

PAGE 1: COURSE OVERVIEW

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Chad Lower

Office hours: Room B. 237. Mon./Wed. – 9:00-11:00. Virtual office hours will be available via Zoom at various times throughout the semester. See updates in D2L (Virtual Campus).

Phone: 979.230.3249

E-mail: chad.lower@brazosport.edu E-mails will be answered within 24 hours (weekends excluded).



REQUIRED MATERIALS

- *America: The Essential Learning Edition, Vol. 1, 2nd ed.*, by David E. Shi. ISBN # 978-0-393-64300-8
- Additional reading selections and handouts will be provided by the instructor via D2L.

Special note on purchasing books: Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goals of the course are twofold: first, to develop the student's knowledge of American history from the age of European discovery through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Second, the course is designed to build the student's critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills through the study and interpretation of the past. These goals will be achieved through accomplishing the following **learning objectives**:

- Developing historical literacy through the mastery of knowing and interpreting historical data;
- learning to distinguish between, and properly interpret, primary and secondary sources;
- articulating relationships between the past and the modern world;
- successfully interpreting the historical arguments of others and developing the skills to craft a historical argument for oneself.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Every week of the course will be dedicated to the study of between 1-2 historical topics (see last page of syllabus for schedule). In order to accomplish the course goals and learning objectives, every week the student will engage in:

- Reading – Analyzing primary and secondary sources (including textbook reading).
- Watching – watching and taking notes on lecture videos created by the instructor. Available in D2L.
- Writing – assessments designed to measure the student's comprehension and interpretation of the topic.
- Discussing – Discussion of the course topic(s) either via discussion threads in D2L, or optional live Zoom meetings. See the description of discussions on page two for more information on the discussion grade.

Note on D2L (Virtual Campus) – Internet access is vital for success in this course. Essential course material will be posted on course D2L site throughout the semester. Students can access the course page by following the "Virtual Campus" tab at the bottom of the Brazosport homepage, www.brazosport.edu.



PAGE 2: ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

GRADING POLICY

Brazosport College is committed to assessment (measurement) of student achievement of academic outcomes. This process address the issues of what you need to learn in your program of study and if you are learning what you need to learn. In class you are assessed and graded on your achievement of the outcomes for this course. You may also be required to participate in broader assessment activities.

The course grading scale is: 90-100% = A / 80-89% = B / 70-79% = C / 60-69% = D / 59% and below = F

Grade expectations: When determining the appropriate level of effort necessary to achieve success in the course, students should understand that the evaluation of assignments is based on the student demonstrating comprehension, analysis, and thorough explanation of the course material. When evaluating submitted assignments, the instructor does not take away points from a student's answer. Rather, the student builds points to a level of completion that satisfactorily provides a clear, insightful understanding and analysis of the course material.

ASSIGNMENTS

Specific instructions for all assignments will be distributed in class, and will also be available in D2L. Rubrics for writing activities, discussions, and exams can be found in the course D2L site.

- **Intro Meeting (Bonus points):** During the first week of class there will be two virtual class meetings in which you can ask questions or learn more about the class. Attending one of the live Zoom meetings using your webcam or cell phone camera will result in a 5% bonus on the first exam. See D2L for specific times for the live meetings.
- **Exams:** Exams incorporate essays and multiple-choice questions which emphasize the student's knowledge of historical ideas and demonstration of clear critical analysis of the subject. Exams will be completed at home unless the student has made alternate arrangements with the instructor (see policies below). Exams compose 40% of the course grade.
- **Lecture/Textbook Quizzes:** Students will watch lecture videos associated with each topic. The outlines that accompany each video also contain questions from the textbook that that student should study. The weekly quiz questions will be based on the lecture and textbook questions found in each video outline. Lecture/Textbook quizzes are worth 20% of the course grade.
- **Writing Activities:** Weekly writing assignments found in D2L that assess comprehension, analysis, and interpretation of historical sources. Weekly writing counts for 25% of the course grade.
- **Discussion:** Students can earn discussion credit one of two ways: First, by completing a conventional discussion post to a prompt in D2L, and then replying to the post of a classmate. **Alternatively**, a student can complete a brief activity (a short quiz or reflection question) in D2L, which then opens an invitation to a Zoom meeting in which the student will participate in a live discussion on the topic with the instructor and other classmates. Discussion is worth 15% of the course grade.
- **Extra Credit and Make-Up Work - InQuizitive:** Students can earn extra credit that can be applied to a missing writing or quiz grade by using the InQuizitive learning tool in D2L. Students will need an access code (included with purchase of the textbook) to access InQuizitive. More specifics about the extra credit through InQuizitive can be found in Extra Credit section in the Assignments folder (in the Content module).

ASSIGNMENTS AND ABSENCES POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

- **Exams** will be completed at home. You will be prompted to download Lockdown Browser on your computer when you go to take the exam. A webcam is required also. If you do not have access to a webcam: First, contact me to let me know. Alternate arrangements will then be made to take the exam at Learning Services at BC.
- Additional extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor.
- There is **no obligation** by the instructor to offer make up opportunities or accept late work beyond the InQuizitive assessments. Make-up work or due date extensions, regardless of circumstance, will be at the discretion of the instructor.
- **Technical issues:** Students should take control of their academic careers and be proactive about contacting the instructor concerning technical issues like internet outages and malfunctioning hardware/software.

TECHNOLOGY AND STUDY SPACE ACCESS

Brazosport College will provide study space and technology access to students. Study space is available in Gator Hall, which includes power and Wi-Fi. Computers are available at workstations in the library, including printer access.

PAGE 3: CLASSROOM POLICIES

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in a failure for the particular assignment that is in violation of the College's academic honesty policy. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

*Academic dishonesty is **not** a game. There are **real** consequences for plagiarism.*

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they "fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC." Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services.

ADD/WITHDRAWAL

- The instructor will NOT withdraw any student from the course. That is the responsibility of the student.
- Students will not be added to the course if the course is already at capacity.

STUDENT DISABILITY POLICY

Please let the instructor know at the start of the semester if you need special accommodations due to a disability. Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For a student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

CAMPUS CLOSURE

Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester, and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on campus activities may be moved online and/or postponed if such orders are given.

PAGE 4: CAMPUS AID AND RESOURCES

Title IX: Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator

Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Office C-114; 979-230-3303; victoria.young@brazosport.edu

Learning Services: In the event a student is granted a make-up exam, the test will need to be administered at Learning Services at BC. After arranging the make-up with the instructor, student must make an appointment with Learning Services. Their phone number is 979-230-3253.

Library: Information about the Library is available at www.brazosport.edu, or by calling 979-230-3310. Information about study skills and tutoring for reading, writing, and other subjects is available in the Learning Assistance Center (LAC).

The Student Services provides assistance in the following:

Counseling and Advising 979-230-3040

Financial Aid 979-230-3294

Student Activities 979-230-3355

IT Helpdesk: To reach the Information Technology Department for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk at 979-230-3266. You will be receiving critical information from your instructor throughout the semester through e-mail and/or a faculty website. If you are having issues with these services it is crucial that you call the department to sort out the issue as soon as possible.

Writing Center: The Brazosport College Writing Center (BC WC) can help you with any writing, speaking, or reading assignment for this class and others. The BC WC offers one-on-one sessions with a trained, professional writing consultant face-to-face and online. BC WC Consultants can help you understand your reading, brainstorm topics for an assignment, develop ideas, maintain your focus, establish a clear structure, and so much more. Walk-in and appointment hours are 8am-8pm MTWR and 8am-12pm on Friday. If you'd like to schedule an appointment, visit www.brazosport.edu/writingcenterschedule.



BC Connect App: Get the information you need – when you need it. Go to <http://geni.us/BRAZO> to install **BC Connect** on your mobile device to receive reminders, explore careers, map your educational plan, be in the know about events, find out about scholarships, achieve your goals and much more.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY CHANGES WILL BE POSTED TO D2L)

CLASS SESSION	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
UNIT ONE: CREATING A NEW WORLD		
Week 1: August 24-30	1. Course Introduction: Learning Historical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get the textbook! And review the syllabus Complete the "Start Here" Content in D2L and the topic 1 material. Optional: Attend one of the Course Intro Zoom meetings for bonus
Week 2: August 31-Sept. 6	2: Forging the New World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 1 (use outline in Virtual Campus) Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion Complete weekly writing assignment
Week 3: September 7-13	3. The English Colonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 2 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 4: September 14-20	4. Colonial Ways of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 3 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 5: September 21-27	5. Road to Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 4 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 6: Sept. 28-Oct. 4	6. War of Independence ** EXAM 1**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 5 (use outline in Virtual Campus) Watch Lecture Video and take lecture/textbook quiz. Complete exam #1. Essay due WED; Mult. Choice due FRI InQuizitive bonus/make up due by WEDNESDAY night
UNIT TWO: THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT		
Week 7: October 5-11	7. The American Experiment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 6 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 8: October 12-18	8. Building an Empire of Liberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 7 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 9: October 19-25	9. The Reign of King Cotton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Chs. 8-9 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 10: Oct. 26-Nov. 1	10. Jacksonian America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch.10 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 11: November 2-8	**EXAM 2**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete exam #2. Essay due WED; Mult. Choice due FRI InQuizitive bonus/make up due by WEDNESDAY night
UNIT THREE: THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM		
Week 12: November 9-15	11. The Peculiar Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 11/ Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 13: November 16-22	12. Revival and Reform 13. Westward Expansion, pt. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Chs. 12-13 / Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Discuss course material in class (pre-class work due night before)
Week 14: November 23-29	13. Westward Expansion, pt. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 13/ Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Week 15: Nov. 30-Dec. 6	14. The Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Notes: Textbook: Ch. 14 /Complete weekly writing assignment Watch Lecture Videos and take lecture/textbook quiz. Post Discussion thread and reply OR attend live Zoom discussion
Finals: December 7-9	Final Exam: Monday - Wednesday, December 7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FINAL EXAM. Essay AND Mult. Choice due WED InQuizitive bonus/make up due by TUESDAY night.

*NOTE: Discussions are typically due by Wednesdays. Lecture/Textbook quizzes and Weekly Writing typically due Sundays, unless otherwise stated in D2L. Always check D2L for any changes to the due dates.