

Department of Humanities
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Hours of Availability:
Tuesday and Wednesday, 12p-4p
Thursday, 12p-2p



United States History, 1865-Present Readings and Research

HST 5314
Online Course – Spring 2017

Course Description

This course will focus on United States history following the Civil War. Beginning with reconstruction, students will examine topics such as the development of the nation in the late 1800s, technological innovation, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the civil rights era, and recent political and cultural developments.

Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, research, and writing.

Importance of Communication

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment

or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat.

If you cannot meet during my hours of availability you can request another time when you are available. Please just email me to set up a time.

Resources

For this course your readings will be made available on Blackboard under the course resources tab. See the folder that corresponds with the class week listed on the syllabus.

The resources provided are for your use only for this class. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any major revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know when to obtain an updated syllabus from Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

Weekly Participation (25%) – for each class week you will develop a two-page response on the week's readings. This write up will be turned in each week on Blackboard.

Teach a topic (25%) – You will choose a topic related to one of the course weeks and prepare a mini-class on that topic. The point is not to just lecture but to assign resources ahead of time and then lead an interactive class on that topic. You should incorporate your own explanations of key points and then incorporate students into examining topics. We will discuss the online logistics of this assignment in the first few weeks of the course.

Research Project (50%) – You will work with the professor to choose a topic and develop a 15 to 20-page paper on that topic. This project will involve oral history and secondary research. During the first third of the semester you will work with the professor to identify an appropriate topic and begin basic research. During the middle third of the semester you will conduct the majority of your research and interviews. Then during the final third of the semester you will compile your research and develop your paper.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University 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 services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Class Meetings and Assignments

Week 1

- **Introduction to Themes**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Thinking Like a Historian – Khan Academy (KA)
 - Hoopes – *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*

Week 2

- **Reconstruction**
 - Resources:
 - Video - Appomattox and Lincoln’s Assassination - KA
 - Video – Reconstruction – Crash Course (CC)
 - Foner – *Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*
 - Hoopes – *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*

Week 3

- **Gilded Age**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Gilded Age – Parts 1 & 2 – KA
 - Video – Gilded Age Politics – CC
 - Cashman – *America in the Gilded Age: From the Death of Lincoln to the Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*
 - Hoopes – *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*

Week 4

- **Industry and Rail**
 - Resources:
 - Video – US Industry – CC
 - Taylor and Neu – *The American Railroad Network, 1861-1890*
 - Misa – *A Nation of Steel: The Making of Modern America, 1865-1925*
 - Hoopes – *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*

Week 5

- **Progressive Era**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Progressive Era – CC
 - Video – Progressive Presidents – CC
 - McGerr – *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*

Week 6

- **Emergence of the US as a World Power**
 - Resources:
 - Video – American Imperialism – CC
 - Video – US Empire – KA
 - Musicant – *Empire by Default: The Spanish-American War and the Dawn of the American Century*
 - Pratt – *Expansionists of 1898: The Acquisition of Hawaii and the Spanish Islands*

Week 7

- **World War I**
 - Resources:
 - Video – World War I – CC
 - Video – World War I – multiple parts – KA

- Tuchman – *The Guns of August*
- Link – *Woodrow Wilson: Revolution, War, and Peace*

Week 8

- **Great Depression and New Deal**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Great Depression – CC
 - Video – New Deal – CC
 - McElvaine – *The Great Depression: America 1929-1941*
 - Leuchtenburg – *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal: 1932-1940*

Week 9

- **Spring Break – No Classes**

Week 10

- **World War II**
 - Resources:
 - Video – World War II – Parts 1 & 2 – CC
 - Video – World War II – multiple parts – KA
 - Murray and Millett – *A War to be Won: Fighting the Second World War*
 - Cardozier – *The Mobilization of the United States in World War II: How the Government, Military and Industry Prepared for War*

Week 11

- **Post-War United States**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Civil Rights and the 1950s - CC
 - Mills – *Winning the Peace: The Marshall Plan and America's Coming of Age as a Superpower*
 - Greenberg – *Crusaders in the Courts: Legal Battles of the Civil Rights Movement*

Week 12

- **1960s and 1970s**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Cold War – Parts 1 & 2 – CC
 - Video – Korean War and Vietnam War – KA
 - Video – 1960s in the US – CC
 - Video – Ford, Carter, and Economic Malaise – CC

- Gaddis – *The Cold War: A New History*
- Branch – *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963*

Week 13

- **1980s and 1990s**
 - Resources:
 - Video – Reagan Revolution – CC
 - Video – George H.W. Bush and the End of the Cold War – CC
 - Clinton and the 1990s - CC
 - Hitt, Smith, and Crippen – *Bold They Rise: The Space Shuttle Early Years, 1972-1986*
 - Immerman and Goedde – *The Oxford Handbook of the Cold War*

Week 14

- **Submit draft of research project**

Week 15

- **Submit final version of research project**