

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



19th Century U.S. History

Fall 2018
Online

Course Description

This course will focus on 19th century U.S. history. It will explore the development of the US as a young nation trying to find its place in the world. Two themes explored will be the ongoing industrialization and the impact of those changes on society as well as the Civil War and its causes and aftermath.

Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, writing, and short teaching topics.

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. Check your email regularly.

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 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.

Absences

You are expected to attend class. Class attendance is critical to doing well on the assignments and succeeding in the course. If you have to miss a class, be sure to work with another student to obtain good notes for that day.

Grading

Teach-a-Topic 1	50 points
Teach-a-Topic 2	50 points
Research Project	200 points
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 Points

Your semester grade will be the number of points you receive on the items listed above divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you receive 540 points among the assignments that is 540 divided by 600 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A in the class.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course. It is best to keep up with your scores on assignments to know how you are doing.

Participation

This class will be interactive. I will give talks on certain subjects, but we will also discuss topics quite a lot. This is especially important in a class that only meets once a week. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together.

Semester Research

This class will have a semester research project based in oral history. Interviews will provide the main primary source material supplemented by secondary sources.

Exams

The exams in this course will each cover approximately 1/3 of the material. Each test will be available on Blackboard one week before the due date/time. Short essay answers should focus on understanding rather than memorization. Please see the tests for instructions.

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

Thursday – August 30th

- **US at the turn of the century**

Week 2

Thursday – September 6th

- **US as a Young Nation in a Big World**

Week 3

Thursday – September 13th

- **The West – Lewis and Clark**

Week 4

Thursday – September 20th

- **Expansion and Missouri Compromise**
- Exam 1 available after class

Week 5

Thursday – September 27th

- **Problems Between the North and the South**
- Exam 1 due before class

Week 6

Thursday – October 4th

- **Civil War – part 1**

Week 7

Thursday – October 11th

- **Civil War – part 2**

Week 8

Thursday – October 18th

- **Aftermath and Reconstruction**
- Exam 2 available after class

Week 9

Thursday – October 25th

- **Industrialization – part 1**
- Exam 2 due before class

Week 10

Thursday – November 1st

- **Industrialization – part 2**

Week 11

Thursday – November 8th

- **Financial Panic**

Week 12

Thursday – November 15th

- **Science and Technology of the 1800s**

Week 13

Thursday – November 22nd

- **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 14

Thursday – November 29th

- **Progressive Era – War of 1898**
- Exam 3 available after class

Week 15

Thursday – December 6th

- **Research Project Presentations**
- Exam 3 due before class