**History 1302: History of the United States Since 1865**

**Class Syllabus**

**Instructor**: Dr. Gary L. Kieffner  
Office: Liberal Arts, rm. 331  
Spring Semester 2016  
Office Hours: Tuesdays: 3:15-5:15 p.m.;  
Mondays and Wednesdays,  
Liberal Arts room 103  
1:45-2:45 p.m.;  
Class series: 25974  
or by appointment  
12:00-1:20 p.m.  
Instructor telephone number: 915.747.7060  
Instructor email: Kieffner@utep.edu

**Purpose of the Class:**

Given the precept that learning about the past helps us to understand conditions in the present, the study of historical events is useful in our lives. Active learning of history affects an awareness of the past, in direct comparison with current events, so that past errors will not be replicated tomorrow. Moreover, the present should be analyzed and evaluated in relation to events and similar patterns in the past. Genuine learning evokes an expansion of consciousness, understanding, and empathy. Although we cannot possibly cover all post-1865 history of the United States in a short survey course such as this one, we will focus on some of the most important topics. These include the paradox of post-Civil War reconstruction; the effects of industrialization and corporate capitalism; indigenous survival and perpetual resistance to colonization; the development, then dismantling, of various progressive movements and social democracy; armed conflicts and the growth of the military-industrial complex and other power structures; political and ideological currents and their impact on history; some events informing racism, sexism, class conflict and US imperialism as well as conformity and rebellion, economics and material culture; and noteworthy individuals.

Individually and collectively, we learn about the past and diverse ways in which it affects current issues or problems. Students will practice critical thinking, reasoning, and writing skills in order to prepare for becoming tomorrow’s leaders, teachers, scholars, and elites. The learning of this history bridges the gap between past, present, and future while considering the significance of time. The past comes to life as we recognize that we ourselves are historic figures.

**Required Textbooks:**


Books are available at the University Book Store and at off-campus bookstores. They may also be rented at chegg.com. A copy of each book is also on reserve at the UTEP Library Reserve Desk.
Course Assessment:

Assessment will be accomplished via instructor evaluation of individual contributions to group presentations, quizzes, and examinations as follows:

Group Presentation: (50 pts.)
During the second class meeting, you will be tasked with the forming of groups consisting of two to five classmates each. Your groups will participate in various exercises including the assembly of a movie screenplay portraying incidents in the life of a rights activist. Each of you will have responsibility for a different aspect of the project to guarantee a fair share of the work. The instructor will distribute the specific requirements during class.

Quizzes: (50 pts. total)
Several eight-minute quizzes will be administered on unannounced days in order to assess your knowledge of reading assignments. These will consist of mini-essay questions or conceptual prompts.

Four exams, including the final exam: (4 x 100 pts.)
Exam material is drawn from the textbooks, lectures, discussions, and films. Exams are cumulative; for example, anything covered in the lesson materials before the first exam may also be included on subsequent exams. Each exam shall consist of five parts: essay questions, conceptual prompts for short-answer identification responses, multiple-choice questions, true / false statement prompts, and a matching exercise.

Final Grade for the Course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Your Grade</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentations</td>
<td>50 (10%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>450-500 points, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50 (10%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>400-449 points, B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>350-399 points, C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>300-349 points, D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
<td>0-299 points, F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 (20%)</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>500 (100%)</td>
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Remediation and Make-up:

The assessment of your group’s presentation represents a critical portion of its members’ grades and occurs only once during the semester. If you miss class on the day when your group presents and if you wish to remedy this portion of the grade, then you may elect to present a lecture individually for a grade.

Remediation or make-up for quizzes is unavailable. You must attend class in order to take each quiz.

Exams may not be retaken or re-tested; once you have taken an exam, the grade earned is the grade that will be received. It is in your best interest to take the exam as scheduled. If you do not take one of the first three exams when it is scheduled, then you must make-up the exam during the final exam period after completing the final exam. However, all make-up exams are essay exams and they will be more rigorous.
Course Policies and Procedures

You are responsible for understanding and abiding by the classroom policies and procedures described below. Problems in the classroom may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Classroom environment:
You must uphold a mature level of interaction with classmates and with the instructor. Please respect other students by listening to them when they respond to the classroom discussion. Please do not work on other courses during class. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate. You should try to complete all of your calls and text messaging before or after class. If a call must be taken during class, which should only be in the event of an emergency, you should step outside of the classroom. If a laptop computer is utilized for taking notes, the volume control should be set to mute or off before coming to class. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (tweeting, web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class. If your conduct distracts the instructor or other students, you will be asked to leave.

Guests:
Guests may attend class with instructor permission and under the condition that they are not disruptive to the class.

Special Accommodations:
Students with physical, mental or emotional challenges that require accommodation(s) in order to participate in this course should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at the Union Building, East, room 106. Telephone: 747.5148. Email: Cass@utep.edu. Internet: sa.utep.edu/cass/. It is your responsibility to speak with a counselor in order to receive necessary help. Within the first week of the beginning of the semester, you must provide documentation from DSS in order to receive any accommodation(s). Failure to contact CASS and provide documentation in a timely manner may delay such accommodation(s) being made.

Disputed grades:
If you disagree with a grade, you should consult the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours, or you should schedule an appointment.

Academic Honesty and Integrity:
You are expected to do your own work on all graded material submitted for all course requirements. The names and student numbers of students suspected of knowingly using, or attempting to use, another person's work as though such work were their own, and of students suspected of permitting, or attempting to permit, another student to use their work, will be given to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Such conduct may constitute grounds for sanctions ranging from the assignation of a grade of “F” for the work to expulsion from the University. If you are uncertain regarding what actions constitute plagiarism, or about the University policy, then you should consult the instructor.

Dropping the Class:
You are entitled to drop this class with a grade of “W” until the official university drop deadline, as described in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. You are responsible for dropping the class. There will be no faculty-initiated drops, except under special circumstances.
Class Calendar and Reading Requirements.
This calendar is subject to change by the instructor:

Week 1 (Jan. 20) Post-Civil War Reconstruction, 1865-1877
Roark, ch. 16. Wells, ch. 1-5.

Week 2 (Jan. 25, 27) The West and Native American Resistance
Roark, ch. 17. Wells, ch. 6-14.

Week 3 (Feb. 1, 3) The Gilded Age, Urban Life and Organized Labor

Week 4 (Feb. 8, 10) Farmers, Workers, Depression and War
Exam 1. (Roark ch. 16-20, Wells ch. 1-28)

Week 5 (Feb. 15, 17) The Progressive Movements, 1890-1916
Roark, ch. 21. Wells, ch. 29-35.

Week 6 (Feb. 22, 24) World War One and its Aftermath
Roark, ch. 22. Wells, ch. 36-43.

Week 7 (Feb. 29, Mar. 2) The 1920s, 1930s, and the Great Depression
Roark, ch. 23. Wells, ch. 44-46.

Week 8 There is no class on March 9, Spring Break.

Week 9 (Mar. 14, 16) The New Deal, 1932-1939
Roark, ch. 24.
Exam 2. (Roark ch. 16-24, Wells ch. 1-46)

Week 10 (Mar. 21, 23) World War Two, 1939-1945
Roark, ch. 25.

Week 11 (Mar. 28, 30) Emergence of the Cold War, 1945-1953

Week 12 (Apr. 4, 6) 1950s Society and the Emergence of a Civil Rights Movement
Roark, ch. 27.

Week 13 (Apr. 11, 13) The 1960s and the Countercultural Revolution
Roark, ch. 28.
Exam 3. (Roark ch. 16-28, Wells ch. 1-46)

Week 14 (Apr. 18, 20) The Vietnam Conflict and Politics
Roark, ch. 29.
Screenplay due.

Roark, ch. 30.

Week 16 (May 2, 4) The End of the Cold War and the Rise of Globalization
Roark, ch. 31.

FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME: To be announced. (Roark ch. 16-31, Wells ch. 1-46)