

Department of Humanities  
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Hours of Availability:  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:30a-2:30p  
Thursday, 11:30p-2:30p and 3p-4p



# 19<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. History

Spring 2019  
Teleconference

## **Course Description**

This course will focus on 19<sup>th</sup> century U.S. history. It will explore the development of the U.S. from its time as a young nation trying to find its place in the world to a rival for powerful countries from previous centuries. Two examples of 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, discussions, 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.

## **Attendance**

You are expected to attend class. Just reading materials or watching videos will not be enough to allow you to succeed on the tests. If you have to miss a class, be sure to work with another student to obtain good notes for that day. Do not fall into the trap skipping class if someone is not checking attendance. That is juvenile. Class discussions feed directly into exams. So skipping class usually results in poor exam grades.

## **Grading**

Teach-a-Topics 1	100 points (50 each)
Research Project	200 points
Exams 1	300 points (100 Each)

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.

## **Semester Research**

This class will have a semester research project. More information will be provided as we begin that process.

## **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. These are at-home tests that will focus on understanding rather than memorization. They are based on provided course materials and your class notes, so no outside sources are allowed. 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**

Wednesday – January 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

## **Week 2**

Wednesday – January 30<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Week 3**

Wednesday – February 6<sup>th</sup>

- **The West – Lewis and Clark**

## **Week 4**

Wednesday – February 13<sup>th</sup>

- **Expansion and Missouri Compromise**

### Week 5

Wednesday – February 20<sup>th</sup>

- **Problems Between the North and the South**
- Exam 1 available after class

### Week 6

Wednesday – February 27<sup>th</sup>

- **Civil War – part 1**
- Exam 1 due before class

### Week 7

Wednesday – March 6<sup>th</sup>

- **Civil War – part 2**

### Week 8

Wednesday – March 13<sup>th</sup>

- **Aftermath and Reconstruction**

### Week 9

Wednesday – March 20<sup>th</sup>

- **Spring Break – No Class**

### Week 10

Wednesday – March 27<sup>th</sup>

- **Industrialization – part 1**
- Exam 2 available after class

### Week 11

Wednesday – April 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

### Week 12

Wednesday – April 10<sup>th</sup>

- **Financial Panic**

### Week 13

Wednesday – April 17<sup>th</sup>

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

**Week 14**

Wednesday – April 24<sup>th</sup>

- **Progressive Era – War of 1898**

**Week 15**

Wednesday – May 1<sup>st</sup>

- **Ready for a new century**
- Exam 3 available after class

**Week 16**

Wednesday – May 8<sup>th</sup>

- **Research Project Workshop**
- Exam 3 due before class on the 8<sup>th</sup>
- May 13<sup>th</sup> at noon – Turn in final draft of your research project