so quickly. You will use it, or a form of it, throughout your future academic career. I will post your grades on the Blackboard as well, so you’ll have access to your average at any time. In addition, I may post interesting videos, speeches, and text to the Blackboard page throughout the semester for those of you more interested in history or the course material.

**Attendance**: There is no formal attendance policy for the course. You are a consumer who purchased this course; if you choose not to attend, your grade will most likely suffer. That is your choice to make. Being a Winter Intercession class, missing class will seriously harm your ability to make a decent grade. Please do not miss class unless you absolutely must – you signed up for a class that meets 5 days a week for 4 hours, so please be there.

As such, you are each also expected to treat your instructor and classmates with respect at all times. This includes not talking while the instructor is talking; not using cell phones, laptop computers, and other electronics as distractions during class; not wearing headphones during class; and arriving on time and not leaving early except in an emergency.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

Unit I Origins of America Slavery Colonial Period Revolution

Unit II The Constitution The New Nation Early Conflicts

Unit III Jackson’s America Nationalism and Sectionalism Westward Expansion

Unit IV The 1850s The Civil War

**Technology:** This course is lecture-based. As such, I strongly encourage everyone to type notes on a laptop, if you have or can get one. I would also encourage you to record the class on your phones or another recording device. You do not need to ask me beforehand if you wish to do either of these. Do not let them become distractions, either to yourself or your fellow students.

**Grade Grievances:** If you feel you haven’t been graded fairly, please contact your GTA and discuss the issue. If that fails to resolve it, please ask me directly. I will have final say on all subjective grading matters, including late/missed work.

**I retain the right to alter this schedule but will inform students of any such alterations.**