

Course Syllabus for  
**HANDS-ON-HISTORY 475**  
3 Credit Hours - Fall, 2004

Dr. A. Caroline Castillo Crimm  
Office Hours - Mon, Wed, Fri 8 - 10 am  
Tues-Thurs - 1 to 3:30pm

Office - AB4 447  
Office Phone 294-1487 or 294-1475  
e-mail his\_ccc@shsu.edu

**Assigned Readings:**

Jordan, Terry G. Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture:  
Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978  
Sloan, Eric, Museum of Early American Tools; New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1964  
Crimm, A.C., Cabin Fever; Huntsville: Texas Review Press, 2000  
Map Colors - your choice of type, but you will need at least half a dozen colors.

**Course Objectives:**

This course seeks to help you learn the basic techniques of reconstruction and preservation of log cabins, while learning about the lives of those who lived in the cabins during the first half of United States and Texas History.

You will -

- (1) Gain factual knowledge of the field of preservation - terminology, methods and styles  
Gain factual knowledge in the field of US and Texas history for the 19th and 20th centuries
- (2) Learn fundamental principles of construction of log cabins
- (3) Learn to apply course materials to prepare a written history of the Guerrant Cabin
- (4) Develop specific skills in museum and preservation techniques
- (5) Acquire skills in working with others as a team
- (6) Develop your creative capacities by writing a chapter for inclusion in the book on the cabin
- (7) Gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the lives of the early colonial people
- (8) Develop skill in expressing yourself in writing
- (9) Learn how to find information, interview individuals, and locate archival primary sources
- (10) Acquire an interest in learning more about preservation and local history.

**NOTE: This syllabus, plus all visual presentations in class and specific daily assignments will be available on Blackboard through the Sam Houston Home Page. Please check for posted changes and updates.**

**Grading:**

200 pts      1 Mid=Term Exam and 1 Final Exam - Multiple choice, matching, true false and essay tests, 100 points each. Lowest grade will be dropped. Bring SCANTRON 886E.

200 pts      20 to 30 page historical essay on the Guerrant Cabin or family with footnotes, Bibliography, and personal interviews or primary sources – to be included in The published history of the Guerrant Cabin.

- 50 pts            10 points for participating in historical or campus-wide activities  
As assigned or approved by instructor.
- 50 pts.            Attendance - Deduction of 5 points for every day after your first five absences.  
The five absences are for medical needs, family crises, legal problems, or  
emergencies. **Save them**, you never know when you will need them.

This course will focus on the early history of the United States and Texas, with emphasis on the how local history impacted the Guerrant family who lived in the cabin we will be reconstructing. We will place emphasis on particular themes each week during this first half of our nation's history, rather than try to cover the material comprehensively. These themes will address topics that have transformed the values, institutions, and material fortunes in American life, and in particular the lives of the family who lived in our cabin.

### **Assignments**

All reading assignments are due on the dates listed. Since lectures will cover only selected issues, students will have to work independently to gain a more complete understanding of the first half of American history. Please keep up with your reading. You cannot read 200 pages in one night before the test.

### **Academic Honesty**

According to the administrations guidelines: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.”

### **Attendance Policy**

I expect every student to be present and *on time* for every class. Punctual students are normally annoyed by the disruption of those who continually walk into class late. I will take roll at the beginning of each class session; if you are not in your seat, you will be counted absent. The only exceptions regarding tardiness will be on days of inclement weather and optional days when we hold reviews.

In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, you are still responsible for the material covered. I will feel obligated to disseminate material and instructions one time only. Check your syllabus regularly for any changes. If you are absent or late, the responsibility for obtaining information is incumbent upon you. You would be wise to establish relationships with fellow students for assuring that you remain well informed and that you are adequately prepared for exams.

## **Absences**

You may miss five classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. After five absences, however, five points will be deducted for each absence from your overall grade. In the event you experience some emergency for missing class after your five “free walks,” you must provide documentation (to my satisfaction) for those days **as well as** the five free walks.

*In the event you must drop this class*, please remember, should you decide to drop the course, do so through the registrar’s office. Otherwise, your course grade will be “F.”

## **ADA Accomodations**

### **DISABLED STUDENT POLICY**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

## **Classroom Rules of Conduct**

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. *“Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class,[chewing gum], using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the university policy.”* In addition, I will handle any minor behavioral distractions by requiring that you meet with me.

## **Visitors in the Classroom**

According to the Administration’s guidelines: *“Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.”* Anyone visiting the class must make arrangements with me before class begins. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way interfere with registered members of the class or the educational process.

## **Additional Notes**

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must initiate this action themselves through the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner.

As a condition of enrollment in this course, a student agrees to give permission to have all written materials checked for plagiarism by computer internet verification. Continued enrollment in this course beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> class day constitutes your agreement to this condition.

Please do not bring a tape recorder to class unless you can provide some documentation for a disability.

Please be considerate of your classmates. You may bring drinks to class, but do NOT eat, dip, or chew gum in the classroom.

In consideration of time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that might adversely affect the majority of the class, I will reserve the right to make minor changes to this syllabus.

## **Religious Holidays**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

## **Copyright Statement**

The materials presented in this course (including but not limited to lectures, dilemmas, written papers, and visual presentations) are copyrighted. Reproduction of class notes for commercial purposes without the express permission of the copyright holder is prohibited.

As a condition of publication it is essential that you grant SHSU the copyright of your contribution to the book History of the Guarrant Cabin by Texas Review Press. You will be provided with a copyright contract prior to the time of publication.

## Assignments

### Week 1

Thur - Aug 26 Introduction

### Week 2

Tues - Aug 31 History of the United States  
Thur - Sep 2 History of Texas and the Guerrant Family

### Week 3

Tues - Sep 7 Visit Cabin on the Square Read Crimm, Cabin Fever  
Thur - Sep 9 Visit Samuel Houston Heritage House

### Week 4

Tues - Sep 14 Visit Fernland, Montgomery Cty - Read Jordan, Texas Log Cabins  
Thur - Sep 16 Visit by George Ranch Reenactors  
Sat - Sep 18 Visit Washington-on-the Brazos, Barrington Farms

### Week 5

Tues - Sep 21 Cabin on the Square - replace daubing  
Thur - Sep 23 Cabin on the Square - replace daubing

### Week 6

Tues - Sep 28 Guerrant Cabin - carpentry repair work - Read Sloane, Tools  
Thur - Sep 30 Interviews with Guerrant Family members (on your own)

### Week 7

Tues - Oct 5 Guerrant Cabin - Doors and Windows  
Interviews with Guerrant Family members (on your own)  
Thur - Oct 7 Guerrant Cabin - Doors and Windows - Report on Interviews,

### Week 8

Tues - Oct 12 Guerrant Cabin - Mud Cat Chimney  
Thur - Oct 14 MID TERM EXAM - All books and notes - Bring Scantron 886E

### Week 9

Tues - Oct 19 Guerrant Cabin - Mud Cat Chimney  
Thur - Oct 21 Guerrant Cabin - Mud Cat Chimney  
Rough Draft of Guerrant Family History chapters due

### Week 10

Tues - Oct 26 Guerrant Cabin - Doors and Windows  
Thur - Oct 28 Guerrant Cabin - Doors and Windows

Week 11

Tues - Nov 2            Daubing on Guerrant Cabin  
Thur - Nov 4            Daubing on Guerrant Cabin

Week 12

Tues - Nov 9            Daubing on Guerrant Cabin  
Thur- Nov 11           Daubing on Guerrant Cabin

Week 13

Tues - Nov 16           Finishing up on Guerrant Cabin  
Thur - Nov 18           Rewrites on chapters for Guerrant Family History due

Week 14

Tues - Nov 23           THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS  
Thur - Nov 25           THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

Week 15

Tues - Nov 30           Finishing Guerrant Cabin  
Thur - Dec 2            Finishing Guerrant Cabin

Week 16

Tues - Dec 7            Final Chapters due for Guerrant Family History  
Thur - Dec 9            Review and Evaluation/ Party at Guerrant Cabin

FINAL EXAM - Tuesday, December 14 - 2 - 4 pm

You will be tested over all of the Competencies listed below

- (1) Gain factual knowledge of the field of preservation - terminology, methods and styles  
Gain factual knowledge in the field of US and Texas history for the 19th and 20th centuries
- (2) Learn fundamental principles of construction of log cabins
- (3) Learn to apply course materials to prepare a written history of the Guerrant Cabin
- (4) Develop specific skills in museum and preservation techniques
- (5) Acquire skills in working with others as a team
- (6) Develop your creative capacities by writing a chapter for inclusion in the book on the cabin
- (7) Gain a broader understanding and appreciation for the lives of the early colonial people
- (8) Develop skill in expressing yourself in writing
- (9) Learn how to find information, interview individuals, and locate archival primary sources
- (10) Acquire an interest in learning more about preservation and local history.