

GSD3602018938015

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FAQs

What is the name and unique numbers for the course?

European Immigration in Texas in the 19th Century:

GSD360(38015) AMS321(31155) EUS346(36180)

Who teaches it?

Dr. James C. Kearney, Dept of Germanic Studies, Burdine 304

When and where does the course meet?

T/TH 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. PAR 302

When and where are office hours: Burdine 304; Wednesday 10-12; 1-2 (or by special appointment)

Do I have to buy a textbook?

No Textbooks required; All readings supplied in Canvas with a module for each class.

Is there travel required?

No, but there will be two field trips, the first to the Briscoe Center for American History Studies and the second to the General Land Office. Both places can be easily reached by foot.

Important Notices:

- **Religious absences:** By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.
- **Accommodations:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>
- **Academic dishonesty:** UT Honor Code will be enforced. Plagiarism is representing someone else's research and/or work as your own. Link to University Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>

Course Description:

In the nineteenth century waves of immigrants from several Central and Northern European countries altered the demographics of Texas significantly while accelerating both economic and agricultural development of the republic and (later) state. Painted churches, dance halls, sausage festivals, etc. still speak to the cultural legacy of these immigrants in large swaths of Texas while, amazingly, pockets of bilingualism still survive after several generations. The immigrant story often intertwined with larger themes of Texas history such as frontier, Native Americans, and slavery. Contrasting attitudes and values led to conflict at times, especially during the Civil War, since many of the immigrants openly opposed secession and/or slavery.

This course will examine both the push—the causes of European emigration—and the pull—the attraction of Texas as a destination. The goal is to further our understanding of the cultural and social forces at play in the nineteenth century on both sides of the Atlantic and to deepen our appreciation for the positive contributions of the many different European nationalities that have added strands to the rich and colorful tapestry of the state.

Readings for classroom discussion will all come from online sources, either posted on my website or available through the Handbook of Texas online. It will not be necessary to purchase any books.

We will tour the Briscoe Center for American History Studies, the Texas State Library, and the General Land Office, all located in Austin and all-important repositories of primary and secondary source information. Students will do a mini-research paper and short presentation based on research in one or all of these facilities. This is a process as opposed to product-oriented class. In other words, for the final project, the doing is more important than what gets done.

Course Objectives:

There are several specific goals for this course.

- Discuss the social and political forces in Central Europe that drove millions to consider emigration to the New World.
- Explain the appeal of Texas as a destination
- Understand the nuts and bolts of immigration in the nineteenth century
- Know the contributions of the various ethnic groups to the economic, social, and cultural development of the republic (and later state)
- Explain how the theme of European immigration intersected with other major themes of Texas history, such as frontier, Native Americans, role of women, and slavery.
- Become familiar with the resources that are available for further scholarly work

Course Requirements:

- to come to class,
- to do the readings, and
- to participate in the scheduled visits to the Briscoe Center for American History Studies, the Texas State Library, and the General Land Office. All facilities are within walking distance of the University.
- to complete projects/paper on time and according to proscribed format.

The readings, although numerous, are usually quite short, often less than a page. They will provide the background information vital to achieving the goals outlined above, as well as to provide you with a framework for class discussions and for your research project. There will be short quizzes at the beginning of most classes over the assigned reading. A list of questions from which the quizzes will come will be provided in Canvas. **All assignments, tests, and readings will be posted in Canvas.**

Grading breakdown:

Tests: 33% (three tests scheduled)

Participation: 33%

- Attendance, including scheduled field trips (no more than three unexcused absences)
- Contribution to in-class discussions
- Quizzes over assigned readings

Research paper and presentation: 33%

- Topic abstract
- 10 minute class presentation (three power point slides)
- 5-10 page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt., excluding bibliography and illustrations)

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule should events demand such a modification. I will notify students of such changes, should they occur, both in class and through "Canvas," the UT online electronic service.

syllabus:

- Class 1 (TH Aug 30): Introduction to the Course
- Class 2 (T Sept 4): Spanish and Mexican Texas; Texas Revolution
- Class 3 (TH Sept 6): German History: The End of the Holy Roman Empire
- Class 4 (T Sept 11): Germans, Friedrich Ernst and 'Texas Fever'
- Class 5 (TH Sept 13): Early German Settlements
- Class 6 (T Sept 18): The Republic of Texas, 1836-1845; Land Grants
- Class 7 (TH Sept 20): **Test 1**
- Class 8 (T Sept 25): **Field Trip to the General Land Office**
- Class 9 (TH Sept 27): **Field Trip to the Briscoe Center for American History Studies**
- Class 10 (T Oct 2): The Vormärz in Germany; Revolution 1848, and thereafter
- Class 11 (TH Oct 4): Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas I
- Class 12 (T Oct 9): Society for the Protection of German Emigrants in Texas II
- Class 13 (TH Oct 11): Other pre-Civil War Central European Nationalities
- Class 14 (T Oct 16): European Immigrants and Civil War

- Class 15 (TH Oct 18): Texas Germans and the Civil War
- Class 16 (T Oct 23): **Test 2**
- Class 17 (TH Oct 25): The Course of Texas History: 1866-1900
- Class 18 (T Oct 30): The Politics of Immigration and the role of Railroads
- Class 19 (TH Nov 1): Central Europe 1866-1900/Abstract of research topic due
- Class 20 (T Nov 6): The Czechs in Texas
- Class 21 (TH Nov 8): The Poles and Wends in Texas
- Class 22 (T Nov 13): Scandinavians in Texas in Texas
- Class 23 (TH Nov 15): Jewish Immigration in Texas
- Class 24 (T Nov 20): Legacy of the Central European Immigrants in Texas
- Class 25 (TH Nov 27): **Test 3**
- Class 26 (T Nov 29): Presentations (Three slide power point)
- Class 27 (T Dec 4): Presentations (Three slide power point)
- Class 28 (TH Dec 6): Wrap-up, Make-up

Research project due December 10th (last official day of class)