

To the Dual Credit U.S. history students and parents for the 2017-2018 school year,

Hello. My name is Kerry Chandler. I teach the Dual Credit U.S. history course at Conroe High. I wanted to send this letter welcoming you to my class and to let you know the important information you'll need.

First, to introduce myself. I'm a native of Conroe and a graduate of Conroe High School, class of 2001. I hold a B.A. in history from Texas A&M University and a M.A. in history from Texas State University. I've been teaching for ten years and along with teaching Dual Credit and AP classes at CHS, I also teach night classes at Lonestar College. I've been married for nine years to another CHS graduate and teacher and have a five-year old son.

In case you aren't fully aware, I want to let you know all that this course involves. Dual Credit courses are college-level courses in which students earn both high school Credit and college Credit. This course will cover HIST 1301 and 1302, a total of 6 hours of college history Credit, which is all that most degrees require you to take. In order to earn this Credit, a student must end each semester with a C average on the Lonestar grading scale (70+). Whatever grade they get **will** go on their college transcript, and while the CHS GPA is weighted the same as an AP class, it is not weighted with the college. If a student ends either semester with less than a C average in **any** Dual Credit class, they will be both removed from and banned from ever taking any other Dual Credit classes in the state of Texas. So, it is imperative that you keep up with your work.

Dual Credit students are also expected to buy their own books. I have worked with the administrators at Lonestar College to put together a reading list that is both of a college level but also places the least financial burden on you. The books you will need to purchase and when they must be purchased are below:

- **Give Me Liberty Vol. 1 5e** (ISBN-13: 978-0393603422) - you must have this book by the first week of school. I will provide a free ebook of the first three chapters for those that cannot get it on time, but this will only get you through the first 2 weeks of the class. It costs around \$48 new and can be purchased at the Lonestar College bookstore, wherever books are sold, or from my former students. Note: the college is switching from the 4th to the 5th edition this year. My current students have the 4th edition. You are permitted to buy the 4th edition, but if I mention page numbers in class, they may be different.
- **Everyday Life in Early America** (ISBN-13: 978-0060912512) - you must have this book by the second week of school at the latest. It can be purchased at the Lonestar book store or anywhere books are sold. It cannot be purchased from my previous students as it is new to this class. It is typically about \$10 in paperback form.
- **Uncle Tom's Cabin** (ISBN-13: 978-1508480129) - You will need this book no later than the middle of October. It can be found for free as an ebook or can be purchased at the Lonestar College bookstore, wherever books are sold, or from my former students. It is typically about \$10 in paperback form.
- **Give Me Liberty Vol. 2 5e** (ISBN-13: 978-0393615654) - you will need this book by the second week of **January**. It can be purchased at the Lonestar College bookstore, wherever books are sold, or from my former students. The same disclaimer as above applies here.
- **Black Like Me** (ISBN-13: 978-0451234216) - you will need this book by the 3rd week of January at the latest. It can be purchased at the Lonestar College bookstore, wherever books are sold, or from my former students. It is typically about \$10 in paperback form.
- **If I Die in a Combat Zone** (ISBN-13: 978-0767904438) - you will need this book by Spring Break (I always suggest that students try to read it over the break). It can be purchased at the Lonestar College bookstore, wherever books are sold, or from my former students. It is typically about \$10 in paperback form.

The workload for this course is extensive, no more or less than the class I teach at Lonestar College. Students will be graded on the following:

- Weekly participation in class discussions over the readings.

- Weekly online discussion questions through Canvas (<https://conroeisd.instructure.com/login/canvas> - note: you cannot access the class in Canvas until the semester begins).
- Term Papers - There will be 2 book analysis papers, minimum 3 pages in length, turned in to Canvas and subjected to the Turn-It-In anti-plagiarism tool. One paper will be due in late October, the other in late April. There may also be 2 research papers, also turned in to Canvas and submitted to Turn-It-In. One paper will be due in late September, the other in late February. All papers will be major grades.
- Tests over every three chapters of the textbook and related readings, comprised of a mix of multiple choice and short-answer essay.
- Other assignments at the instructor's discretion.

To keep up with this workload, I will post all due dates on Canvas, which you can access once the semester begins. **I will also send important reminders via Remind. Text the message @chandler01 to the phone number 81010 to subscribe.** Students and parents can also text me through this secure service without either of us exchanging phone numbers. I suggest subscribing now - I will likely send some reminders over the summer as things come up.

Dual Credit U.S. history is a difficult but very rewarding, fun class. I look forward to getting to know you this fall. If you have any questions, feel free to text me through Remind or e-mail me at kwchandler@conroeisd.net or leave me a voicemail at (936) 337-3231. Have a pleasant summer.

Regards,
Kerry Chandler, M.A.