

United States History after 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Spring 2017 – HIST 1302, CRN: 23665

MWF – 8:30 – 9:20 (LART 103)

PROFESSOR: *Scott Comar, Ph.D.*

EMAIL: *sccomar@utep.edu*

OFFICE: *LART 329*

OFFICE HOURS: *9:30-10:20 and by appt.*

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.

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 must have access to **Blackboard**. Computers are provided at the UTEP library and at computer labs 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	Jan 18	Course Introduction. Form Groups. Reconstruction Era. Chapter 15 in <i>Of the People</i> .
	Jan 20	Reconstruction Era. Workshop 1 Due: See Blackboard. Chapter 15 in <i>Of the People</i> .
Week 2	Jan 23	Westward Expansion and the Gilded Age. Chapter 16.
	Jan 25	Chapter 16. Workshop 2 Due: See Blackboard
	Jan 27	Chapter 16. Quiz 1.
Week 3	Jan 30	“Cultural Struggles of industrial America,” Chapter 17
	Feb 1	Chapter 17 Workshop 3. See Blackboard. Census Day
	Feb 3	Chapter 17 Quiz 2.
Week 4	Feb 6	Populism and Imperialism. Chapters 18-19
	Feb 8	Chapters 18-19. Quiz 3= thesis workshop
	Feb 10	Workshop 4. Blackboard
Week 5	Feb 13	Progressive Era Chapter 20
	Feb 15	Chapter 20 Quiz 4 = topic sentence workshop
	Feb 17	Chapter 20. Workshop 5. Blackboard
Week 6	Feb 20	World War 1 “A Global Power,” Chapter 21
	Feb 22	Quiz 5 = peer review – bring rough draft to class.
	Feb 24	Chapter 21 Workshop 6.
Week 7	Feb 27	“The Modern Nation,” Chapter 22. Essay 1 Final Draft Due.
	Mar 1	Chapter 22. Workshop 7.
	Mar 3	Chapter 22 Quiz 6

Week 8	Mar 6	The Great Depression and the New Deal. Chapter 23.
	Mar 8	The Great Depression and the New Deal. Chapter 23.
	Mar 10	Midterm Exam Bluebook
Week 9	Mar 13	Spring Break no class
	Mar 15	Spring Break no class
	Mar 17	Spring Break no class
Week 10	Mar 20	World War II. Chapter 24
	Mar 22	Chapter 24 Quiz 7.
	Mar 24	Workshop 8.
Week 11	Mar 27	Cold War. Chapters 25-26 Quiz 8
	Mar 29	Chapters 25-26 Workshop 9 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline
	Mar 31	Cesar Chavez Holiday – no classes.
Week 12	April 3	Civil Rights Era. Chapter 27
	April 5	Chapter 27 Quiz 9
	April 7	Chapter 27 Workshop 10
Week 13	April 10	Vietnam and the 1970s. Chapter 28 Workshop 11
	April 12	Chapter 28 Essay II Rough Draft Due for Quiz 10 = peer review
	April 14	Spring Study Day = No classes.
Week 14	April 17	Chapter 29 “The Triumph of Conservatism,”
	April 19	Chapter 29 Workshop 12
	April 21	Chapter 29 Essay II Final Draft Due
Week 15	April 24	“The Globalized Nation,” Chapter 30
	April 26	Chapter 30 Workshop 13
	April 28	Chapter 30 cont.
Week 16	May 1	The New Millennium Epilogue, Chapter 31
	May 3	Chapter 31.
	May 5	Dead Day- No Class
Final Exam	May 8	Final Exam Monday May 8, 10:00am-12:45pm.

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