

United States History after 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2016 – CRN: 18327, Learning Comm. 13073

MWF – 8:30 – 9:20 (LART 103)

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OFFICE HOURS: *10:30-12:00 and by appt.*

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR:

EMAIL:

OFFICE:

OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will examine United States history through the periods of Reconstruction, Westward expansion, the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement into the turn of the twenty-first century. Thinking critically, students will analyze various primary and secondary sources, interpret them, and form their own conclusions based on their investigations. In this way, students will learn that writing history involves a process of analysis, synthesis, and translation in which historians constantly reinterpret the past. This course will also introduce students to academic writing through various exercises in which they will learn about essay structure and formatting. Students will also consider the experiences of many diverse historical actors. Examining history and writing academically, students will offer their own interpretations of the past in course papers and exams as they learn to think like historians. This class is part of a Learning Community that is working in conjunction with HIST 1301. Several of the readings and assignments in this class will be integrated with the work you do as learning community members.

REQUIRED READINGS

Oakes, James. et al. *Of the People: A History of the United States Since 1865*. Volume 2. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

In addition, students will be responsible for reading various chapters and articles that will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Attendance is mandatory** for this class. Students are expected to attend class, take notes, and complete all reading and writing assignments. Please arrive to class on time and show respect to your fellow classmates. Students are expected to take notes in this class. Note taking and attendance will help you succeed in this class. Regular attendance is also necessary because a significant part of this class involves group work and in class assignments. **There is no makeup for missed in class assignments** unless you have

valid documentation that you missed class because of a school sponsored activity. Makeup exams will only be available to those who have valid documentation for missing a regular exam. Students will be dropped for excessive absences.

Thinking Historically

Interpretation: History is not merely a set of facts to be memorized; instead, historians interpret the past and their interpretations continually change as a result of new evidence and changing perspectives.

Causation: Historians debate the causes of historical events and, since history is an interpretative exercise, historians often disagree over why events happened.

Change: Historians investigate what has changed over time and what has remained the same.

Connections: To avoid past mistakes and to make sense of the present, historians identify connections between the past and present.

Context: Historians insist that the past must be understood on its own terms; thus, any historical event, idea, or person must first be understood in the context of their historical era.

Contingency: Historians are aware that events happen for a range of reasons, but change one factor and that event may not have occurred as it did.

2. **Laptop computers** may be used for note taking only. Laptop computers may not be used for checking e mail, surfing the internet, or visiting web sites (Absolutely No Facebook). The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for text messaging is strictly prohibited. **During examinations and/or quizzes absolutely no electronic devices may be used.** Violators will be immediately reported to the Dean's Office.

3. **Classroom conduct:** Students must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a university classroom. Any behavior that is distracting to other students or to the instructor is strictly out of order. This includes arriving late to class and leaving early except in the case of extreme emergencies. Disruptive students will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and the Deans Office. Regents Rules and Regulations for classroom conduct are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules.htm>.

4. **Students must have** a UTEP e mail account. Students also need to have access to **Blackboard**. Computers are provided at the UTEP library and at the computer lab in the UGLC and Liberal Arts buildings.

5. **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** According to sections 1.3.1 of the UT Regents' Rules and Regulations, "It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or a zero to an assignment, test,

examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty..." In short, anyone caught cheating will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more on cheating see UT Regents' Rules and

Regulations section 1.3.1.1. **Don't plagiarize, be original and always cite your sources** (paraphrases and direct quotes).

6. **Students with Disabilities:** If you require accommodations or suspect that you have a disability please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or visit Room 106 of the Union East Building. For more info visit <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>.
7. **Scantron Cards and Bluebooks required.** There are two exams for this class: a mid-term and a final. Students must bring one bluebook for each exam. In addition, students must bring scantrons for various workshops and quizzes. Be smart and be prepared. Get your scantrons and bluebooks early and have them ready.
8. **Students are required to read before class.** Students are required to read chapters before class in order to effectively participate in class discussions. Success in workshops and quizzes depends upon student knowledge of the readings.

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

Essays: Each student will submit two 750-1000 word essays. These papers must be computer-generated, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12 pt. font (Times New Roman). Paper 1 is worth 150 points, whereas Paper 2 is worth 200 points. Students must submit these papers by the end of the class period on the assigned due date. Late papers will only be accepted for up to 24 hours after class, though they will be penalized (-25 points for Paper 1 and -35 points for Paper 2). All late papers submitted by email must also be submitted as hard copies within a week of the original submission. Moreover, they must include a print out of the email submission, as that will serve as the paper's time/date stamp. Together these papers represent 35% of the student's total grade. See Blackboard for further Instructions.

(PAPER ONE: A=135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

(PAPER TWO: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam, both of which will require Blue Books. Both the midterm and the final will be based on a central question. Student answers should be based on specific examples provided in lectures and course readings, and their essays should demonstrate mastery of the writing skills developed in the course workshops. The midterm exam represents 15% (or 150 points) of the student's total grade, while the final exam represents 20% (or 200 points). All examinations must be completed at the time scheduled unless the student can present a verifiable and acceptable excuse. Make-up exams must be scheduled within one week of the original exam.

(MIDTERM: A =135-150 B=120-134 C=105-119 D=90-104 F= 0-89)

(FINAL EXAM: A=180-200 B=160-179 C=140-159 D=120-139 F= 0-119)

Quizzes and In Class Assignments: Students will work in small groups in class and complete short quizzes and workshop assignments based on class readings. This is why it is very important that students read all class readings before class. Each workshop and quiz is worth 15 points, and these will count for 30% of your final grade. There are a total of 23 workshops and quizzes; the extra three may be completed for extra credit. Missed workshops and quizzes cannot be made up. Please bring scantron cards for all quizzes. Some workshops will also require scantron cards. Be prepared.

Grades:

-Essay 1 (15%)	150 points
-Essay 2 (20%)	200 points
-Midterm Exam (15%)	150 points
-Final Exam (20%)	200 points
<u>-Workshops and quizzes (30%)</u>	<u>300 points</u>
Total	1000 points

A = 900-1000, B = 800-899, C = 700-799, D = 600-699, F = below 599.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1	Aug 22	Course Introduction. Form Groups.
	Aug 24	Reconstruction Era. Read Chapter 15 in <i>Of the People</i> .
	Aug 26	Reconstruction Era. Workshop 1 Due: See Blackboard
Week 2	Aug 29	Westward Expansion and the Gilded Age. Chapter 16.
	Aug 31	Chapter 16. Workshop 2 Due: See Blackboard
	Sept 2	Chapter 16. Quiz 1 .
Week 3	Sept 5	Labor Day Holiday University Closed
	Sept 7	“Cultural Struggles of industrial America,” Chapter 17 Workshop 3 .
	Sept 9	Chapter 17 Quiz 2 .
Week 4	Sept 12	Populism and Imperialism. Chapters 18-19
	Sept 14	Chapters 18-19. Quiz 3 = thesis workshop
	Sept 16	Workshop 4 . Blackboard
Week 5	Sept 19	Progressive Era Chapter 20
	Sept 21	Chapter 20 Quiz 4 = topic sentence workshop
	Sept 23	Chapter 20. Workshop 5 . Blackboard
Week 6	Sept 26	World War 1 “A Global Power,” Chapter 21
	Sept 28	Quiz 5 = peer review – bring rough draft to class.
	Sept 30	Chapter 21 Workshop 6 .
Week 7	Oct 3	“The Modern Nation,” Chapter 22. Essay 1 Final Draft Due.
	Oct 5	Chapter 22. Workshop 7 .
	Oct 7	Chapter 22 Quiz 6

Week 8	Oct 10	The Great Depression and the New Deal. Chapter 23.
	Oct 12	The Great Depression and the New Deal. Chapter 23. Workshop 7.
	Oct 14	Midterm Exam Bluebook
Week 9	Oct 17	World War II. Chapter 24
	Oct 19	Chapter 24 Quiz 7.
	Oct 21	Workshop 8.
Week 10	Oct 24	Cold War. Chapters 25-26
	Oct 26	Chapters 25-26 Quiz 8
	Oct 28	Chapters 25-26 Workshop 9 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
Week 11	Oct 31	Civil Rights Era. Chapter 27
	Nov 2	Chapter 27 Quiz 9
	Nov 4	Chapter 27 Workshop 10
Week 12	Nov 7	Vietnam and the 1970s. Chapter 28
	Nov 9	Chapter 28 Workshop 11
	Nov 11	Chapter 28 Quiz 10 = peer review.
Week 13	Nov 14	Chapter 29
	Nov 16	“The Triumph of Conservatism,” Chapter 29 Workshop 12
	Nov 18	Chapter 29 Essay II Final Draft Due
Week 14	Nov 21	“The Globalized Nation,” Chapter 30
	Nov 23	Chapter 30 Workshop 13
	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Day Campus Closed
Week 15	Nov 28	The New Millennium Epilogue, Chapter 31
	Nov 30	Chapter 31.
	Dec 2	Dead Day- No Class
Final Exam	Dec 5	Final Exam Monday Dec 5, 10:00am-12:45pm

Please read everything in this syllabus very carefully. It is your roadmap to success.