COASTAL BEND COLLEGE - SYLLABUS

HISTORY 1301

UNITED STATES HISTORY BEFORE 1865

INSTRUCTOR: Edward M. Massey

OFFICE: C-160

SEMESTER HOURS: 3

PHONE: 354-2420


COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History of the United States from colonization to reconstruction. Particular attention is devoted to the periods of discovery, exploration, settlement, development, the Revolution, the Constitution, expansion, slavery, and the Civil War. Three hours per week.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition;

2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures;

3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories;

4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues;

5. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area of study;

6. Understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world;

7. Differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentarily and statistically) and different points of view;
8. Recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research; and

9. Identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.

Coastal Bend College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national, origin, gender, age, or disability.

Class schedule:

Week 1  Chapter 1 and 2
Week 2  Chapter 3
Week 3  Chapter 4
Week 4  Chapter 5
Week 5  Review, Exam 1
Week 6  Chapter 6
Week 7  Chapter 7
Week 8  Chapter 8
Week 9  Chapter 9 and 10
Week 10 Review, Exam 2
Week 11  Chapter 11 and 12
Week 12  Chapter 13
Week 13  Chapter 14
Week 14  Chapter 15
Week 15  Review, Exam 3
Week 16 Final Exam
METHOD OF EVALUATION:

The three major exams plus a comprehensive final will be given during the semester. The regular exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions based on the objectives given for each textbook chapter. The lowest of the three regular exam grades will be dropped. Exams will be announced in advance. In addition students may elect to earn additional points by writing a book report or completing a term paper. Book reports and term papers must be written according to the guidelines furnished by the instructor. Those students wishing to do a book report or term paper must see the instructor before the announced deadline to clear the book or term paper topic. Extra credit papers must be submitted as word document attachments through blackboard (webct) email. The deadline for turning in the book report or term paper is TBA. Students must clear the term paper or book by TBA.

Your final grade will be determined by the average of your exam scores as follows:

A = 90 or above
B = 80 - 89
C = 70 - 79
D = 60 - 69
F = below 60

If you are concerned about your progress in this class, see the instructor or seek assistance in the Learning Assistance Center.

A research paper may raise the final average by up to 5 points.

A book report may raise the final average by up to 2 points.

Book reports and research papers must be written according to the guidelines furnished by the instructor. Those students wishing to write a book report or term paper must see the instructor before the announced deadline.

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to make every effort to attend classes. Students who miss more than 4 Daytime classes or 2 Night classes are subject to being dropped from class or given the grade of "F". Absence due to officially sponsored college events which are cleared by memo from the appropriate CBC Vice President will not be counted as absences. If a student arrives at class after attendance has been taken it is the student’s responsibility to insure that the absence is removed. Habitual tardiness may result in the student being dropped from class.

**DEFINITION OF ABSENCE:**

An "absence" means that a student is not physically present at the scheduled class meeting and that the instructor has not been notified by the Vice President for Instructional Services that the student is excused from class to participate in an official college activity.

**MISSED EXAMS:**

In addition to the CBC academic regulations regarding attendance, it is expected that the student will make EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO BE PRESENT FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED EXAMS. If a student misses a regular exam it will become the drop grade. Make-up exams will be given only in EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. In such instances, the make-up test will be given THE LAST REGULAR CLASS DAY of the semester. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor for make-up exams. A missed exam which is not made up will be considered a Zero.

**BEHAVIOR:**

Talking and rude or inconsiderate behavior including texting or talking on cell phones in class WILL NOT be tolerated. Students who violate this policy will be warned and if the behavior continues will be dropped from class or given the grade of "F".

Any student found cheating or plagiarizing as defined by the Student Handbook on any assignment or exam will receive a grade of "F" for the class and will be referred to the Student Affairs Office for further action. The use of any aid not specifically approved by the instructor on an exam is considered cheating.

Students who have concerns with this class should follow grievance procedures set forth in the student Handbook. Students should attempt to reconcile their concerns with the instructor first. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the
student can appeal to the Division Chair, Ed Massey, and then to the Dean of Instructional Services, Dr. Bruce Exstrom. See Student Handbook - Grievances.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class, should contact the Counseling Office as soon as possible to make arrangements. In accordance with Federal Law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation of disability to the Special Needs Counselor. For more information, please go by the Counseling Office, or contact:

Beeville Counselor: Eddie Rojas, edrojas@coastalbend.edu (361) 354-2720

Alice Counselor: Bee Berthold, deedee@coastalbend.edu (361)664-2981 Ext 3025

Kingsville Counselor: Pete Trevino, ptreviso@coastalbend.edu (361)591-1615 Ext 407

Pleasanton Counselor: Lauren Denver, ldenver@coastalbend.edu (830)569-4222 Ext 1203

GUIDELINES FOR BOOK REVIEWS

Length:

The book review should be three to four double spaced, typed pages. Reviews of less or more than this will be returned for revision. (Not more than 1100 words.)

Include the following information in your review:

1. A complete bibliography as per example below.


2. What is the general subject of the book?
3. What time periods are encompassed by the main topic of the book?

4. Is the author objective? If not, what are the author's biases?

5. Does the author include a bibliography? Does the author document his information? How?

6. Summarize the author's major ideas.

7. Did you profit from reading the book? If so, how? If not, why?

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPERS FOR HISTORY

In order to receive credit for a research paper, the student must submit a paper prepared in accordance with these guidelines.

Before beginning work on a research paper for History, you should do the following:

1. get the topic approved by the instructor; and,

2. do some preliminary checking of available resources to make sure that you will be able to find enough information about the topic you have selected.

LENGTH: The body of the paper should be 8-10 double-spaced pages. In addition you should include a detailed outline.

A minimum of five different sources of information (books, articles, interviews with resource persons, and/or video material) excluding dictionaries and encyclopedias or text books is required. At least three sources other than the internet must be used. Attach copies of all internet sources used.

Your research paper should be an organized presentation of ideas relevant to the topic you have selected. And, while some of the sources of information you use may present a biased or one-sided view of some issue, your job, as a history student, is to present an objective analysis of the topic. Therefore, you will not only be organizing and summarizing the reference materials used, you will also be evaluating them in terms of their contribution to an objective understanding of the topic of your research.
ORGANIZING AND EVALUATING THE INFORMATION USED:

Be sure that you do each of the following:

1. State clearly the purpose or purposes of your research in the beginning paragraphs of your paper. For example, whether you are describing some historical event (such as the Conquest of Mexico by Cortes), exploring the causes and consequences of some historical event (such as the Crusades), make it clear to your reader from the beginning what you are doing.

2. Follow through with the purpose(s) stated in your opening paragraphs throughout the paper. Avoid including material that is not really relevant to the topic or purpose(s) of your paper.

Students should use either the APA or MLA styles in documenting sources used or get instructor approval for an alternate style.

Student's Name:

Date:

Class:

Proposed Topic for Research Paper:

Book Selected for Book Report:

OK'd

Instructor's Signature