

United States History after 1865

Examining History, Thinking Critically, and Writing Academically

Fall 2021, HIST 1302, CRN 12093.

Learning Community CRN: 15115

MWF 12:30-1:20pm, Phys Sci Rm 115

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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 course is connected with various Learning Communities. If you are enrolled in a learning community, some of the course material may overlap. Read everything in this syllabus carefully, it is your roadmap to success.

Required Materials

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

In addition, students will be responsible for reading various chapters and articles that will be available in PDF format on Blackboard. James Oakes, *Of the People*, Volume 2 is available at the UTEP bookstore or online at <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/of-the-people-9780190254896?cc=us&lang=en&>

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. 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).

7. Netiquette

In this course, you will engage in various student-student and student-teacher interactions. It is always important to be respectful in this online setting. This is why you should be familiar with proper online etiquette, also known as “netiquette.” Please review this article that explores this idea: [10 Rules of Netiquette for Students](#). Students will initially receive a warning for any inappropriate or disrespectful posts. For the second offense of any inappropriate or disrespectful posts, points will be deducted from their work. If a pattern of disrespectful and inappropriate posts develops, the student will be removed from the course.

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.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [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):

- **20 Workshops:** 20 Points Each= 400 points 40%
- **4 Exams:** 100 Points Each = 400 points 40%
- **2 Essays:** 100 Points Each = 200 points 20%
- **Participation Grade (in class) =** 100 points 10%

Students can potentially earn over 1,100 points over the course of this semester:

1100-990 = A 989-880 = B 879-770 = C 769-660 = D 659 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. Exams will be on the material covered that week. I will post study guides on Blackboard for each exam one week in advance. Each exam is worth a possible 100 points.

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: 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.

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

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule

OTP=Of the People

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|---------------|---------|--|
| Week 1 | Aug 23 | Course Introduction. Form Groups. Reconstruction Era. Chapter 15 in <i>Of the People</i> . |
| | Aug 25 | Reconstruction Era. OTP Chapter 15 |
| | Aug 27 | Workshop 1 Due: See Blackboard. |
| Week 2 | Aug 30 | Westward Expansion & Gilded Age. OTP Chapter 16. |
| | Sept 1 | Workshop 2: See Blackboard / OTP Chapter 16 |
| | Sept 3 | Chapter 16. Workshop 3 / OTP Chapter 16 |
| Week 3 | Sept 6 | Labor Day Holiday / University Closed |
| | Sept 8 | Populism OTP Chapters 17-18 |
| | Sept 10 | OTP Chapter 17 Workshop 4 Blackboard |
| Week 4 | Sept 13 | Populism and Imperialism. Chapter 18 |
| | Sept 15 | Workshop 5 Blackboard |
| | Sept 17 | Exam 1 |

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| Week 5 | Sept 20 | Progressive Era / OTP Chapter 19 |
| | Sept 22 | Workshop 6 = Thesis and topic sentence workshop / Blackboard |
| | Sept 24 | OTP Chapter 19. Workshop 7. Blackboard |
| Week 6 | Sept 27 | World War 1 “A Global Power,” Chapter 20 OTP |
| | Sept 29 | Workshop 8 OTP Chapter 20 |
| | Oct 1 | Workshop 9 = peer review – bring Essay 1 rough draft to class. You must have a full printed rough draft to participate in this activity. Must be printed. |
| Week 7 | Oct 4 | “The Modern Nation,” OTP Chapter 21. |
| | Oct 6 | Workshop 10 OTP Chapter 21 |
| | Oct 8 | Essay 1 Final Draft Due. Please read instructions carefully. |
| Week 8 | Oct 11 | The Great Depression and the New Deal. Chapter 22. |
| | Oct 13 | Workshop 11. OTP Chapter 22 |
| | Oct 15 | Midterm Exam Bluebook required |
| Week 9 | Oct 18 | World War II. OTP Chapter 23 |
| | Oct 20 | Chapter 23 Workshop 12 |
| | Oct 22 | Chapter 23 Workshop 13 |
| Week 10 | Oct 25 | Cold War. & Consumer Society OTP Chapters 24-25 |
| | Oct 27 | Workshop 14 OTP Chapters 24-25 |
| | Oct 29 | Chapters 24-25. Workshop 15 Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is Oct 29 |
| Week 11 | Nov 1 | Civil Rights Era & 1960s. OTP Chapter 26 |
| | Nov 3 | Chapter 26 OTP Workshop 16 |
| | Nov 5 | Exam 3 |
| Week 12 | Nov 8 | Vietnam and the 1970s. OTP Chapter 27 |
| | Nov 10 | OTP Chapter 27 Workshop 17 |
| | Nov 12 | Essay II Rough Draft Due for Workshop 18 = peer review. Must bring printed copy of rough draft for Essay II to participate in peer review. |
| Week 13 | Nov 15 | Chapter 28 “The Triumph of Conservatism.” 1980s |
| | Nov 17 | Workshop 19 OTP Chapter 28 |
| | Nov 19 | Essay II Final Draft Due |
| Week 14 | Nov 22 | “The Globalized Nation,” OTP Chapter 29 / 1990s. |
| | Nov 24 | Workshop 20 OTP Chapter 29 |
| | Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Holiday—University Closed |
| Week 15 | Nov 29 | OTP Chapter 30, “A Nation Transformed,” The Twenty-First Century Workshop 21 |
| | Dec 1 | Review |
| | Dec 3 | Dead Day / No Classes |
| Final Exam | | Final Exam TBA. Bluebook Required |

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