Fall 2011
HIS 315K: United States History, 1492-1865
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 a.m., WCH 1.120
Unique Number: 39125

Grant Wood, Parson Weem’s Fable, 1939, Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

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Required Books:

Two books are available for purchase at the University Co-op:


In addition to these books, twelve scholarly articles have been assigned for discussion throughout the semester. These can either be read and downloaded individually (and at no cost) via the JSTOR web page (link on the UT library web-site), or paper copies of them all can be purchased in a packet available for purchase at Paradigm Copies, 407 W. 24th street.

Exams:

There will be three mid-term exams in this course as well as a final exam. The mid-terms will each address materials covered in the preceding third of the semester. The final will draw upon themes developed throughout the semester. One week before each exam I will make available a study guide which contains a short list of possible essay questions for the coming exam. On the day of the exam several of those questions will be selected at random and you will be required to answer one of the chosen questions. Each exam (except the final) will also include a list of ten terms drawn from the lectures and readings and you will have to briefly identify and describe the significance of five of those terms. No make-ups outside of the scheduled make-up session will be allowed or given. (See grading policy below.)

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be based upon only the highest three of your four exam scores. The lowest exam score will be discarded. You also have the option of choosing to take only three exams and let your score be calculated from them alone. If you miss an exam for any reason, you will automatically have played your “get out of one exam free” card. Thus, allowing for contingencies, you would be wise to save this card until the end of the semester. Each of the exams is worth a potential 100 points. No other "extra-credit" assignments of any kind will either be assigned or accepted. In accord with University policy, I will be assigning + and - grades. Final grades will be awarded according to the following scale: A 270 points or more, A- 264-269, B+ 255-263, B 240-254, B- 234-239, C+ 225-233, C
210-224, C- 204-209, D+ 195-203, D 180-194, D- 174-179, F 173 or fewer points.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement: Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. Upon receipt of a letter from the SSD office, I will make every reasonable accommodation to meet individual student’s needs.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty (a.k.a. cheating) is theft, not only from the university but, far more importantly, from the majority of students who earn their grades honestly. Here are some possible crimes and their penalties.

High Crimes:

1.) Bringing a pre-prepared essay or blue book to the exam and attempting to pass it off as one written during the exam period, penalty = automatic F for the course.

2.) Copying or attempting to copy from another student, or using or attempting to use crib notes, notebooks, etc., during the exam period, penalty = automatic F for that exam.

Misdemeanors:

1.) Answering the wrong essay (i.e., not one of those randomly selected at the start of the exam period), penalty = F for the essay part of that exam.

2.) Answering more than five of the i.d. terms listed on the exam, penalty = only the first five answers (counting from the front of the blue book or exam) will be scored, even if they are not the best answers.

Classroom Etiquette:

Attendance (while encouraged) is not required – no roll call will be taken. Accordingly, if you choose to attend class, I expect that you will observe the following rules of common-courtesy:

1. Please make every effort to come to class a few minutes before the starting bell. If you arrive late, enter as quietly and unobtrusively
as you can, and sit in the first empty seat that you find. Likewise, please do not leave or make preparations to do so (gathering notebooks, etc.), until I, (or your TA) has dismissed class.

2. Please turn all cell-phones and pagers off before the start of class (if you forget and your phone rings during class, turn it off quickly or quietly leave the room to answer.

3. While laptops, etc. may be used for taking notes, please refrain from tending to your e-mail, facebook account, or otherwise surfing the web during class as it will distract those around you.

4. You may bring drinks (coffee, soda, water, etc..) to class, but please refrain from eating.

Course Schedule:

Part One: Empires

Week One:
Thur., 25 Aug. - Introductions: Requirements and Themes; Columbus’s First Voyage and the Invention of America; Olwell, pp. 1-8.

Week Two: Foner, Chapter One.

Week Three: Foner, Chapter Two.

Week Four: Foner, Chapter Three.
Thur., 15 Sept. – The Indians’ “New World;” Olwell, pp. 37-59; Study Guide for First Exam will be made available.

Week Five:
Tues., 20 Sept. – Sex and Power in Early America; Olwell, pp. 27-35.
Thur., 22 Sept. – FIRST EXAM

Part Two: Republics

Week Six: Foner, Chapter Four.
Tues., 27 Sept. – British America in 1750; Olwell, pp. 105-22.

Week Seven: Foner, Chapter Five.
Tues., 4 Oct. – The Imperial Crisis, 1763-1766; Olwell, pp. 61-83.
Thur., 6 Oct. – Declaring Independence; Olwell, pp. 85-03.

Week Eight: Foner, Chapter Six.

Week Nine: Foner, Chapter Seven.
Tues., 18 Oct. – 1787: The Second American Revolution; Class Reading, Olwell, 123-27.

Week Ten: Foner, Chapter Eight.
Thur., 27 Oct. – SECOND EXAM

Part Three: Democracies

Week Eleven: Foner, Chapter Nine.
Thur., 3 Nov. – American “Restlessness;” Olwell, pp. 151-177.

Week Twelve: Foner, Chapter Ten.
Thur., 10 Nov. – Jacksonian Nightmares; Olwell, pp. 195-223.

Week Thirteen: Foner, Chapters Eleven and Twelve.
Tues., 15 Nov. – Revival and Reform; Class Reading: Olwell, pp. 179-93.

Week Fourteen: Foner, Chapter Thirteen.
Tues., 22 Nov. – Things Fall Apart, 1854-1860; Olwell, pp. 225-65; Study guide for third exam will be made available.
Thur., 24 Nov. – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week Fifteen: Foner, Chapter Fourteen.
Tues., 29 Nov. – Abe Lincoln’s Civil War, 1861-65; Olwell, ed.: 267-85; Study guide for final exam will be made available.
Thur., 1 Dec., – THIRD EXAM

FINAL EXAM:
Friday, December 9, 2:00-5:00 pm., Place TBA