

History 4320- Twentieth Century U. S. History
Instructor: Professor Robert Overfelt
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Spring, 2016

Text: William H. Chafe, The Rise and Fall of the American Century, 1890-2010. Oxford University Press.

Each week students will be required to read the assigned chapters, and research the web sites that are offered.

Students will need to review Blackboard daily for assignments. All assignments, sites, questions will not be posted indefinitely. All information will be on a weekly cycle. After the week is complete, that information will be deleted. Each student must stay current. Information will not be posted a second time. Assignments and responses must be completed and submitted by the end of the time frame. Responses will not be accepted late. All graded exercises and exams will be administered utilizing the RGC web based system Blackboard. All graded exercises and exam will be timed. Once you log on to complete the exercise, you will not be able to log on and off. All exams and self assessment exercises will have a time limit. Exams are 50 minutes. Self assessment exercises will be administered on a given day. Students must complete the assigned exercise, test or self assessment in the time allotted.

Each week there will be web site links that students must review and read. Materials for exams come from web sites links and readings from the textbook.

The midterm exam and the final exam will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice and true false questions. Students will have 50 minutes to complete each exam. Students should arrange their schedules to make sure they complete all self assessments and exams as they are offered. All self assessments must be completed in order to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete the self assessments will result in a deduction of points from the final grade. For each missed self assessment, 4 points will be deducted from the final grade. **Excuses for missed exams or self assessments will not be accepted. If a student misses an exam “for any reason”, that student will be required to take the makeup exam in the Del Rio RGC computer lab at a scheduled time. If a student is out of town or away from their home on a day that a graded exercise is to be completed, that student should make sure that they are able to access a computer.** It is highly recommended that students complete all exams and self assessments in the RGC computer lab. **All exams will be timed and if you are working from home and are inadvertently dropped from your connection, I will be required to re-open your exam. If that should happen there will be a deduction of points from your score. That deduction will be 5 points from your exam score. All exams will have a time limit. Students who exceed that time will have points deducted from their grade. Deduction are as follows: 0-59 seconds – 2 points; 1-2 minutes – 4 points; 2-3 minutes-6 points; and so on.**

Chapters will have self assessments that students must complete in order to review for the mid-term and final exam. Students must keep pace with the course. The self assessments will not be graded and do not need to be submitted. It is recommended that students take their time with the self assessments so that they may prepare themselves for the exams. The self assessments will be given as indicated in the syllabus and they can be found under Blackboard. They will only be posted for one day and available from 8 a. m. until 11 p. m. Students will have 20 minutes to complete the self assessments. After completing the self assessments, you will not see a score, only an indication that you completed the self assessment. The answers will not be available for printing nor will the self assessments. If you choose to write down the questions, you may. The answers likewise will not be available for printing. When the answers are posted they will not be shown with the questions so it would be advisable that students write the questions in order to check their answers. Answers will be posted the following day after the Self-Assessment. They will be found under Assignments.

Web links will be found under External links and instructions for the week found under assignments.

Students must participate in three discussion sessions. The discussion sessions are indicated on the syllabus. A topic will be posted for that indicated week and students will be expected to address the topic and comment on their fellow students' postings.

Grades:

Successful completion of all self assessments

Discussion Sessions – 100 points - 30 % or 10 % each

Exam 1 - 100 points – 35%

Exam 2 - 100 points – 35%

Calendar:

Jan 19-26 – Orientation – Read syllabus and check discussion board to introduce yourself. Chapter 1, The 1890s and into the new century, check web site links, read Chapter 1, (textbook).

Jan 27-Feb 2 -Chapter 2, The Progressive era, check web site links, read chapter 2.

Feb 2- Self Assessment # 1 – Chapters 1, 2. – Posted from 8 a. m. until 11 p.m. Answers posted Feb 3.

Discussion 1 - This session will begin at 8 a. m. on February 3 and finish on February 9 at 11 p. m. Students will find the discussion topic under Discussion Board.

Feb 3-9 – Chapter 3, American and the World, check web site links, read chapter 3.

Feb 10-16 – Chapter 4, The Roaring Twenties, check web site links, read chapter 4.

Feb 16 – Self Assessment # 2 – Chapters 3, 4.- 8 a. m. until 11 p. m. Answers posted Feb 17.

Feb 17-23 – Chapter 5 FDR and the New Deal– Check web site links.

Feb 23– Self Assessment # 3- 8 a. m. until 11 p. m. Answers will be posted Feb 24

Discussion 2 – This session will begin at 8 a. m. on Feb 17 and finish on Feb 23 at 11 p. m.

Feb 24-Mar 1 – Chapter 6 – World War II -Check Web links-

Mar 1– Self Assessment #4 – 8 a. m. until 11 p. m. Answers posted Mar 2

Mar 2-8 – Study and review for Exam 1

Mar 8– Exam 1 – Chapters 1-6 - Exam will be timed.

Mar 9-13 – Chapter 7 – The Cold War , check web site links, read chapter 7.

Mar 14 – 18 - Spring Break

Mar 19-22 – Chapter 8 – The Eisenhower Years, check web site links, read chapter 8.

Mar 22 – Self assessment #5 – Chapters 7, 8. Answers will be posted Mar 23

Mar 23 – 29 – Chapter 9 – The Kennedys- check web site links, read chapter 9.

Discussion 3 – Mar 23-30 available from 8 a. m. until 11 p. m.

Mar 30-Apr 5 – Chapter 10 – The Nixon years - check web site links, read chapter 10.

Apr 5 – Self Assessment # 6 - Chapters 9, 10. Answers will be posted Apr 6

Apr 6-12 – Chapter 11 – Ronald Reagan – web sites, read Chapter 11.

Apr 12 – Self Assessment #7 - Chapter 11. Answers will be posted on Apr 13

Apr 13-26 – Chapter 12 – The Age of Terror- Check web sites , read Chapter 12. The class will spend two weeks on this chapter.

Apr 27-May 3 – Chapter 13 - The 21st Century, web sites, read Chapter 13.

May 3 - Self Assessment #8 – Chapter 12, 13. Answers posted on May 4

May 4-10 – Review for Exam 2 (Final)

May 10 – Exam 2 (Final) Chapter 7-13 – 8 a. m. until 11 p. m. -