

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: HISTORY 2301
Revised 8/26

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: History

Course Number: HIST 2301

Course Title: Texas History

Available Formats: conventional, internet, hybrid

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, Lubbock Center, Lubbock Downtown, Dual-Credit

Course Description: A survey of the political, social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of Texas from the pre-Columbian era to the present. Themes that may be addressed in Texas History include: Spanish colonization and Spanish Texas, Mexican Texas, the Republic of Texas, statehood and secession, oil, industrialization, and urbanization, civil rights, and modern Texas.

Prerequisite: TSI compliance in Reading

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: American History Foundational Component Area (060)

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills**—to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility**—to include the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of American political, social, and economic institutions and traditions from the arrival of Europeans to the mid-nineteenth century. This would include the ability 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, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A pre- and post-test and/or a writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither the instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Syllabus: HISTORY 2301
Texas History
South Plains College
Fall 2026

Professor: Dr. Abel Rios

Office: 1015A, Lubbock Downtown Center

Office Hours: Mon./Wed. 1:00 – 2:30 pm; Tues./Thurs. 8:30 - 9:30 am; Fri. 9:00 - 1:00 pm

E-mail: arios@southplainscollege.edu. Do not send me a message through “Course Messages” in *Blackboard*.

This is an online class (HIST 2301.151)

Required Texts:

There is no textbook for this class. Instead, weekly book chapters and/or articles are available on *Blackboard*.

Russell, Jan Jarboe. *The Train to Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II*. Mineola, New York: Scribner. ISBN 978-1451693676. **READ only chapters 1-11**. The e-book is available through the [South Plains College Library](#).

Access to Blackboard:

You will need reliable internet service for this course. Please use a recommended browser, like Google Chrome, and sign in with your SPC login information to <http://southplainscollege.blackboard.edu>.

Grades:

Assignments/Quizzes (16 X 25 points each) – 560 points

The Train to Crystal City Quiz – 40 points

Exam 1 – 100 points

Final Exam – 100 points

Total – 800 points

Final Grade:

A (100-90) = 800-720 points

B (89-80) = 719-640 points

C (79-70) = 639-560 points

D (69-60) = 559-480 points

F (59-0) = 479-0 points

Course Work Descriptions:

Quizzes

There will be sixteen (16) assignments/quizzes. Each weekly assignment/quiz will cover assigned readings.

Exams

There will be two (2) exams. Each exam will cover material from the weeks prior to the exam and will be the week after the quiz. For example, the first exam will cover weeks 1-4, the second exam will cover weeks 5-10, and the final exam will cover weeks 11-15. Exams will include lecture material and assigned readings.

The Train to Crystal City Quiz

A quiz will be given over *The Train to Crystal City* at the end of the semester. See the syllabus for the exact date. **READ only chapters 1-11.**

South Plains College and Class Policies:

Attendance: Since this is an online class, attendance revolves around you completing your assignments and exams. **If you fail to complete any FIVE assignments/exams, you will be dropped from class for non-attendance.**

Dropping the course:

- If you are considering dropping the class, you should speak with me first. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. If you decide to drop the class, then you should submit a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) online from the SPC website. Failure to complete the drop procedure will result in an "F" grade on your transcript. The drop date can be found on the SPC calendar.

If you are unable to drop the course because of distance, then here is a suggestion:

- First, log in to MySPC, click on Admissions and Records, find Student Forms and Tools, and download and print the **Student Initiated Drop Form**.
- Fill out and sign the form and arrange for me (your instructor) or your advisor to sign it.
- Then you can take the drop form to the SPC Registrar's Office at the Levelland, Reese, or Lubbock campus. Call 806-716-2187 or 806-716-2375 for more information.
- If you are not able to come in person to one of the campuses, then you need to submit an email requesting to be dropped to either amorin@southplainscollege.edu or aruiz@southplainscollege.edu and they will work with you. The email should be from your SPC email account and should include a brief statement that you wish to drop and the reason you are unable to come to an SPC campus to accomplish that task. Include your name and the course and section you need to drop.

Late or make-up work:

- Your work must be turned in on schedule to receive credit.
- If a student is absent for a quiz or exam, it is your responsibility to contact the professor.
- **All work must be turned in BEFORE the Final Exam week. There are no exceptions.**

Academic integrity:

- Anything that borders on cheating, plagiarism, or affects the academic integrity of the assignment or of the course will be dealt with -- the least thing that could happen to the student is dismissal from the class roster with a failing grade.
- Your work must be *in your own words*, and it must be original (cheating and plagiarism - that is, copying someone else's work or copying from another source). Students who cheat or plagiarize will be dropped from the class with an "F."

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student. This includes a paper generated by AI (artificial intelligence) technology such as ChatGPT, OpenAI, or similar programs.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation.
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them, or missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion.
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given.
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment.
4. Taking an examination for another.
5. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.
6. Rewriting another student's work to the point that the original student's writing is absent.
7. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Remember this: to check for plagiarism, the professor can take a random phrase from an essay, copy it, paste it into a Google search or an AI detection software, and the source will appear. The internet has made plagiarism much easier, but it has also made catching it much easier, too!

The consequence of plagiarism in my classes is this: the offender(s) will receive zero credit for the entire assignment or exam or will be dropped from the class with an F.

SPC Policy regarding "standard English": All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Student Privacy: South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, I will NOT release or discuss your class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but you. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from me – if they need this sort of information they must ask you for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

Tobacco Policy: South Plains College prohibits the use of any tobacco product, electronic cigarette, or vapor device throughout all indoor areas and within a 25 foot perimeter around all facility entrances, exits and HVAC air intake vents under the control of SPC, including sporting facilities and SPC vehicles. Included in this ban are tobacco products of all types (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such a manner to be suitable for spit tobacco use, smoking, or both). This ban also includes herbal tobacco products and simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products such as e-cigarettes, vapor cigarettes, pipes or other types of inhalation devices.

E-mail Etiquette: I will respond to your e-mail within two business days. I will selectively respond to e-mails after 5:00 pm and on the weekends. In addition, I am your professor and expect a certain level of respect when addressed via electronic or face-to-face communiqué. Your e-mails should begin with a proper salutation (i.e., Dear/Hello Dr. Rios). Informal or familiar language (i.e., “Hey,” “What’s up,” or writing text with no salutation or context) should be avoided when addressing your professor. You should identify yourself and your class. Professors teach several sections and are not always familiar with each student, especially in large sections. Please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: HIST 1301.156).

Note: The professor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Distance/Online Course Conduct

1. Remember that you are addressing a group. This means several things:
 - a. Don't say things that you wouldn't say publicly or face-to-face.
 - b. Don't address comments to individuals unless you want everyone to know what you are telling that person.
 - c. Don't share confidential information.
 - d. Read your message before you send it, since once it is out you can't change it.
2. Access your electronic mail regularly and read through all the messages that have been sent before you reply.
3. Remember humor and sarcasm might be misunderstood in electronic or distance communication. Carefully employ good word choice so that your meaning comes through clearly.
4. Aim for clarity and readability in your communication.
5. If you are in a class with microphones (ITV) make sure that the device close to you is on silent. Unless the instructor asks you to a question.

Technology Problems/ Late Work

1. Start early and finish early: The professor will NOT accept late work.
2. If there is a problem with Blackboard and it is the fault of the professor or Blackboard, you will not be penalized. If you are unable to complete any assignment because of problems with your computer or server, your work will NOT be accepted late. Please make sure you are using a reliable server and computer.
3. **THERE IS NO MAKEUP, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
If you miss an assignment, you should evaluate your progress to determine if you need to drop. If you fail to turn in three (3) assignments or parts of assignments by the posted day/time you will receive a grade of "F" in the class.

Blackboard Problems and Tech Support

1. If you have any questions concerning the operation of the Blackboard system you should contact Student Support at 894-9611, ext. 2180.
2. Drop Policy: The student that ceases to submit assignments, as indicated above, can be dropped from the course.
3. Saving Your Exams/Assignments: When you take an exam/assignment, make sure that you SAVE your answer(s), wait a minute or two, then submit your exam/assignment. If you do not follow this procedure then your exam may not be submitted correctly, which could result in a zero (0) for the exam/assignment. Your grades will be released after the period to take the exam/assignment has ended. Remember: It is the student's responsibility to submit the exam/assignment correctly. If you do not save your exam/assignment or if you exceed the time limit, then I will not receive an answer(s) and you will receive a zero (0) for the exam/assignment.

Course Schedule

Week 1, August 24-27, Prehistory and Native Americans

Read David La Vere, "The Blossoming of Texas Cultures," in *The Texas Indians*, chapter 2.

Week 1 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 2, August 31-September 3, The First Texans and European Explorers, 1519-1689. Spanish Texas, 1690-1779

Read Jesús F. Dela Teja, "Spanish Colonial Texas," in *Faces of Béxar: Early San Antonio and Texas*, chapter 1.

Week 2 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 3, September 8-10, The End of Spanish Texas, 1779-1821. Mexican Texas, 1821-1835

Read Arnold De León, revised Jesús "Frank" de la Teja, "Mexican Texas," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

Week 3 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 4, September 14-17, The Texas Revolution/Rebellion, 1835-1836

Review *Remember the Alamo*

Week 4 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 5, September 21-24, The Republic of Texas, 1836-1846

Read Archie P. McDonald, "The Republic of Texas," in *Texas: A Compact History*, chapter 5.

Exam 1, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm (The first exam will cover weeks 1-4.)

Week 6, September 28-October 1, Frontier Texas, 1846-1861. Texas and the South, 1846-1861

Read Robert A. Calvert, Arnolde De León, and Gregg Cantrell, "Statehood, Secession, and Civil War, 1848-1865," in *The History of Texas*, chapter 5.

Week 6 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 7, October 5-8, Texas and the Civil War, 1861-1865. Reconstruction Texas, 1865-1876

Read Archie P. McDonald, "Reconstruction and Indian Wars," in *Texas: A Compact History*, chapter 8.

Week 7 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 8, October 12-15, Westward Expansion and Texas, 1877-1900. Texas in the "New South," 1877-1900

Read Loyd Uglow, "Mexican Border Troubles," in *A Military History of Texas*, chapter 10.

Week 8 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 9, October 19-22, Progressive Texas, 1901-1920

Read Angela Boswell, "Women's Work, 1890s-1920s," in *Women in Texas History*, chapter 7.

Week 9 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 10, October 26-29, The Roaring 20s, 1921-1929

Read Walter L. Buenger, "Progressive Era," *Handbook of Texas Online*.

Week 10 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 11, November 2-5, The Great Depression and World War II, 1929-1945

Review *Surviving the Dust Bowl*

Exam 2, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm (The second exam will cover weeks 5-10.)

Week 12, November 9-12, Civil Rights and Texas, 1945-1971

Review *Austin Revealed: Civil Rights Stories* and *Austin Revealed: El Despertar*

Read Joel Zapata, "The South-by-Southwest Borderlands' Chicana/o Uprising: ... West Texas," in *Civil Rights in Black and Brown: Histories of Resistance and Struggle in Texas*, edited by Max Krochmal and J. Todd Moyer, chapter 5.

Week 12 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 13, November 16-19, Civil Rights and Texas, 1945-1971

Read David G. McComb, "Texas Mystique," in *Texas, A Modern History*, chapter 6.

***The Train to Crystal City* quiz**, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Week 14, November 23-26, Modern Texas, 1971-2000

No assignment/quiz is due

Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 25-27)

Week 15, November 30-December 3, Modern Texas, 1971-2000

Read Angela Boswell, "Taking Charge: Women to the End of the Twentieth Century," in *Women in Texas History*, chapter 10.

Week 15 Assignment/quiz, available from Monday at 12:00 am to Sunday at 11:59 pm

Last day to drop the course (Dec. 3)

Final Exam Week:

HIST 2301.151 – The exam is due by **Monday, Dec. 7 by at 11:00 pm**