

History 1302.005
History of the US Since 1877
Spring 2017
Sul Ross State University
Tuesday, 6-8:50pm, LH 200

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Behavioral and Social Sciences, LH 208
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce the student to a university-level course in U.S. History. The focus will be on the geographic, social, political, military, economic, racial, ethnic, and demographic components of the American mosaic, but will also put the American “story” in context by integrating it with the broader themes of history.

TEXTBOOK (RECOMMENDED): American Horizons, Volume II. Michael Schaller, et. al. Oxford Univ. Press, 2013.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the post-Civil War “New South.”
2. Describe the impact on the Native Americans in particular and the country at large of the Indians Wars in the West and the Reservation system.
3. Explain the impact and the importance of the Transcontinental Railroad.
4. Identify the major inventions and innovations which took place in the post-Civil War period.
5. Evaluate the development and impact of the labor movement in U.S. society.
6. Determine how the nineteenth century saw the end of the America’s long tradition of isolation from world affairs and the roles that the Spanish-American War, The Mexican Revolution, Theodore Roosevelt, and World War I played in this movement.
7. Recognize the social and economic climate of the nation following World War One and the effects of the stock market crash of 1929.
8. Summarize the impact of the New Deal and of World War Two on the nation.
9. Explain the role that the United States played in World War Two and how the world was divided by the Iron Curtain.
10. Evaluate the role of the US in Cold War, including the Korean war, the Space Race, and the Vietnam War.
11. Critique the developments of the Civil Rights Movement and their impact on the nation
12. Conclude how the Cold War ended and the quest for a New World Order.

OBJECTIVES TO MEET Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) REQUIREMENTS

By the end of the semester, any student with an 80% attendance record and a passing grade will have, via class participation, class projects, and class exams, demonstrate the following skills:

01. An understanding of the major historical points of reference in Texas, US and World history.
02. Knowledge of how individuals, events and issues helped change history.
03. Similarities and differences in Native American culture prior to European contact.
04. Causes of and effects from European contact with the New World.
05. How social, political, economic, geographical, scientific and military advances can impact society, both at large and in the daily life of the individual.
06. How cultures can change and adapt over time.
07. How historical knowledge relates to other disciplines.
08. How to ask historical questions.
09. How to locate, gather, organize, analyze, prioritize, save and communicate historical research data, not limited only to written matter but also maps, photographs, museum artifacts, oral histories and other historical primary and secondary sources.
10. Understand the difference between and the relevancy of primary and secondary research documents and material.
11. Analyze historical data, using methods such as compare and contrast, making generalizations, drawing inferences, and coming to conclusions.
12. Use historical chronology to place historical events in context.
13. Understand how different frames of reference can lead to different historical interpretations.
14. Demonstrate an understanding of the major events shaping Texas and US history: settlement, wars of Independence, the challenges in establishing representative government and writing state and federal constitutions, westward geographical expansion, slavery and sectionalism, the US Civil War, Reconstruction, the Industrial Revolution and the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era and the various accompanying social movements such as temperance and women's suffrage, the impact of wars such as the Spanish-American War, World War One, World War II, and the Cold War on Texan and American societies.
15. Use historical knowledge to understand and evaluate contemporary society.

SEMESTER OUTLINE:

- a.) This semester will consist of 15 meetings, as well as a meeting to complete the final exam.
- b.) There will be three exams during the semester.
- c.) There will be two out of class assignments during the semester.
- d.) There will be a **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM.**

AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT: In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services, Contact Mary Schwartz (Office: Ferguson Hall 112) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend every class! If you are going to be absent from class while traveling on a university-sponsored trip, you must complete a travel authorization form and turn that in to your sponsor or coach at least three days prior to the actual trip; this is required so that you may be listed on the “Explained Absence List” which the Student Life Office prepares and sends out to all faculty. If you miss class due to illness, car trouble, a death in the family, etc., you must contact me directly **via email or in person** with an explanation of your absence. Students with excessive unexplained absences (more than three) are subject to be dropped from the course with a grade of “F”.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All work that you submit must be your own work. Plagiarism will **NOT** be tolerated and students that are caught using the words or work of others as their own will be dropped from the class. Students that are caught cheating on exams will be given a zero for the exam.

STUDENT CONDUCT: By enrolling at Sul Ross State University and this class, you are assuming the responsibility for your personal and social conduct while on campus in class. In order to prevent student distraction within the classroom, electronic devices, including laptops and iPads, will not be allowed in the classroom. Cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, etc., must be turned off and kept out of sight during class. In the event of an emergency, please step outside of the classroom to make a call.

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR: If you need to contact me for any reason, including missing class or missing an exam, please use the following email address: escown@sulross.edu. This is the preferred method of contact. An office phone number is provided in the case of an emergency, but a student’s phone message will normal not be returned, due to the problem of “phone tag”. In an email, please include your name, the class title and a simple message stating the reason for contact. Your email will normally be answered within 24 hours; however, questions such as “what did we cover in class” will normally not be answered.

SHORT ANSWER ASSIGNMENT: In this course, you will have two short essays assignments due. Two weeks before the assignment is due, I will give you the question to take home and work on. This assignment **MUST** be turned in on Blackboard. No exceptions will be made. **NOTE:** The paper must be formatted using Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins and must be double-spaced. **DUE February 7th and April 11th!**

BLACKBOARD/EMAIL:

In order to be successful in this class, the student must have a basic knowledge of using Blackboard and your Sul Ross e-mail. As stated above, if you need to contact me, you will need to do so via email. When you turn in your Short Answer Assignment, it **MUST** be submitted via Blackboard. There will be **NO** exceptions to this decision. You are all in college now, so you need to learn to use Blackboard efficiently. Submission of assignments via email or paper copy will not be accepted in this class. If you have any questions, please let me know and I will direct you to someone that can better explain how Blackboard and your Sul Ross email works.

GRADING (Possible Points Earned)

Exams: 300 points

Short Answer: 200 points

Attendance: 100 points

Final Exam: 100 points

The final grade total is broken down as follows:

A: 601-700 points

B: 501-600 points

C: 401-500 points

D: 301-400 points

F: 300 points or less

Course Outline

January 17 th	Intro to Course/The United States After Reconstruction
January 24 th	The Turn of the Century
January 31 st	20 th Century America: The Beginning
February 7 th	World War I: The Great War EXAM #1
February 14 th	The Roaring 20s
February 21 st	The Dirty 30s Assignment Due
February 28 th	World War II: 1941-1943
March 7 th	World War II: 1943-1945 EXAM #2
March 14 th	SPRING BREAK
March 21 st	Red Scare Rising
March 28 th	Civil Rights & the Beginnings of the Cold War
April 4 th	The 1960s
April 11 th	Vietnam EXAM #3
April 18 th	Nixonland Assignment Due
April 25 th	Reaganomics
May 2 nd	The Fall of the Soviet Union
Monday, May 8th	FINAL EXAM

** This schedule is tentative and can be changed and modified at my discretion. Students will have prior notification of any necessary changes in the semester schedule.*