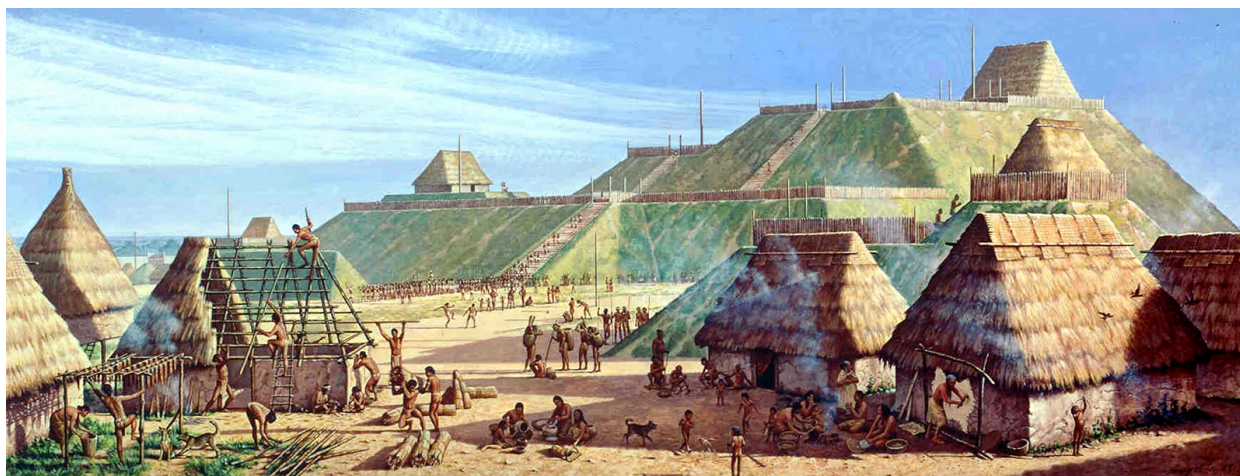

Early United States History

HIST 1301 | MWF 1:25-2:20pm | Arts and Sciences 00158 | No Prerequisites



Professor: Dr. Tim Seiter | **Email:** TSeiter@UTTyler.edu | **Office:** CAS 130 | **Hours:** Appt.

This course surveys significant themes in United States history from the Paleolithic era to the Reconstruction period. Students will explore the development of the nation through pivotal moments such as the arrival of European settlers in North America, the formation of colonial societies, the Revolutionary War, U.S. expansion westward, and the Civil War. At the end of the semester, students will see how events before the twentieth century continue to affect our nation today. Additionally, students will learn how to acquire high-quality primary and secondary sources and will also understand how historians produce excellent scholarship.

Assignments

Reading Reports - 30%

- Answer questions about the assigned readings, submit your answers before class, and discuss the readings during class.
- Example: <http://tinyurl.com/rz7tz49m>.

Pop Quizzes - 10%

- These pop quizzes are pass/fail and are designed to assess your understanding of our course's material, not to catch you off guard.

Grading Scale

- A: > 89.5
- B: 79.5 - 89.4
- C: 69.5 - 79.4
- D: 59.5 - 69.4
- F: 59.4 or below

Special Project Pitch - 10%

- Create a grading rubric for your special project and put together a compelling pitch. This can be written or video recorded.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/3dns8h6y>

Special Project - 30%

- Create a project that connects to a subject we learned about this semester and expands upon that topic.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/3dns8h6y>

Final Connection Exam - 15%

- Connect the class's major themes in a final essay that you can complete at home.
- Full instructions: <https://tinyurl.com/4f848ysz>

Living History Journal - 5%

- Take care of the journal you chose at the beginning of the semester, and on the last day of class, add information that will help the next cohort of students.

Due dates for every assignment are labeled on the course calendar below.

Extra Credit

Inspiration: Students who show up promptly and regularly for class will have the opportunity to earn extra credit in a method based on the Dungeons & Dragons “inspiration” system. Each point of inspiration provides 1 point on your final grade. A maximum of *five* points can be earned.

Academic Events: A multitude of UT Tyler departments regularly host public lectures and events on campus. Students may receive up to *one* point on their final grade for doing the following: (1) Provide evidence that you attended the entire event. (2) Write an essay of at least 300 words that provides the lecture's primary argument(s), a summary of content, and a discussion of at least one way in which the presentation relates to a historical topic from our course. (3) Email me the essay within two weeks of the event.



Class Policies

AI: In rare cases, generative AI may be used with prior instructor permission and appropriate attribution. If permission is not obtained and AI usage is detected, then the assignment will receive a zero and the student will be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate “F” for the course.

Attendance: I will keep attendance, but I will not penalize you for missing class. However, the greater the number of classes you skip, the more difficult it will be to pass.

Late Work: All assignments received late (without an excused absence) will receive a 10-point deduction from the total grade for every 24-hour period they are late, beginning at the due date/time. Assignments received more than five days late (without excuse or communication with the professor) will receive a grade of "zero."

Readings

All of the required readings are freely available on Canvas.

Schedule

Date	Day of Week	Topic	Theme	Readings/Due Dates
1/13	Monday	Class Introduction: Expectations	Subjectivity	
1/15	Wednesday	Discussion: The Historian's Profession	Subjectivity	
1/17	Friday	Discussion: The Power of History	Subjectivity	William Arens, <i>The Man-Eating Myth</i>
Week 2				
1/20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Reframing History	
1/22	Wednesday	Lecture: First Peoples in the Americas and Cahokia	Reframing History	
1/24	Friday	Activity: Atypical Sources and Oysters	Reframing History	Barr, "There's No Such Thing as Prehistory"
Week 3				
1/27	Monday	Lecture: The Little Ice Age	Environmental History	[Census Day]
1/29	Wednesday	Lecture: Native Peoples and their Environment Before European Arrival	Environmental History	

1/31	Friday	Activity: Plant Scavenger Hunt	Environmental History	Bolster, <i>The Mortal Sea</i>
Week 4				
2/3	Monday	Lecture: Crosby's <i>Ecological Imperialism</i> , The Columbian Exchange, and <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel</i> Nuance.	First Encounters	
2/5	Wednesday	Lecture: First Encounters	First Encounters	
2/7	Friday	Discussion: Cabeza de Vaca	First Encounters	Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, <i>La Relación</i>
Week 5				
2/10	Monday	Lecture: Powhatan and Jamestown	Survival	
2/12	Wednesday	Lecture: Pocahontas, An Accurate History	Survival	
2/14	Friday	Lecture: Matoaka Goes to London	Survival	<p>"Does Disney's <i>Pocahontas</i> Do More Harm Than Good?"</p> <p>"Why One Cannot Ignore Pocahontas"</p> <p>"What <i>Pocahontas</i> Tells Us About Disney, for Better and Worse"</p> <p>Disney's <i>Pocahontas</i></p>
Week 6				
2/17	Monday	Lecture: Sieur de La Salle, Fort St. Louis, and the Spanish Settling of Texas	Blood Quantum	
2/19	Wednesday	Lecture: Blood Quantum and the Story of Andrea Smith	Blood Quantum	
2/21	Friday	Discussion: What Makes Someone Indigenous?	Blood Quantum	Huntington and Franklin, "The Talon Brother's Interrogation"
Week 7				
2/24	Monday	Lecture: Taken and Sold, Olaudah Equiano	Enslavement	
2/26	Wednesday	Lecture and Activity: The Middle Passage and Envisioning Tight Packing	Enslavement	
2/28	Friday	Discussion: Legacies of Enslavement	Enslavement	<p><i>The 1619 Project</i></p> <p>Leslie M. Harris, "I Helped</p>

				Fact-Check the 1619 Project. The Times Ignored Me.”
Week 8				
3/3	Monday	Lecture: The Common Cause: The Enslaved and Indians	Common Cause	
3/5	Wednesday	In-Class Work: Anti-Procrastination Special Project Pitch Research	Common Cause	
3/7	Friday	In-Class Work: Anti-Procrastination Special Project Pitch Research	Common Cause	Special Project Pitch Due (10%)
Week 9				
3/10	Monday	Lecture: The Karankawa-Spanish War	Native Dominance	
3/12	Wednesday	Activity: Archival Sleuthing	Native Dominance	
3/14	Friday	Pop-Quiz and Discussion: The Power of Native Peoples	Native Dominance	Pekka Hämäläinen’s, <i>Comanche Empire</i>
Week 10				
3/17	Monday	Spring break	Rest & Relaxation	No Class
3/19	Wednesday	Spring break	Rest & Relaxation	No Class
3/21	Friday	Spring break	Rest & Relaxation	No Class
Week 11				
3/24	Monday	Lecture: A Coup or a Legitimate Convention?	Foundations	
3/26	Wednesday	Lecture: A Brilliant Solution	Foundations	
3/28	Friday	Lecture: Our Constitution	Foundations	Prager University vs. Adam Ruins Everything
Week 12				
3/31	Monday	Lecture: Westward Expansion and the Frontier Thesis	Settler Colonialism	[Last Day to Withdraw]
4/2	Wednesday	Lecture: Stephen F. Austin versus Texas’s Native Peoples	Settler Colonialism	Special Project Update Extra Credit
4/4	Friday	Discussion and Activity: What Constitutes Genocide?	Settler Colonialism	Gary Clayton Anderson, "Genocide or Ethnocide," <i>Western Historical Quarterly</i> Roundtable
Week 13				
4/7	Monday	Lecture: Historiography and the Texas Revolution	U.S. Aggression	

4/9	Wednesday	Lecture: A Wicked War	U.S. Aggression	
4/11	Friday	Lecture: Balances and Imbalances, and another War on the Horizon.	U.S. Aggression	<i>Forget the Alamo, The 1836 Project, and the Texas State Historical Association</i>
Week 14				
4/14	Monday	Pop Quiz: Enslavement? States Rights? A Clear Answer.	The Civil War	
4/16	Wednesday	Lecture: How the War Was Won.	The Civil War	
4/18	Friday	Lecture and Discussion: Reconstruction, a Missed Opportunity.	The Civil War	Writings of John Reagan (1865) and the Colored Men's Convention (1873)
Week 15				
4/21	Monday	Discussion and In-Class Work: Class Chosen Theme	History as a Profession	
4/23	Wednesday	Discussion and In-Class Work: Class Chosen Theme	History as a Profession	
4/25	Friday	In Class Work: Special Project and Final Exam Prep	History as a Profession	Special Project Due at Midnight (30%)
Week 16				
4/28	Monday	Final Exam and Final Day (12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m)	Finals	Living History Journal (5%) Final Connection Exam Due at Midnight (15%)

The class schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.

Other Syllabus Statements

Academic Honesty (and Dishonesty): Violations of the UT Tyler Honor Code will be acted upon in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. Any act of academic dishonesty (plagiarism or cheating) will result in an immediate grade of zero on the assignment and be reported to the UT Tyler Honor Council. The student who cheated may also receive an immediate "F" for the course.

Disability Accommodations: Students who need academic accommodations for a disability must first register with the UT Tyler Office of Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR). Students can visit <https://www.uttyler.edu/academics/success-services/disability-services/> to begin the process. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, but rather require advance notice in order to implement.

Sexual Harassment: All forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, are violations of UT Tyler's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and may also violate Texas law. Students who wish to file a complaint or to receive more information about the grievance process may contact Blake Bumbard, UT Tyler's Title IX Coordinator, at bbumbard@uttyler.edu or 903.565.5760. Please note that faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. If students notify faculty or staff of sexual harassment, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Medical-Related Absences: To ensure academic continuity and avoid any course penalties, students should follow procedures described by their instructors in order to be provided with appropriate modifications to assignments, deadlines, and exams.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled university extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments that were missed as a result of their participation. However, it is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements for make-up work with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examinations or other missed assignments.

Mental Health Resources: On-Call and Ongoing Counseling Services: Throughout the academic year, students may encounter different stressors or go through life experiences that impact their mental health and academic performance. Students who are in distress or have concerns about their mental health can schedule a same-day or next-day appointment to speak with a counselor by calling Counseling Services. Counselors are available at any time, day or night for students in crisis at this number: 903.566.7254.

Additionally, for any kind of crisis, you can reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/Crisis Text Line by calling or texting 988. You can also reach Trans Lifeline at 877.565.8860.