

History 1301
Blinn College – Bryan Campus
Course Information Sheet

Instructor: Nicholas West
Sections: D-3, D-5
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Office Hours: M-R 7:00p-7:30p,
or by appointment

Course Description:

History of the United States I (1301) begins with the migration of people and tribes to the western hemisphere and continues through the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course focuses on major events that occurred in the United States during this period.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites.

Core Curriculum Course:

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Blinn College Core Curriculum web site is:
www.blinncol.edu/corecurriculum.htm

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing History 1301, United States History from Pre-Columbian to 1877, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- Discovery of the Western Hemisphere
- Colonization of North America
- Causes, Events and Results of the American Revolution
- Constitutional Period and Nation Building
- Territorial Expansion
- Causes, Events and Results of the Civil War
- Reconstruction period after the war

Textbooks and Materials:

Textbook: *America: A Narrative History*, Vol. 1, 5th ed., by George Tindall and David Shi.

Readers: *Readings in United States History*, Vol. 1, 5th ed. by Wright, Watson and Brick.
Sam Houston and the American Southwest, 3rd ed. by Randolph B. Campbell.

Materials: Six Scantrons (882-E) will be needed for the exams and quizzes.

ADA Statement:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for documented disabilities. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation. Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office.

Civility Statement:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff, and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may **not** return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

Student E-mail:

Blinn students will be given Blinn College e-mail accounts. Students can find instructions for using their Blinn College e-mails at this address: <http://www.blinn.edu/acadtech/studentemail/>, or on the Blinn home page/Search/StudentEmail. All e-mail correspondence with me must be via an authorized Blinn College e-mail account. In addition, all communications from Blinn College will come via this student e-mail account.

Student Dress Code:

Blinn College students are expected to dress following generally accepted community standards of neatness, cleanliness, modesty and good taste. Students are required to wear shoes; revealing or form-fitting apparel is not acceptable; outer garments should cover under garments; clothing with suggestive or obscene writing and/or indecent graphics may not be worn.

Attendance Policy:

The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are required to promptly and regularly attend all their classes. Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in college. Class participation shall constitute at least ten percent of the final course grade. It is the responsibility of each faculty member, in consultation with the division chair, to determine how participation is achieved in his or her class. Faculty will require students to regularly attend class and will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

There are three forms of excused absences recognized by the institution:

- (1) Observance of religious holy days.
- (2) Representing Blinn College at an official institutional function
- (3) Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the faculty member.

Electronic Device Policy:

All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in all Blinn College classrooms and associated laboratories. Any noncompliance with this policy will be addressed in accordance with the Blinn College civility policy.

Additionally, any communication understood by the instructor to be in the nature of cheating will have consequences in accordance with this Blinn College policy section regarding academic dishonesty. Students exempted from this policy section include, active members of firefighting organizations, emergency medical services organizations, commissioned police officers, on-call employees of any political subdivision of the state of Texas, or agencies of the federal government. Exempted students are expected to set the emergency-use devices on silent or vibrate mode only.

Make-Up Policy:

Make-Up work will only be issued for an excused absence. In the case of an excused absence the student will receive an extension for completing their assignment or in certain cases an alternate assignment. *There is no make-up for the final, all students must be in attendance and take the final.*

Other Policies:

The last day to drop this course at Blinn College is: *Friday April 17, 2008.*

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

This is basically a lecture course, so students need to take thorough notes. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the lecture notes. MAKE A FRIEND, ASAP, someone with whom you can exchange notes in the event you are absent. DO NOT ASK TO BORROW MY NOTES. Students may record the lectures, but should take notes in addition.

Course Requirements and Criteria For Grading:

There are three major exams and one final that is part cumulative. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. You will also produce one written reviews about the Biography of Sam Houston, *Sam Houston and the American Southwest*. The review will be worth 10% of your final grade. Finally, 10% of your grade will consist of your average of five pop-quizzes.

A – 90-100, B – 80-89, C – 70-79, D – 60-69, F – 0-59.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be earned by writing reviews over articles from *Readings in United States History*. The reviews are due on the dates listed in the calendar for this class at the end of this document. Each student can write up to **two** reviews each worth 2.5% of their final grade. Combined the reviews are worth 5%, or one half of a letter grade extra credit.

Another Way of Looking at Your Grades:

Test #1:	20%
Test#2	20%
Test#3	20%
Review	10%
Quizzes	10%
<u>Final</u>	<u>20%</u>

Total: 100%

Schedule of Test Dates and Book/Article Review Due Dates:

Wednesday 21st

First Day of Class: Introduction

Friday January 30th

1. Complete Reading of “The Middle Passage”, *Readings in United States History* (After this date this article is fair game for a pop-quiz)

Wednesday February 11th

1. Test#1 = Tindall Chapters 1-4, will be covered on the exam
2. Extra Credit Review of Article: “The Middle Passage” Due

Friday February 20th

1. Complete Reading of “The Philadelphia Ladies Association”, *Readings in United States History* (After this date this article is fair game for a pop-quiz)

Monday March 9th

1. Test #2 = Tindall Chapters 5-9, will be covered on the exam.
2. Extra Credit Review of Article: “The Philadelphia Ladies Association” Due

Wednesday March 11th

1. Book Review of *Sam Houston and the American Southwest*

Monday-Friday March 16th-20th

Spring Break

Friday March 27th

1. Complete Reading of “Stephen F. Austin: Political and Cultural Mediator”, *Readings in United States History* (After this date this article is fair game for a pop-quiz)

Wednesday April 8th

1. Test #3 = Tindall Chapters 10-14, will be covered on the exam.
2. Extra Credit Review of Article: “Stephen F. Austin: Political and Cultural Mediator” Due

Friday April 17th

1. Complete Reading of “A War that Never Goes Away”, *Readings in United States History* (After this date this article is fair game for a pop-quiz)

Thursday May 7th – Wednesday May 13th

1. Final Exam: Tindall Chapters 15-18, and Cumulative questions will be covered on the exam; *time is determined by Blinn College*
2. Extra Credit Review of Article: “A War that Never Goes Away” Due

Note: All due dates are subject to change, and changes will only be announced in class.