

Course Information for HIST 2301 (11/S1)

Texas is at the crossroads of the world. Everything here is big.

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Course objective: Study of the past tells us where we are, where we came from and, to a large extent, where we are going. The survey course in Texas history is designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge and understanding of the state's institutions through the study of their past development. This course should also provide the student with a better understanding of such germane disciplines as political science (especially Texas government), sociology, philosophy, literature, and economics in addition to preparing the student for careers in teaching, government service, international relations and the law.

Course outcomes: After successfully completing HIST 2301, Texas History from Prehistory to Present, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- various geographic regions of Texas
- classification of native American tribes of Texas
- Spanish exploration/colonization and its unique impact
- the influx of Anglo-Americans into Mexican Texas
- causes of the Texas Revolution and major events of 1835-1836
- successes/failures of Republic of Texas; political strife among Sam Houston and his opponents
- causes of the U.S. annexation of Texas and its place in the Union before 1860
- involvement of Texas in the Civil War and the war's impact upon Texas
- transition of Texas from a rural/agrarian state to an urban/industrial state

Textbook: de la Teja, Jesus, et al., *Texas: Crossroads of North America*

Course outline:

Unit One: Undefined Texas (chs. 2-4)
Unit Two: Defining Texas (chs. 5-9)
Unit Three: Texas Redefined (chs. 10-14)

All of the material in the assigned readings is testable.

Assignments, quizzes, and examinations: During the course of this session there will be two assignments, thirteen chapter quizzes, and three unit examinations. The unit exams will open on **15 June (Unit I), 25 June (Unit II), and 06 July (Unit III)**. Watch the Announcements for the availability of the quizzes, posts, and assignments.

Examination make-up policy: Remember that making up a missed examination is a privilege and **NOT** a right! If you have to miss an exam, contact me for further instructions. I reserve the right to have make-ups administered in a proctored situation, such as the OC Testing Center, Student Success Center, or the LRC. **There are NO make-ups for the chapter quizzes and/or other assignments!!**

Grading policy: All quizzes and examinations are equally weighted. The major exams are worth 100 points each and the quizzes/assignments/posts are worth 20 points each. Final

semester grades will be based on the following scale: **90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and below 60 = F**. To arrive at your average, divide the total number of points you've scored by the total number of possible points (e.g. – 350 total points scored divided by 500 possible points = .70 or a 70 which would translate into a C for the semester grade). The maximum number of points available in this course is 700.

Also, keep in mind that once a grade is assigned, it is **final!!!** The need to retain eligibility, please your parents, get into law school, med school, grad school, etc., may be important reasons to change a grade, but they are not valid. A final semester grade is just that – **final**.

Academic dishonesty: Cheating and/or plagiarism is not be tolerated. Suspected cheating or plagiarism may result in a reexamination in a controlled environment, a failing grade, or dismissal from the course. As per OC Board Policy **the option lies with the instructor:** *In cases of **academic dishonesty**, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties.*

Academic assistance: Help with preparing for exams, writing essays, setting up e-mail, Blackboard, etc., is available at the Student Success Center: 335-6878 or <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/>

Drop/withdrawal policy: The last day to drop/withdraw with a "W" for this semester is Wednesday **29 June 2011**. Drops/withdrawals initiated after this date are granted in only the most extraordinary circumstances and are at the discretion of the instructor. Keep in mind that this is the student's responsibility.

Special needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Vocational Rehabilitation Act and with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Issues with special needs will be referred to the Office of Disability Services.

Miscellaneous reminders:

- 1) **All e-mail communication is to be through OC student e-mail.** While I won't ignore an e-mail from a personal (or other) account, all communication originating from me regarding the course will go to your student e-mail account. This is college policy!
- 2) If you run into a problem (taking a quiz, exam, etc.), please notify me right away so that I can correct it asap. Don't hit the back button on your browser while taking the exam as you will (most likely) get kicked off. I will reset the exam for you, but you should know that the test generator will generate a different exam (the same material, but with different questions) each time.
- 3) If resetting exams/quizzes for you becomes chronic (more than twice), I do reserve the right to have you take a paper exam in a proctored situation. Please be careful while taking the exam(s) and make sure that your system requirements meet those required by Blackboard. If you continue to have problems submitting assignments/exams, you might consider downloading the Mozilla/Firefox browser. For some reason, Blackboard seems to "play nicer" with Mozilla than with Internet Explorer ... as does Google Chrome. Just FYI.
- 4) If you see a **clipboard/writing pad/notepad** where your score should be once you've completed your exam; that indicates that your exam (for whatever reason) wasn't submitted properly. Contact me asap and I will reset it for you. If you see an **exclamation point** where your grade should be, that means that you've gone over the assigned time limit (30 minutes for the quizzes and 30 minutes per assigned chapter for the unit exams). **Anything beyond ten percent of the assigned time limits (that would be more than three minutes over for the quizzes and twelve to fifteen minutes for the unit exams) will result in a two point per minute deduction.**

- 5) Since you don't have to attend lecture and all of the quizzes/exams are "open-book" with more than ample time to complete them (if you are prepared), there is **no** compelling reason to offer "extra-credit" in this course.
- 6) Since there is no lecture component to this course, success is going to largely depend on your reading and comprehension skills. Read and prepare thoroughly. Consider outlining each chapter as you read it. Examine the headings, bold-faced words, and chapter summaries carefully. Contact the Student Success Center if you feel that you need assistance in this area.
- 7) Again, remember that the Student Success Center (inside the LRC) provides computers, tutors, and a good environment to test in. If you run into a (technical) problem, there's someone to help right away. Call 432-335-6878 for additional information
- 8) Again, if you need to contact me, use gfindley@odessa.edu (preferred), 335-6591 (office) or, if it is truly urgent and you need to get in touch right away (afternoons, evenings, weekends, etc.), call me at home (432-362-7713). If I don't answer, leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.