

History 4315: 19th Century US History

Professor Information

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Course Information

Class Meeting: WEB based class
Text: Making America
Editor: Carol Berkin, Christopher Miller, et.al
ISBN: 978-1285-194-790, 7th Edition
Additional readings will be required from the internet.

Course Description

A history of the United States through the end of the nineteenth century. The course will focus on the political, economic, social and cultural developments of the country between the Jeffersonian Period and the rise of the US as a world power. Topics for discussion will include: the Jeffersonian Period, the War of 1812, the Era of Good Feelings, the Jacksonian Period, westward expansion, the US-Mexican War, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the rise of the US as a world power.

Course Objectives

After successful completion of this course:

- Students will develop an ability to read both history textbooks and primary historical documents comprehensively, analytically, and critically.
- Students will demonstrate through their performance in essays and examinations and discussions a solid comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter.

- Students will write college level papers that answer specific questions pertaining to the course subject matter using primary source documents and following writing conventions standards for the social sciences.

Tests/Assessments

This WEB class is an eight week compressed class that will be conducted the last eight weeks of the fall semester. Dates for the class will be: October 20 thru December 11.

This is a WEB course and will be delivered over the internet. It is essential and imperative that you have access to a computer. If you do not have a computer at home you can access the RGC computer labs during the following times: Monday-Thursday, 8am to 9 pm and on Friday, 8am to 4pm.

A discussion post will be held every week. The discussion link will be open on Tuesday at 1:00pm and close on Thursday at 5pm each week. Students will be expected to actively participate in the discussions which will cover topics from the text or external links posted for the course. Discussions cannot be made up. Students failing to participate in a weekly discussion will receive a grade of "0" for the week.

In addition to the discussion posts students will submit two papers (minimum of five pages each) covering a major topic/event in 20th Century United States History. Neither the title page nor reference pages will count towards the five page requirements for papers. **Topics for the papers will be posted on the Assignment/Information link in Blackboard.**

Students must use a minimum of four references in their papers. Two of these references must be primary sources, i.e. newspaper articles, journal articles. Books and Wikipedia are not primary sources. Do not site Wikipedia as a source. Any citation noting Wikipedia as a reference will automatically be assigned a grade of "0".

Papers must be turned in no later than 5pm on Thursday, November 6 and December 4. Late papers will not be accepted. Students who fail to submit their papers by the deadline will receive a grade of "0" for the assignment.

The papers will follow the APA format and must be submitted via the Safe Assign link on blackboard. Prior to submitting papers to Safe Assign students must have their papers reviewed by SmarThinking, log on is as follows: (<https://learning.smarthinking.com>), and/or the respective writing center at each campus site. Both of these services are free of charge to all RGC students. Students must submit evidence to the instructor that their paper has been reviewed by SmarThinking and/or the Writing Center. This must be done prior to submittal of papers to Safe Assign. Failure to have their papers edited prior to formal submittal will result in a grade of “0”. All papers must be submitted via Word—**DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS IN PDF FORMAT. PAPERS SUBMITTED IN PDF WILL NOT BE GRADED.**

Students may access the following link to obtain APA format and styling tips: owl.english.purdue.edu/. Click on the sample paper link on the left side panel to view an example of a paper following APA format.

The sum of the discussion posts and papers will each count for 50% of your grade. Extra credit will not be awarded for “extra” work or attendance at sponsored university functions.

Drop Policy

As is noted in Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College bulletin “Instructors, may, at their discretion, drop any student who has nine absences of any type....non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences.” Given the fact that this is a three hour WEB class, failure to participate in three Discussion Boards will result in you being dropped from the class. An instructor drop will result in you receiving a grade of “F” for the course.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility must contact the Student Support Specialist on their campus.

Participation

Students are expected to actively participate in all of the discussion board. Student discussion is expected to be civil and students will show respect for one another's points of view. Attacking one another because of differing viewpoints will not be tolerated.

Class Schedule

MONTH/DAY	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1—October 20	The Jeffersonian Period and American Nationalism. Berkin, Chapters 8-9.
Week 2—October 27	The Rise of a New Nation. Berkin, Chapters 10.
Week 3—November 3	The Great Transformation. Berkin, Chapters 11-12. Paper 1 due—5pm November 6.
Week 4—November 10	Sectional Conflict. Berkin, Chapters 13-14.
Week 5—November 17	The Civil War and Reconstruction. Berkin, Chapter 14-15.
Week 6—November 24	Thanksgiving—No Class
Week 7—December 1	National Industrialization and the Gilded Age. Berkin, Chapter 16-17. Paper 2 due—5pm December 4.
Week 8—December 8	Changing Nation. Berkin, Chapter 18.

