Hist-1301.001
U.S. History to 1865
Spring 2009

Class meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50 am, Building ST-101
Instructor: Dr. David Seim
e-mail: david.seim@tamucc.edu
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:00-1:00 pm
Office: College of Liberal Arts, Faculty Center 270B
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Required Texts:
Jacqueline Jones, et al., Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States
Michael Boezi, ed., Voices of Created Equal, Volume I
Colin G. Calloway, New Worlds for All

Course Description:
The course examines social, political, cultural, and economic histories of the United States of America. Our project is to integrate these histories into an overall narrative explaining various conflicts in American history, including broad conflicts such as liberty vs. power, states' rights vs. federal government, and debates over the idea of "American Exceptionalism." Our course objectives are to improve your analytical and writing skills, and to develop a richer understanding of U.S. history.

Course Structure and Grading:
This course meets three times per week. The majority of class time is lecture. Lectures are important. They are designed to illustrate and expand upon your assigned readings. Various matters will be introduced in lectures that are not in your readings, so take notes.

You have four examinations in the course. Three exams are during the semester and one is during finals week. All four exams consist of fifty multiple choice questions (one point each), with twelve to thirteen questions being selected from each chapter. Exam questions are drawn from the textbook, the documents reader, and lectures. You are to bring a pencil to each exam. Exam policies: Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a "0" for that exam, and may also be subject to further disciplinary action by the university. Students are required to take each exam in class on the scheduled date. Any request for a full-credit make-up exam must be accompanied by an official letter supporting a University-approved excuse. Any make-up exam taken without such a letter will receive a ten percent penalty. Each exam is worth 50 points.

You will write one book critique. This paper must be at least 900 words (3 pages) and no more than 1500 words (5 pages). The paper is to be double spaced. For the paper you will
answer an assigned question about the book *New Worlds for All*. I will discuss the particular question during the first week of class, as well as periodically thereafter. We will also take time to discuss standard expectations for a book critique. The paper is due at class on March 25th, with any late papers (i.e., anything after 10:00 am!) getting marked down five points per day or even partial day. Keep in mind that this paper will have you citing ideas and quotations from *New Worlds for All*, and so you must include any appropriate quotation marks, page numbers, and the like. The paper is worth 50 points.

**Objectives for using your documents reader, *Voices of Created Equal*:**
Each textbook chapter in *Created Equal* comes with supporting primary documents in *Voices of Created Equal*. You are responsible to read all assigned documents, which are two per chapter. On every exam you will find a question drawn from each assigned document – with some strong hints always provided during lecture as to what these questions might be.

**Attendance:**
Attendance is recorded at random, six times during the semester. Five points accrue for each recorded attendance – for 30 total points. Note that no points are lost if any absence is an official University-excused absence, as established by appropriate official documentation.

**Grade Scale:**
Your final grade is calculated with a letter-grade system, with grades calculated out of a total of 280 points on the scale that follows:
- 252-280 points A
- 224-251 points B
- 196-223 points C
- 168-195 points D
- Below 168 points F

**Expected Outcomes:**
At the end of the term students will be able to:
- Identify a textbook’s primary arguments
- Write a coherent short review of a monograph
- Write topic sentences and organize clearly a short review of a monograph
- Gather knowledge to aid in passage of the history and social studies teaching certification examinations
- Discuss intelligently major events in American history
Americans with Disabilities Act:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.

Advising:
The College of Liberal Acts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a Faculty Mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is in Driftwood 203E (phone 825-3466).

Respect and Honesty:
We all enjoy being lighthearted in the classroom – no one more than I. However any inappropriate distractions in the classroom are frowned upon. Cell phone usage and excessive talking are disrespectful of your learning environment. Turn off cell phones and beepers. Arrive at class on time, respect others when they share ideas and questions, and avoid monopolizing discussion. I emphasize academic honesty in all work: As noted above, any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated; for cases of academic dishonesty TAMU-CC rules state the penalty can be failure of the entire course. Students are responsible for ensuring completion of all assigned work by the proper dates. Any student receiving a grade on any assignment that he or she believes is assessed incorrectly is welcome to ask about the grade. All students have a right to appeal a grade in a proper and respectful manner. If a grade has been assigned by a grader, first arrange to meet with the grader. If the grade is assigned by me, arrange an office meeting with me. In any and all cases, a student has a right for me to re-grade an entire assignment, with this re-graded result (whether higher or lower) being non-negotiable. Any student desiring a next step of grade appeal has a full right to file a formal grade challenge outside classroom channels.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

**UNIT 1:**  *Created Equal* chapters 1-4  
*Voices of Created Equal* docs 1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.5

**Wed. Jan. 14**  
Course Introduction

**Fri. Jan. 16**  
Lecture: Ancient America to 1492

**Mon. Jan. 19**  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – No Class

**Wed. Jan. 21**  
Lecture: Ancient America to 1492

**Fri. Jan. 23**  
Lecture: Europeans and the New World
Mon. Jan. 26  Lecture: Europeans and the New World
Wed. Jan. 28  Lecture: Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century
Fri. Jan. 30   Work Day: *New Worlds for All* – No Class
Mon. Feb. 2    Lecture: Southern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century
Wed. Feb. 4    Lecture: Northern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century
Fri. Feb. 6    Lecture: Northern Colonies in the Seventeenth Century
Mon. Feb. 9    Review for Exam One
Wed. Feb. 11   EXAM ONE

**UNIT 2:**  *Created Equal* chapters 5-8

*Voices of Created Equal* docs 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.3, 7.2, 7.4, 8.2, 8.3
Fri. Feb. 13   Lecture: Colonial America in the Eighteenth Century
Mon. Feb. 16   Lecture: Colonial America in the Eighteenth Century
Wed. Feb. 18   Lecture: British Empire and the Colonial Crisis, 1754-1775
Fri. Feb. 20   Lecture: British Empire and the Colonial Crisis, 1754-1775
Mon. Feb. 23   Lecture: The War for America, 1775-1783
Wed. Feb. 25   Lecture: The War for America, 1775-1783
Fri. Feb. 27   Work Day: *New Worlds for All* – No Class
Mon. Mar. 2    Lecture: Building a Republic, 1775-1789
Wed. Mar. 4    Lecture: Building a Republic, 1775-1789
Fri. Mar. 6    Review for Exam Two
Mon. Mar. 9    EXAM TWO

**UNIT 3:**  *Created Equal* chapters 9-12

*Voices of Created Equal* docs 9.1, 9.6, 10.1, 10.3, 11.1, 11.5, 12.2, 12.6
Fri. Mar. 13   Discussion Day: *New Worlds for All*
Mon. Mar. 23  Lecture: The New Nation Takes Form, 1789-1800
Fri. Mar. 27  Lecture: Republicans in Power, 1800-1824
Mon. Mar. 30  Lecture: The Expanding Republic, 1815-1840
Wed. Apr.  1  Lecture: The Expanding Republic, 1815-1840
Fri. Apr.  3  Lecture: The Free North and the New West, to the 1850s
Mon. Apr.  6  Lecture: The Free North and the New West, to the 1850s
Wed. Apr.  8  Review for Exam Three
Fri. Apr. 10  EXAM THREE

UNIT 4: *Created Equal* chapters 13-14, 15 (pages 356-365)
*Voices of Created Equal* docs 13.2, 13.6, 14.2, 14.5, 15.1, 15.2
Mon. Apr. 13  Lecture: The Slave South, to the 1860s
Wed. Apr. 15  Lecture: The Slave South, to the 1860s
Fri. Apr. 17  Lecture: The House Divided, 1848-1861
Mon. Apr. 20  Lecture: The House Divided, 1848-1861
Wed. Apr. 22  Lecture: The Crucible of War, 1861-1865
Fri. Apr. 24  Lecture: The Crucible of War, 1861-1865
Mon. Apr. 27  Lecture: Beginnings of Reconstruction, 1863-1866
Wed. Apr. 29  Lecture: Beginnings of Reconstruction, 1863-1866
Fri. May  1  Review for Exam Four
Mon. May  4  Review of cumulative material from Units 1-3
Wed. May  6  Reading Day
Mon. May 11  EXAM FOUR (8:00-10:30 am)