

**Houston Community College
Northwest College, Spring Branch
History 1301
Friday 9:00a - 12:00p
Fall--2011**

Professor

Michael Ramey

Office Hours

After class or
by appointment

Email

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Required Reading

1. Ayers, Gould, Oshinsky, & Soderlund, *American Passages*, 4th Edition. Cengage
ISBN-13: 9780547166469
2. E-Reader : Please check the access information on Learning Web!
http://www.pearsoncustom.com/tx/hcc_hist1301
3. Weblinks

Course Objectives and Standard Learning Objectives

History 1301 surveys American History from the start of the historical record to the end of Reconstruction. This class examines the political, social, economic, and cultural trends of the United States inside a larger global context. Students will rely on and enhance their critical thinking and analytical skills, be able to relate past and present events, and further develop their writing abilities.

By the end of the class the student:

- * Will be able to create an argument through the use of historical evidence
- * Will be able to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources
- * Will be able to analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural and global forces on this period of United States history

Course Structure

1. Class will be held Friday from 9am to 12pm.
2. **Attendance:** While attendance is not mandatory, regular attendance will be taken. In addition, there will be spontaneous reading quizzes that cannot be made up. Arrive on time and stay until the class is finished. **Please Note:** There will also be a regular discussion held each week concerning the readings. There is a grade associated with this discussion. Therefore, if you are absent on these days you will not receive credit.
3. **Learning Web:** All weblinks and supplements will be handled via Learning Web. Please get your Learning Web account up-to-date and check it regularly.

4. **Class Discussion:** There will be periodic class discussions based on the readings. . These dates may be adjusted depending on circumstances, however. The discussions rate the your ability to critically analyze the assigned readings. In addition to the discussion there is usually a short quiz on discussion days that ties the readings into the lecture.

5. **Writing Assignment:** Each student will be required to turn in one 4+ page paper (double spaced, 12point font, with citations) over a subject or person **of his or her choice**. The deadline for this paper will be determined, but expect it to fall within the first two weeks of April. While many students may wish to work individually, this can also be a group project. If up to four students wish to do a group project, they will jointly give an in-class presentation. Individual scores will be given based off of the quality of the work and the amount of work done by the individual to the project. If you wish to do a group project please see the instructor before Spring Break.

6. **Exams Materials:** Please bring a bluebook and a pen to the scheduled exam.

Grading

1. There will be a total of four exam scores. Exam I, Exam II, and the Exam III and a Comprehensive Final. Each exam is worth 20% (1/5th) of your grade.
2. Your discussion/quiz score will also account for 20% of your final grade.
3. The writing assignment makes up another 20%.
4. The mathematically inclined will notice that equals 120%. At the end of the semester, the lowest score will be removed and the five highest will constitute the final average.
5. For example: Exam I - 90 Discussion - 70
 Exam II- 80 Writing - 100
 Exam III-90
 Final - 60 **Final Average:** 86 or a B

This students Final Exam grade would be dropped and his or her final average would be an 86.

Grade Breakdown:

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

Administrative Notes

1. **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 HCC. Punishment for scholastic dishonesty will be failure of the course, and that student's name will be forwarded to the administration office with a recommendation for dismissal from HCC. Please refer to the Student Handbook for additional information.

2. **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.

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 "three eaters" 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 can electronically withdraw from the course without having to see a faculty member. This withdrawal must be done before the official withdrawal date. 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 course offered at HCC, including all campus-bound courses, Hybrid, and Distance Education courses.

Also Note: I will NOT withdraw any student after the initial roll period (The second week of class). This must be done by the student.

4. EGLS3 -- Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

5. Adult behavior is expected. Disruptive behavior/activities which interfere with teaching and/or learning will not be tolerated, and may result in administrative withdrawal without refund.

6. Cheating, plagiarism, or scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Those found guilty will suffer at minimum an F in the course and may face further administrative punishment.

7. Turn off your cell phones. That important text can wait.

8. Laptops are great, but please use them for taking notes only.

9. If you bring food and drinks to the class, pick up after yourself.

10. If you have a problem/concern, **do not hesitate in contacting me!** The sooner I know of a problem the better able I will be to work to fix it or help.

11. Updated Course Schedules will be handed out at the start of class. The Exam schedule will be handed out once the class is capped.