

**HIST 1302, U.S. History after 1865:
Thinking Critically and Writing Academically
CRN #: 25438 / Online
Spring, 2020 / Jan 21 to May 7, 2020**

Instructor: Scott Comar, Ph.D.

Contact Info:

Email: sccomar@utep.edu.

Office: LART 329

Office Hours: Appointment Only.

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 As such, this course examines historical content and introduces students to the field of history as practitioners in their own right.

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 at <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/of-the-people-9780190254896?cc=us&lang=en&>

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](#).

2. **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.

3. **Late Work Policy: No Late Assignments will be accepted. All Workshops, Quizzes, and Essays are due by 11:59pm on the listed due date.** Any late work that is accepted will receive a 50% point deduction. Thus, if your long essay is late, I will deduct 75 points before I grade it. 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. If you miss 4 assignments, you will definitely be dropped from this class. Students must complete all coursework to the best of their ability. March 27th 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 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 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 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.

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. All posts need cited examples from the text. You can cite simply by putting page numbers in parenthesis, like this (101). This will show us where you found your information.

Exams: Students will take four exams. Exams will be on Saturday (see Course Calendar). They will be due by 11:59pm at the end of the day. There will be a 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** by 11:59pm on the listed due date in the syllabus calendar below. 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 by 11:59pm on the listed due date in the calendar below. More instructions will be given on Blackboard. This short essay is worth 50 points. Be original with your writing. We will be electronically tracking for plagiarism online.

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 1/21-1/25 | -Course Intro. -Syllabus Review -Reconstruction | -Read Syllabus -OTP Chapter 15. | January 25: Quiz 1 (Syllabus) January 25: Workshop 1 |
| Week 2 1/26-2/1 | -Reconstruction -Westward Expansion -Gilded Age | -OTP Chapters 15-16. -Blackboard Sources. <i>Start working on long Essay now.</i> | Feb 1: Workshop 2 Feb 1: Quiz 2 |
| Week 3 2/2-2/8 | -Gilded Age -Populist Era | -OTP Chapter 17. -9/11 Census Date. | Feb 8: Workshop 3 Feb 8: Quiz 3 |
| Week 4 2/9-2/15 | -Populist Era -Imperialism | -OTP Chapter 18. -Blackboard Sources. | Feb 15: Workshop 4 Feb 15: Exam 1 |
| Week 5 2/16-2/22 | -Progressive Era | -OTP Chapter 19. -Blackboard Sources | Feb 22: Workshop 5 Feb 22: Quiz 4 |
| Week 6 2/23-2/29 | -World War I | -OTP Chapter 20. | Feb 29: Workshop 6 Feb 29: Quiz 5 |
| Week 7 3/1-3/7 | -The Modern Era | -OTP Chapter 21. | Mar 7: Workshop 7 Mar 7: Quiz 6 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Week 8 3/8-3/14 | -Great Depression -New Deal | -OTP Chapter 22. | Mar 14: Workshop 8 (Quiz) Mar 14: Exam 2 |
| Spring Break | March 15 to March 21. Use this time to catch up on your coursework. For this course, you could work on your Long Essay. | | |
| Week 9 3/22-3/28 | -World War II | -OTP Chapter 23. | Mar 28: Workshop 9 Mar 28: Quiz 7. |
| Week 10 3/29-4/4 | -Cold War Drop/Withdrawal Deadline is Nov 1 | -OTP Chapter 24. . | April 4: Workshop 10 April 4: Quiz 8 |
| Week 11 4/5-4/11 | -Consumer Society -Cold War -Civil Rights | -OTP Chapter 25. | April 11: Workshop 11 April 11: Quiz 9 |
| Week 12 4/12-4/18 | -1960s -Civil Rights -Vietnam War | -OTP Chapter 26. | April 18: Workshop 12 April 18: Exam 3 |
| Week 13 4/19-4/25 | -1970s | -OTP Chapter 27. Long Essay Due on 11/22 | April 25: Long Essays Due April 25: Quiz 10 |
| Week 14 4/26-5/2 | -1980s | -OTP Chapter 28. | May 2: Short Essay Due May 2: Workshop 13 |
| Week 15 5/3-5/9 | -The New Millennium | -OTP Chapter 29-30. | May 9: Workshop 14 May 9: Quiz 11 |
| Week 16 Finals | Final Exam | Due Tuesday, May 12. | May 12: Final Exam Due |

May 20: Grades Due.

May 21: Grades posted to student records.