

United States History after 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Spring 2023, HIST 1302, CRN 21437

Learning Communities: CRN 23092; 23662

TR 10:30-11:50pm, Physical Science, Room 115

PROFESSOR: Scott Comar, Ph.D.

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Course Description

In this course, students will examine United States history through the periods of Reconstruction, Westward expansion, the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, World War 1, 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 working in conjunction with various Learning Communities.

Required Materials

Oakes, James. et al. *Of the People: A History of the United States Since 1865*. Volume 2. Fourth or Fifth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019, 2022.

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

Course Objectives or Expected Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic trends patterns, and turning points in U.S. history after 1865;
- Engage as a community of scholars in dialogue about the past;
- Develop critical thinking and academic writing skills;
- Understand the process of academic writing and essay structure;
- Acquire and improve technical and communication skills;
- Understand the field of history as a subjective and ongoing study of past events.

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Course Policies and Procedures

1. Technology Requirements: Students must have access to a computer, laptop or smartphone. Students must have a UTEP email account with access to Blackboard. Technical issues are no excuse for late work and will not be accepted as an excuse. Plan ahead and get help early if you are having problems with your computer. For help with your computer please visit UTEP Technology Support. Click this link for more information: [UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk](#). **For Technical Issues Contact the UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk.**

2. Participation/Attendance Policy: 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.

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting using UTEP student ID cards. Card readers are located at the entrance of the classroom. When you enter class, simply hold your student ID card against the reader. It may not be necessary to remove the card from your wallet or purse. If the light on the device turns green or blue, your card has been read properly and your attendance has been recorded. If the light remains red, the device was unable to read your card; please present it again gently until the green or blue light appears. If you do not see the green or blue light, you may need to remove your card from your wallet or purse in order to ensure that it is detected. Your attendance will be recorded up to 15 minutes before and 15 after your class is scheduled to start.

3. Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops and Essays are either due in class or by 11:59pm on the listed due date in Blackboard. The best policy here is do your work early. I will open up all assignments at least a week before they are due. The only acceptable excuse for late work is a school related activity or military duty. These must be supported with documentation.

4. Drop Policy: I reserve the right to drop anyone from this class for lack of effort or low attendance. Students must complete all coursework to the best of their ability. Oct 29 is the Drop Date. This means that if you want to drop the course with a W, you must do so by this date.

5. Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities Policy: The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. If you require accommodations 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 information, learn more here: [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#)

6. Scholastic Integrity:

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 OSCCR 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 (<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>). 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).

Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the bookmarks on the right-hand side of the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.

Course Assignments and Grading

No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays are either due at the end of class or by 11:59pm on the listed due date in Blackboard. I will open all Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays well in advance to give you adequate time to read and answer the questions. Instructions for these assignments are posted on Blackboard, and you need to read them carefully. To keep up with the workload, you will need to work between four to five hours a day. There is always something to work on in this class. Please read all instructions very carefully.

Grade Distribution (total possible points):

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|---|------------|-----|
| • 20 Workshops: 20 Points Each= | 400 points | 40% |
| • 4 Exams: 100 Points Each = | 400 points | 40% |
| • 2 Essays: 50 Points Each = | 100 points | 20% |
| • Participation Grade (in class) = | 100 points | 10% |

Students can potentially earn over 1,00 points over the course of this semester:

1000-900 = A 800-899 = B 700-799 = C 600-699 = D 599 and Below = F

Workshops: Workshops will range from short answer writing workshops to multiple choice quizzes on the textbook readings for that week. Each Workshop will be worth 20 points. I will give more specific instructions in the Blackboard Modules for each week. There will be one bonus workshop available for you to earn extra points.

Exams: Students will take four exams, including the final (see Course Calendar). They will be due by the end of class on the day of the Exam. I will post study guides on Blackboard for each exam one week in advance. Each exam is worth a possible 100 points. There is no makeup for the final exam.

Reflection Essays: Students will write two essays this semester. All essays must be uploaded to the essay module on Blackboard. More specific instructions and the prompts

will be posted on Blackboard. Each essay must have a minimum of 1500 words. **Do not email your essays to us. We will not accept essays over email.**

Participation Grade: Every week We will be using iClicker to engage in interactive discussion in which you will participate with your smart phone or laptop computer. You will be required to download the iClicker program and register using your name as it is listed in the UTEP roster. This activity is worth a possible 100 points. Must be in class to participate.

Read this syllabus carefully, it is your roadmap to success.

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

OTP=*Of the People* / Blackboard = BB

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Coursework
Week 1	Jan 17	Course Introduction. Form Groups. Reconstruction Era. Chapter 15 in <i>Of the People</i> (OTP).	Workshop 1 Due Jan 22 by 11:59pm Workshop 1 like most workshops is located on Blackboard. See Blackboard
	Jan 19		
Week 2	Jan 24	Westward Expansion & Gilded Age. OTP Chapter 16.	Workshop 2 Due before Jan 29, 11:59pm Workshop 3 Due before Jan 29, 11:59pm Read Essay 1 Instructions and start planning your essay.
	Jan 26	Everyone should have iClicker set up by this time.	
Week 3	Jan 31	Populism OTP Chapters 17-18	Workshop 4 Due by Feb 5 Blackboard
	Feb 2	Feb 2 is Spring Census Day	
Week 4	Feb 7	Populism and Imperialism. OTP Chapter 18	Workshop 5 Due Feb 12 (in Class) Exam 1 (in Class) Blackboard
	Feb 9		
Week 5	Feb 14	Progressive Era / OTP Chapter 19 OTP Chapter 19.	Workshop 6 = Thesis and topic sentence workshop (materials on Blackboard, print and bring to class) Due in class, Feb 16 th . Workshop 7 . Blackboard. Due Feb 19
	Feb 16		
Week 6	Feb 21	World War 1 “A Global Power,” Chapter 20 OTP Workshop 9 = peer review –in class. Bring hard copy to class for workshop.	Workshop 8 Blackboard. Due Feb 26 Workshop 9 = peer review – bring Essay 1 rough draft to class. You must have a full printed rough draft to participate in this activity. Essay Must be printed Before class on Thursday Feb 23.
	Feb 23		
Week 7	Feb 28	“The Modern Nation,” 1920s OTP Chapter 21.	Workshop 10 . Blackboard. Due March 5 Essay 1 Final Draft Due March 5 Please read instructions carefully. Upload Final Draft to Blackboard in MS Word or PDF format.
	Mar 2		

Week 8	Mar 7	The Great Depression and New Deal Reforms OTP Chapter 22	Workshop 11 Due Mar 12 Midterm Exam March 9 Midterm study guide posted on Blackboard.
	Mar 9		
Spring Break	Spring Break	No Classes March 13-17	This is a good time to consider long term projects like essays.
Week 9	Mar 21	World War II. OTP Chapter 23	Workshop 12 Blackboard, Due Mar 26 Workshop 13 Blackboard Due Mar 23 . For workshop 13 , print materials in BB folder and bring to class .
	Mar 23		
Week 10	Mar 28	Cold War. & Consumer Society OTP Chapters 24-25 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is Mar 30	Workshop 14 BB Due April 2 Workshop 15 BB Due April 2
	Mar 30		
Week 11	April 4	Civil Rights Era & 1960s. OTP Chapter 26	Workshop 16 BB Due April 9 Exam 3 BB Thurs April 6 in class.
	April 6		
Week 12	April 11	Vietnam and the 1970s. OTP Chapter 27 Bring printed copy of your full Essay 2 rough draft to class on 4/13	Workshop 17 BB Due April 16 Workshop 18 Due April 13 Essay 2 peer review Essay II Rough Draft Due for = peer review . Must bring printed copy of rough draft for Essay II to participate in peer review
	April 13		
Week 13	April 18	"The Triumph of Conservatism." 1980s OTP Chapter 28	Workshop 19 BB Due April 23 Essay II Final Draft Due April 23 Essay 2 final draft must be uploaded to BB in MS Word or PDF format. See instructions on Blackboard.
	April 20		
Week 14	April 25	"The Globalized Nation," 1990s OTP Chapter 29	Workshop 20 BB Due April 30
	April 27		
Week 15	May 2	"A Nation Transformed," Early 2000s OTP Chapter 30, Review	Workshop 21 BB Due May 7
	May 4		
Week 16	May 8-12	Final Exam TBA	Final Exam. Bluebook Required See study guide (exam essay prompt) on BB

Please read everything in this syllabus very carefully. It is your roadmap to success. All items on this syllabus schedule are subject to revision.