

**Houston Community College
Northwest College, Katy Campus
History 1301 – 43324
The United States to 1877
Distance Education
Spring Semester – 2015**

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Telephone/E-Mail</u>
Dr. J. Kent McGaughy	359D	M 2:30-3:30 W 2:30-3:30 (in Library) TR 1:00-2:00 and by appointment	(713) 718-5741 kent.mcgaughy@hccs.edu

Required Reading (listed in order of assignment during the semester)

J. Kent McGaughy, *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: A Portrait of an American Revolutionary*.
Fred Anderson, *The War that Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War*.
Ray Raphael, *The First American Revolution: Before Lexington and Concord*.
James Kirby Martin (Editor), *Ordinary Courage: The Revolutionary War Adventures of Joseph Plumb Martin*.
Lawrence Goldstone, *Dark Bargain: Slavery, Profits, and the Struggle for the Constitution*.
Saul Cornell, *A Well-Regulated Militia: The Founding Fathers and the Origins of Gun Control in America*.

None of the required readings for this course are available at the college bookstore. Students are encouraged to shop for used (or new) copies on the Internet through various online bookstores including, but not limited to, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble Online, Half.com, etc. A copy of *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia* is on reserve at the HCC Katy Campus Library. It is located at the circulation desk for in-library use only; students are welcome to check the book out from the circulation desk and make a photocopy of the book and take that with them once finished. Students may also check these books out of the library if they prefer. Students are required to use these books for the successful completion of the course that does not necessarily mean they are required to purchase them.

II. Course Objectives and Description:

This survey of American history prior to 1877 will have a particular emphasis on the period between 1763 and 1791 focusing on the War of American Independence and the establishment of the new American nation. The American founding is a crucial time period that is not as well understood as it should be and is often distorted and misrepresented for political reasons. Over the course of the semester students in this class will learn about European explorations and how that gave rise to colonial empires in North America; students will also learn about several myths surrounding the War for American Independence while, at the same time, engage students in discussions with fascinating historical topics that still resonate loudly in today's political culture. Students will also learn how issues that remained unsettled as of 1791 contributed to divisions within the United States between North and South, fueled by controversies surrounding slavery, thus in certain respects making the Civil War a concluding chapter of the War for American Independence.

In addition to the content areas mentioned above, upon completion of this course, students will be able to: create an argument through the use of historical evidence, analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources, analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, and global forces that shape pre-Civil War American history, and Understand the importance of chronology and how earlier ideas and events shaped later developments.

III. Course Structure:

1. **Lectures:** Since this course is a Distance Education course taught through Eagle Online, there are no scheduled class meetings. Throughout the semester, however, video presentations will be posted on the Eagle Online homepage for this course. These video presentations will cover material relating to course content as well as information relating to course assignments. Students enrolled in this course are required to view these lecture presentations and incorporate this material into the course-related assignments.
2. **Attendance:** Perfect attendance is not required, but regular attendance is strongly encouraged. Again, since this is a Distance Education course, “attendance” means that you spend some time at least once a week visiting the Eagle Online homepage for this course and looking for new posts and updates relating to the course on the homepage. Students who fail to leave a record of their (at minimum) weekly visit to the homepage for this course will be recorded as “absent” for that week.

Students will record their course “attendance” each week by posting on the History Forum for this course two things: First, a brief statement indicating if they have noticed any new post or announcement relating to this course on the homepage; and second, a comment indicating the most interesting thing they learned that week relating to the course. It may relate to a posted lecture presentation or it may come from the one of the assigned readings, but it must relate to the content of the course. Please Note: The weekly attendance posts must be posted on the History Forum no later than 7:00am on Monday morning of each week. Students who post beyond this deadline will be counted absent for that week. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

The maximum number of allowable absences is two (2). Any student that exceeds this number of absences, **for any reason**, will automatically be penalized one letter grade off their final course grade at the end of the semester upon their third absence. For each additional absence beyond the third absence, students will be penalized one letter grade for each absence. See “Standing Weekly Attendance Schedule and Assignments” located at the end of the syllabus. For additional information regarding the HCC attendance policy, see the Student Handbook.

3. **PLEASE NOTE:** The professor will not initiate an administrative withdrawal at any time during the semester for any student. Students who simply stop attending class and are still enrolled in the course at the end of the semester will receive the grade that their performance in class reflects. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
4. **PLEASE NOTE:** Students who have not participated in class at all *for any reason* before the Official Day of Record, 2 February 2015, by posting a response to a weekly attendance assignment on the History Forum will automatically be withdrawn from this course and will not be allowed to re-enroll. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
5. **Eagle Online:** Each student enrolled in this course is automatically enrolled into an Eagle Online account through HCC-NW. Through this account, students can correspond with the professor and other students enrolled in this course as well as to receive handouts relating to course content. **Please Note:** it is each student’s responsibility to monitor postings on Eagle Online.
6. **Research Paper:** Students are required to complete a research paper on an approved topic relating to the history of the United States between 1763 and 1791. The research paper may focus on a personality, an event, or a document. Students must use both primary sources and secondary works on their research paper. The research paper will be discussed in greater

detail at a later date. The research paper will account for 50% of the overall course grade. The research paper is due on Wednesday, 29 April 2015 by 11:59 pm. **Please Note: *Late research papers will not be accepted by the professor. Students may turn in their research papers any time before April 29, 2015 but late papers will not be accepted. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.***

7. **Group Presentations:** Students in this will be divided into five groups consisting of seven students in each group. Each group will select a topic, again relating to the history of the United States between 1763 and 1791. Each group must have their presentations turned in to the professor by 7:00am on Monday 4 May 2015. The professor will then post each group presentation on the homepage for this course. Once the group presentations have been posted, each student enrolled in this course must view each presentation and post on the History Forum their critique of their colleagues work and their critique must be posted on the History Forum by 11:59 pm on Wednesday 13 May 2015. The presentation grade will account for 30% of the overall course grade. **Please Note:** Critiquing group presentations is mandatory. Any student who does not critique the other group presentations by 11:59 pm on 13 May 2015 will have 30 points deducted from their individual presentation grade for each absence. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
8. **Class Discussions:** There will be five (5) scheduled online discussions: dates and assignments for each are on the Course Outline and various handouts given to students during the semester. These class discussions will be devoted to your critical evaluation of lecture material and assigned readings. Therefore, it is essential that you review lecture notes and read the assignments before the discussion and come prepared to talk intelligently about what you have heard and read. Students enrolled in this course will participate in the discussions via the Class Discussion Forum located on the Eagle Online homepage for this course. Participation in these class discussions will account for 20% of the final course grade. Students will receive a study guide to assist with the preparation for each class discussion.
8. Once the research papers have been graded, and performances in group presentations and class discussions have been assessed, each student will receive letter grades A through F based on the following scale:

A =	100-90 (Excellent)
B =	89-80 (Good)
C =	79-70 (Passing)
D =	69-60 (Poor)
F =	59-0 (Failing)

VI. Administrative Notes:

- A. **Scholastic Dishonesty:** Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. All of these offenses are serious and are not taken lightly by the instructor or the Houston Community College System (HCCS). Punishment for scholastic dishonesty will be failure in the course, and that student's name will be forwarded to administration officials with a recommendation for dismissal from HCCS. Please refer to the Online Student Handbook for additional information.
- B. **Services for Students with Disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Services Office. You can reach the Northwest College ADA Counselor at (713) 718-5708.

C. **Dates to Remember:** Students enrolled in this course are responsible for keeping track of these important dates to remember. All students are strongly encouraged to mark these dates on either their personal calendar or on the calendar provided by Eagle Online.

1. Monday, 2 February 2015: Official Day of Record. Students who have not participated in class at all *for any reason* before the Official Day of Record by posting a response to a weekly attendance assignment on the History Forum will automatically be withdrawn from this course and will not be allowed to re-enroll. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
2. Wednesday, 4 February 2015 (by 11:59 pm): Research Paper topics must be selected by this date. Students who do not have their research paper topics selected by 11:59 pm on this date will have 50 points deducted from their overall research paper grade. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
3. Tuesday, 17 February 2015 (by 11:59 pm): Group leaders must be selected by this date. **Please Note:** Groups that have not selected group leaders by the posted deadline for their class will have 50 points deducted from their overall group presentation grade. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE**
4. Wednesday, 11 March 2015 (by 11:59pm): Research Paper theme and thesis are due along with a Preliminary Bibliography indicating the major primary sources, secondary works, and websites that students will be using to research their topics. Students who do not turn in these items by 11:59 pm on March 11, 2015 will have 50 points deducted from their overall research paper grade. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
5. Wednesday, 11 March 2015 (by 11:59 pm): Group topics must be decided upon by this date. **Please Note:** Groups that have not decided on a topic by the posted deadline for their class will have 50 points deducted from their overall group presentation grade. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
6. Tuesday, 24 March 2015: Last Day for Administrative and Student Withdrawals (4:30pm).
7. Wednesday, 29 April 2015 (by 11:59pm): Research Papers are due by 11:59 pm. Late papers will not be accepted by the professor. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
8. Monday, 4 May 2015: Group Presentations are due by 7:00am. Late presentations will not be accepted by the professor. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
9. Thursday, 7 May 2015: Last day of instruction.
10. Wednesday, 13 May 2015: Individual student critiques of Group Presentations must be posted on the History Forum by 11:59 pm. Students who have not posted their individual critiques by this deadline will have 30 points deducted from their individual presentation grades. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

D. Miscellaneous

1. Houston Community College (HCC) is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering academic preparation, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in an increasingly international and technical society. The Northwest History Department will provide an environment conducive to learning and encourages academic excellence. Furthermore, the History faculty will encourage the development of the following competencies: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Critical Thinking, and Computer Literacy.
2. **NOTICE:** Students who repeat a course for a third time or more now will face significant tuition and fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, the tuition increases for “threepeaters” amounts to \$150 for each 3-hour course and \$200 for each 4-hour course (\$50 per credit hour). Please ask your professor or counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance before withdrawing from a course or if you are not receiving a passing grade.
3. **NOTICE: New Houston Community College Course Withdrawal Policy:** The Texas State Legislature recently passed legislation that imposes new penalties on students who drop courses excessively (see above). In 2007, the legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in the Fall 2007) to no more than a total of six (6) course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. Future penalties will be imposed on students who exceed this number. To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you and HCC Student Services of the chance that a student might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. Please visit with your professor, an HCC counselor, or HCC Online Student Services to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be offered to assist you—tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc.—to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

Effective immediately, students must visit with a faculty advisor, a counselor, or Online Student Services in order to obtain a signature prior to withdrawing from a course and this must be done before the official withdrawal date (**24 March 2015 by 4:30pm**). Individual HCC faculty members are no longer permitted to assign students a “W” once the official withdrawal date has passed. **Please Note:** This rule does not only apply to this course, but all courses offered at HCC, including all campus-bound courses, Hybrid, and Distance Education courses.

4. Students must use correct grammar and demonstrate historical knowledge in order to receive full credit for their research papers. For that reason students are strongly encouraged to submit a draft of their research paper to HCC’s “Ask Online” Service (<http://www.hccs.askonline.net>). Tutors knowledgeable in both grammar and history will review submitted work and highlight errors/problems. **Please Note:** Students whose work is submitted with grammatical and historical errors will have significant points deducted from their research paper grade.
5. When students submit assignments as Microsoft Word attached files, attached files must be named using the students’ last name, and must also provide a basic identification of the assignment being submitted. For example:

lastname research paper

For group presentations:

group 01 presentation
group 02 presentation
group 03 presentation
group 04 presentation
group 05 presentation

Assignments submitted that do not comply with this basic pattern for naming files will not be accepted or acknowledged by the professor. If any student needs additional instruction or clarification regarding this policy, contact the professor immediately and that the assistance needed. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

6. Please include either your name as part of your email address or in the subject box of the message. Otherwise, there are no guarantees as to whether or not the professor will accept or acknowledge these messages.
7. Due to the alarming number of increasingly sophisticated computer viruses, always include some kind of title in the subject box on all emails. Any email sent that is identified with simply "No Subject" in the subject box will be deleted and unacknowledged by the professor.
8. Students who send an email to the professor after 2:00 pm on Thursday afternoons should not expect a reply before Monday morning.
9. Want to be immortal? Start keeping a journal in a series of notebooks. Record everyday observations regarding personal and public events, weather, and other seemingly mundane life events. When you're old, pack your journals into boxes and will them to a university (perhaps your alma mater). Trust me (I'm a doctor), one day an historian will find your journals and write about your life and experiences and you will live forever

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Part One:

The Coming of the War for American Independence to 1776

Topic I: The Economic Origins of Colonial Empires to 1763

McGaughy, *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia*, pp. xv-70
Begin Anderson, *The War that Made America*
Begin Raphael, *The First American Revolution*
Begin *Ordinary Courage*

Topic II: Science and Religion in an Age of Enlightenment

Topic III: The British Imperial Crisis, 1763-1774

McGaughy, *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia*, pp. 71-93
Finish Anderson, *The War that Made America*.

Class Discussion #4

McGaughy, *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia*, pp. 171-237

Waldstreicher, *Slavery's Constitution* (complete volume)

The Constitution of the United States (Handout)

The Bill of Rights (Handout)

Thursday-Tuesday, 30 April-12 May 2015 (7:00am)

Class Discussion #5

McGaughy, *Richard Henry Lee of Virginia*, pp. 171-237

Cornell, *A Well-Regulated Militia* (complete volume)

The Constitution of the United States (Handout)

The Bill of Rights (Handout)

Thursday-Tuesday, 30 April-12 May 2015 (7:00am)

Standing Weekly Attendance Schedule and Assignments

On Monday of each week during the regular semester students enrolled in this course are required to post on the History Forum a response to assigned topic in order to record that at least once a week students are visiting the homepage for this course and are acknowledging the new material posted over the course of the semester.

Students are allowed a maximum of two (2) absences over the course of semester. For each “absence” above the two allowable “absences” will result in a penalty of one letter grade for each additional absence beyond the two allowable absences. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

When posting responses to the Standing Weekly Attendance Assignment, the post is to be labeled: Lastname Attendance Week 01, Lastname Attendance Week 02, Lastname Attendance Week 03, and so on through to the end of the assignments. Attendance postings that do not follow this pattern will not be acknowledged by the professor and that student will be counted absent for that week. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

Please Note: Students will not be reminded by the professor at any point to post a response to the topics listed below. It is entirely the students’ responsibility to keep up with this assignment and make sure that they post a response on the History Forum.

Please Note: Students who have not participated in class at all *for any reason* before the Official Day of Record, 2 February 2015, by posting a response to a weekly attendance assignment on the History Forum will automatically be withdrawn from this course and will not be allowed to re-enroll. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

Attendance Schedule and Assignments

	Date Posted	Date Due (by 7:00am)	Assignment
1.	T January 20	M January 26	There are two parts to the first attendance post. First, introduce yourself to the class (if the name you prefer to use is other than as it appears on Eagle Online 2, please make note); are you attending other colleges/universities besides HCC? What is your major? Where are you from? Is there anything about you that is unique that you would like to share with the class? Second, briefly answer the following question: To the best of your knowledge, why did the American colonists declare independence in 1776?
2.	M January 26	M February 2	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 02
3.	M February 2	M February 9	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 03
4.	M February 9	T February 17*	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 04
5.	T February 17*	M February 23	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 05
6.	M February 23	M March 2	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 06
7.	M March 2	M March 9	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 07
8.	M March 9	T March 24**	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 08
9.	--	--	SPRING BREAK
10.	T March 24**	M March 30	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 09
11.	M March 30	M April 6	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 10
12.	M April 6	M April 13	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 11
13.	M April 13	M April 20	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 12
14.	M April 20	M April 27	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 13
15.	M April 27	M May 4	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 14
16.	M May 4	M May 11	React to the Video Presentation(s) posted for Week 15

*On Monday, 16 February 2015 President’s Day will be observed so there are no class responsibilities on the Monday. As a result, the attendance post that normally must be posted by 7:00am on Mondays is due on Tuesday morning for this one week.

**The extended time period for the attendance post of Week 08 is due to Spring Break. Rather than make the post due the first day back from Spring Break, students will have Monday 23 March to post in order to receive credit for that week.