

**HIST 1302, U.S. History after 1865:
Thinking Critically and Writing Academically
CRN #: 24892, Learning Community 28967
Spring, 2021 / Jan 19-May 6, 2021 Online**

Instructor: Scott Comar, Ph.D.

Contact Info:

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Office: LART 329 / Blackboard Collaborate

Office Hours: Online MW 11:30-1:00 and by Appointment.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

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For Technical Issues Contact the [UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk](#)

Course Description

This is a fully online course that examines U.S. history from 1865 to the present. 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. As such, this course examines historical content and introduces students to the field of history as practitioners in their own right. This course is being taught in unison with various Learning Communities.

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.

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. ISBN 978-1-319-10491-7.

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: <https://www.bkstr.com/texaselpasostore/course-materials-results?shopBy=course&divisionDisplayName=&departmentDisplayName=HIST&courseDisplayName=1302§ionDisplayName=002&programId=1619&termId=100063980>

Course Policies and Procedures

1. **Technology Requirements:** Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

2. **Course Communication:** How we will stay in contact with each other. Because this is an online class, we won't see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate using this link: [insert link] and during the following times:

Mondays: 11:30-1:00pm. MT / Wednesdays: 11:30-1:00pm. Mountain Time

- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, as it is written in the UTEP roster.
- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

3. **Participation Policy:** Participation is necessary for success in this class. You must log in at least once every day. The workload requires that you spend between 10 and 12 hours each week engaged in coursework. This involves online assignments and readings. I reserve the right to drop any student from this class for lack of effort.

4. **Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date.** 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. All work is time sensitive and must be completed on time.

5. **Drop Policy:** I reserve the right to drop anyone from this class for lack of effort. According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. October 30th is the Drop Date. This means that if you want to drop the course with a W, you must do so by this date.

6. **ACCOMMODATIONS 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. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support](#)

[Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

7. Scholastic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

8. Netiquette

In an online 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.

9. COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu. For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection. Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this

class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

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 Short Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date. I will open all Workshops, Quizzes, and Short 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. **Essays** are also due by 11:59pm of the listed due dates. **Exams**: you will be given a time limit for each exam. The window period for each exam will be generous enough for you to reconsider your answers. Once your exams are submitted, or once the time-period for that exam has ended, the exam is over. Exam dates and times are posted on the syllabus and on Blackboard. To keep up with the workload, you will need to log in everyday and 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:

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------------------|
| • 10 Quizzes: 20 Points Each = | 200 points | 20% |
| • 14 Workshops: 20 Points Each= | 280 points | 28% (extra 8% credit) |
| • 4 Exams: 100 Points Each = | 400 points | 40% |
| • 1 Long Essay: 150 Points = | 150 points | 15% |

- **1 Short Essay:** 50 Points = 50 points 5%

Students can potentially earn 1000 over the course of this semester:

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

Quizzes: Quizzes will range from short answer writing workshops, in which you will type your answers on Blackboard, to multiple choice quizzes on the textbook readings for that week. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. I will give more specific instructions for each quiz on the Blackboard Modules for each week.

Workshops: Students will review various primary and secondary sources over the course of the semester. For each Workshop, they will **answer a central question** on the assigned reading by posting **500 Word answer** on the **Blackboard Discussion Board** for that workshop. In addition, they must write a **250 Word response to two of their classmates'** postings. The initial answer is worth 10 points. Each response is worth 5. Each Blackboard Discussion Board workshop, if completed correctly, is worth 20 points. Postings must be relevant, and they must meet and exceed the word count. More instructions will be given on Blackboard.

Exams: Students will take four exams. There will be a three day window period and a time limit for each exam. Exams will be on the material covered after the previous exam. I will post study guides on Blackboard for each exam one week in advance. Each exam is worth a possible 100 points.

Long Essay: Students will examine a list of primary sources and write a well-structured 4 to 5 page (2000-2500 Words) academic essay. The word count will be strictly enforced. This project will begin on the first week of class. **This essay is due April 25** by 11:59pm. Do not procrastinate. See the Essay Instructions on Blackboard. Read these instructions carefully. This project is worth a possible 150 points.

Short Essay: Students will use the textbook to answer a central question by writing a 1000 word essay. You may go over the word count—a little. Do not go under the word count. This essay is due on May 2. More instructions will be given on Blackboard. This short essay is worth 50 points.

Zoom Meetings for Extra Credit: We will have Zoom discussion meetings every Thursday at 12:00pm. Each Meeting will be worth 4 points extra credit. To get credit, you must stay for the whole meeting and raise your hand and participate in the discussion. Meeting topics will include videos and content material from that specific week. Videos will be posted on Blackboard. These meetings are not mandatory because this is an asynchronous online course. Login information will be provided on a weekly basis. (4 X 15 = 60).

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review

assignment submissions for originality. Be original, write in your own words, and do not use external websites.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

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

Class Calendar—Reading and Assignment Schedule
Oakes, *Of the People* = OTP

	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 1/19-1/23	-Course Intro. -Syllabus Review -Reconstruction	-Read Syllabus -OTP Chapter 15.	January 24: Quiz 1 (Syllabus) January 24: Workshop 1
Week 2 1/24-1/30	-Reconstruction -Westward Expansion -Gilded Age	-OTP Chapters 15-16. -Blackboard Sources. <i>Start working on long Essay now.</i>	Jan 31: Workshop 2 Jan 31: Quiz 2
Week 3 1/31-2/6	-Gilded Age -Populist Era	-OTP Chapter 17. Feb 3 Census Date.	Feb 7: Workshop 3 Feb 7: Quiz 3
Week 4 2/7-2/13	-Populist Era -Imperialism	-OTP Chapter 18. -Blackboard Sources.	Feb 14: Workshop 4 Feb 14: Exam 1
Week 5 2/14-2/20	-Progressive Era	-OTP Chapter 19. -Blackboard Sources	Feb 21: Workshop 5 Feb 21: Quiz 4
Week 6 2/21-2/27	-World War I	-OTP Chapter 20.	Feb 28: Workshop 6 Feb 28: Quiz 5
Week 7 2/28-3/6	-The Modern Era	-OTP Chapter 21.	Mar 7: Workshop 7 Mar 7: Quiz 6
Week 8 3/7-3/13	-Great Depression -New Deal	-OTP Chapter 22.	Mar 14: Workshop 8 (Quiz) Mar 14: Exam 2
Spring Break 3/15-3/19	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 9 3/22-3/27	-World War II	-OTP Chapter 23.	Mar 28: Workshop 9 Mar 28: Quiz 7.
Week 10 3/28-4/3	-Cold War Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is April 1	-OTP Chapter 24. .	April 4: Workshop 10 April 4: Quiz 8

Week 11 4/4-4/10	-Consumer Society -Cold War -Civil Rights	-OTP Chapter 25.	April 11: Workshop 11 April 11: Quiz 9
Week 12 4/11-4/17	-1960s -Civil Rights -Vietnam War	-OTP Chapter 26.	April 18: Workshop 12 April 18: Exam 3
Week 13 4/18-4/24	-1970s	-OTP Chapter 27. Long Essay Due on 4/25	April 25: Long Essays Due April 25: Quiz 10
Week 14 4/25-5/1	-1980s	-OTP Chapter 28.	May 2: Short Essay Due May 2: Workshop 13
Week 15 5/2-5/8	-The New Millennium	-OTP Chapter 29-30.	May 9: Workshop 14 May 9: Quiz 11
Week 16 Finals	Final Exam	Due Tuesday, May 11.	May 11: Final Exam Due

May 19: Grades Due. / May 20: Grades posted to student records.