

**Course Syllabus
History 4700D
Texas History
Online Class**

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Office Hours: TBA

Texts: Randolph B. Campbell. *Gone to Texas: History of the Lone Star State, 2nd Ed*
ISBN 978-0199779406

Sam Haynes and Cary Wintz Eds. *Major Problems in Texas History*
ISBN 978-0395858332

Course Goals: (3) hours. Texas 4700D examines the history of the various cultures that have inhabited the land known as Texas from its first settlement by Native peoples to the present. The region that became the Lone Star State began as a crossroads of North America, contested by different Indian groups, European empires, and later the nations of Mexico and the United States. The classes will consist of informal lectures and discussions based on the assigned readings. To encourage participation and get a better sense of the major people, events, and processes that shaped Texas' development we will also examine maps, paintings, photographs, and film clips from different eras. Major themes of the course will include Texas' multicultural heritage, cultural contestation over land and identity, and deconstructing powerful regional myths from the Alamo to the Texas Rangers. No prerequisites.

Student Learning Objectives:

History 4700D addresses the four New Texas Core Curriculum Objectives of 1.) Critical Thinking Skills 2.) Communication Skills, 3.) Social Responsibility, and 4.) Personal Responsibility. As active participants in this course, students are encouraged to develop their analytical thinking skills through oral and written expression and to gain an appreciation for the diversity of human experience and the complexity of historical ethical dilemmas through exposure to multiple points of view.

"Start Here": Before doing anything in the course, click on "Start Here" in the left side task bar. Read the "Overview" and "Objectives." Review the "Technology Requirements and Skills" file; make sure you have the proper equipment, software, and skills to complete the course. When you finish, be sure to take the "Start Here Week One Quiz" which is part of your grade.

Technology: Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

<https://bbsupport.unt.edu/TechnicalRequirements>

https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13

Text Usage: For this course you must have both assigned texts: *Gone to Texas* and *Major Problems in Texas History*. You will not be able to complete all assignments otherwise. For the purposes of this course, you will be quizzed weekly over assigned readings from *Gone to Texas* (it is a secondary source). The other text for this course, *Major Problems in Texas History*, is a compilation of edited primary source materials carefully selected to complement readings in *Gone to Texas*. For the exams you will be asked to write an essay utilizing primary source material presented in *Major Problems in Texas History*. You will also need to draw upon general knowledge and background gained in readings from the *Gone to Texas* text for some of the analysis of your essays. Access to both books is absolutely necessary to this course, as is having an understanding of and the ability to use primary and secondary sources. (Please see “Primary and Secondary Sources” in the Exam Study Guides and Source Guides under the “Essay Exams” on the left task bar.)

Chapter Quiz: There are 15 weekly quizzes including the “Week One Start Here Quiz.” Each is worth one point on your final semester average. All Chapter Quizzes are available at 12:01 AM at the beginning of each testing period and close at 11:59 PM on their DUE date. Material for the weekly quizzes come from that week’s chapter of *Gone to Texas*.

Discussions: Weekly Discussion Forums are integral to the course. Students must participate in them to receive the full 25% credit. *Each week students must make at least one original post in their groups discussion forums AND reply to at least one of your group-mates’ original posts in both forums. Students have a week to post and reply in all forums, and therefore, no late discussion posts will be accepted.* All Discussions are available at 12:01 AM at the beginning of each testing period and close at 11:59 PM on their DUE date.

“Prof’s Forum”: This is a non-graded forum where students should go to receive helpful tips and advice from the instructor or to ask questions that may be valuable to the class. The Professor’s Forum is designed to facilitate class communication and foster success. Students should check-in weekly for pertinent, up-to-date class discussions. This is accessible under the “Discussions” tab.

Essay Exams: Your Group Discussion Forums are essentially study groups for your exams. These questions seen in the forums will appear as options on the exam. On the exam, two questions will be drawn randomly from the pool of group discussion questions already received. You get to choose which of the two essay questions to answer. Your essay will be graded according to how well you understand, explain, and analyze both material learned in the *Gone to Texas* text as well as Primary Source material provided in *Voices of Freedom* in order to answer the question. In the course of your essays, you must reference Primary Source material in *Voices of Freedom* and cite when applicable to exam directions.

Exam Study: In addition to the Group Discussion Forums, there are other resources designed to help you write a successful essay. In the Exam Study Guides and Source Guides folder located under the “Essay Exams” tab, there is a document entitled “Exam Study Guide” with specific instructions on what needs to be in each essay and what is considered a complete “example.” Absolutely, you must consult your exam reviews for complete instructions regarding your essays exams. Furthermore, this course is designed so that you have essay questions available as you read the chapters in both books. Do not wait until the last minute to study for your essay exams. Write each chapter’s essays in advance as you go through the course. There is a “Five Step Suggested Study Process” in the Study Guide Folder under the “Essay Exams” on the left task bar to help you with strategies for approaching the essay exam process.

Taking Exams: This is an online course in which you turn in essay exams online. You will have a two hour window in which to do this. **This is a Two-Step Process.**

Step 1: *Log Into the class and click on the “Exam” Icon.* View your possible essay question and choose the one you want to answer. You should write your essay in Microsoft Word, save it, and then *copy and paste the text in the essay exam window.* You must also submit your essay to Turn-it-int. (See Step 2.) You may write your essay in the two hours provided or copy and paste it from a previously written document.

Step 2: *You will then have to upload it via the “Turn-It-In” folder.* Both steps must be on the same calendar day so I can check for **plagiarism** or you will not get credit for the exam. (**Note:** you must use the link to Turn-It-In.com on the course home page. Do not go to Turn-It-In.com to do this.) Understand that I know many of you are studying together, but your essays will have to be independently produced pieces of work that do not use another student’s work or overly use another source’s information word for word. Make sure what you turn in is your own work. You will not know in advance which essay you are assigned, therefore, gambling on one student you are working with not getting the same essay is a bad idea. **ALSO, be advised, Turn-It-In will give me a detailed plagiarism report that will include any internet sources used (absolutely none), any essay previously turned-in to the website, and all other student’s essays.**

Returning Exam: *Students will receive access to graded exams, exam grades, and comments in 7 to 10 days from the exam’s due date.* To view your graded exam, go to the turnitin.com link where you originally uploaded it. **Tip: If the GradeMark icon is not available, the post date of the assignment has not been reached or the instructor has not yet graded or marked the paper.** To view a graded and marked paper, the student user will need to click on the blue “View” button next to the assignment. The student GradeMark paper view will open in a separate window in which the student may view or print the grade and comment information. Not all browsers will be able to display the complete features of the GradeMark product. If a browser that is not fully supported is being used, a notification will come up to inform the user. For further directions on how to use the comments and such in your graded exam, see the “turnitin student manual” under the “Essay Exams” button.

Grade Matrix:	Start Here Week One Quiz	1%
	Weekly Quizzes (14 X 1%)	14%
	Weekly Discussion Forum	25%
	Research Paper	13%
	Paper Topic and Bibliography	2%
	Exams (3 X 15%)	45%
	Course Grade	100%

Grading: A"=89.5 to 100; "B"=79.5 to 89.4; "C"=69.5 to 79.4; "D"=59.5 to 69.4; "F"=<59.5

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<u>Module 1</u>		
8/24 to 9/06	The First Texans	GTT Ch. 1, MP Ch. 2*
8/24 to 9/06	Exploration and Adventure	GTT Ch. 2-4, MP Ch. 2-3
9/04 to 9/13	Spanish Texas	GTT Ch. 5, MP Ch. 3-4
9/14 to 9/20	Mexican Texas	GTT Ch. 6, MP Ch. 4
9/21 to 9/27	The Texas Revolution	GTT Ch. 7, MP Ch. 5
Sept. 28	TEST ONE (Available)	
Oct. 4	TEST ONE (DUE)	
<u>Module 2</u>		
9/28 to 10/4	The Republic of Texas	GTT Ch. 8, MP Ch. 6
10/5 to 10/11	Antebellum Texas	GTT Ch. 9, MP Ch. 7
10/12 to 10/18	The Civil War	GTT Ch. 10, MP Ch. 8
Oct. 11	PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY (DUE)	
10/19 to 10/25	Reconstruction in Texas	GTT Ch. 11, MP Ch. 9
10/26 to 11/01	Old West and New South	GTT Ch. 12, MP Ch. 10
Nov. 2	TEST TWO (Available)	
Nov. 8	TEST TWO (DUE)	
<u>Module 3</u>		
11/02 to 11/08	An Era of Reform	GTT Ch. 13, MP Ch. 11-14
11/09 to 11/15	"Prosperity Decade" and Depression	GTT Ch. 13-14, MP Ch. 12
Nov. 15	RESEARCH PAPER (DUE)	
11/16 to 12/06	WWII and the Rise of Modern Texas	GTT Ch. 15, MP Ch. 14
Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING	
Nov. 30	EXAM THREE (Available)	
11/16 to 12/06	Modern Texas	GTT Ch. 16, MP Ch. 1
Dec. 07	EXAM THREE DUE	(Due by 11:59 PM)

*GTT= Gone to Texas, MP= Major Problems in Texas History

Quiz, Discussion, and Exam Availability Times

All Chapter Quizzes and Discussions are available at 12:01 AM at the beginning of each week (usually Monday) and close at 11:59 PM the following Sunday. All Exams become available at 12:01 AM, and close at 11:59 PM on their DUE date.

University Policies and Procedures

Online “Netiquette”

Emails should use proper “netiquette,” i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks). Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind. Any violation of netiquette policies may result in a loss of points or removal from the course. Repeated online misconduct may be subject to more serious sanctions, such as warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call 972-780-3632.

Any student requiring an accommodation either for class or for exams should obtain a “Letter of Accommodation” from the Student Life Office as soon as possible. Instructors cannot make any accommodations unless they have received the aforementioned letter.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used.

Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided:

<http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

Instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

All work should be turned in on time. I late work is accepted, it will result a ten-point deduction per day late.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code. In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Turnitin Statement:

Students may be required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service. Before submitting your paper to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically. (Online classes may not be affected by weather closings.)

Attendance and Participation Policy:

Although this is an online course, you must log-in regularly and complete all work on time. This is not a self-paced course. You will have assignments to do weekly and you must complete them by the deadline or they will close and will not re-open.

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Requirements:

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course.

- *Internet Explorer® 10 from Microsoft (26 October 2012 for Windows 8, 26 February 2013 for Windows 7)*

- *Internet Explorer 9 from Microsoft (14 March 2011). There are some configuration options for Internet Explorer that may make some features of Blackboard Learn difficult to use.*
- *Safari® 6 from Apple (25 July 2012)*
- *Safari 5 from Apple (7 June 2010)*
- *Safari 5 for Windows is an exception. Apple's continued support for this browser is unclear, and Blackboard does not test it.*
- *Firefox® 21 (stable channel) from Mozilla (14 May 2013)*
- *Firefox 17 (ESR channel) from Mozilla (14 May 2013)*

Chrome™ 27 (stable channel) from Google (21 May 2013)