

Department of Humanities
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Hours of Availability:
M, 2:30p-6p; Tues, 2:30p-4:30p
W, 2:30-5p; Thur, 2:30p-4:30p



20th Century U.S. History

Fall 2019
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-6:00pm
Teleconference

Course Description

This course will focus on 20th century U.S. history. It will begin with an exploration of the place of the country in the world at the turn of the century and explore how the nation attained status as a world power. The challenges the country faced at home and abroad along the way make up the character of the nation. The course will also address specific themes throughout the semester including race and ethnicity as well as how the country viewed itself at different points during the century. Broad topics and themes are key to grasping the forces that gave shape to the century, and items of specific focus help students understand the larger topics and themes with depth.

Course Style

Activities will focus on readings, lectures, class discussion, 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. 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 (Ideas 10 – Secondary Source list 20 – Interview Description 20 – Presentation 50 – Paper 100)
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

Tuesday – August 27th

- **US at the Turn of the Century – Part 1**

Thursday – August 29th

- **US at the Turn of the Century – Part 2**

Week 2

Tuesday – September 3rd

- **Rail and Industry**

Thursday – September 5th

- **Science and Innovations**

Week 3

Tuesday – September 10th

- **US and the World – Part 1**

Thursday – September 12th

- **US and the World - Part 2**
- Teach-a-Topic 1 due at noon

Week 4

Tuesday – September 17th

- **World War I – Part 1**
- Topic Ideas for semester project due at noon

Thursday – September 18th

- **World War I – Part 2**

Week 5

Tuesday – September 24th

- **Roaring 20s – Part 1**

Thursday – September 26th

- **Roaring 20s – Part 2**
- Exam 1 Available after class

Week 6

Tuesday – October 1st

- **Great Depression and New Deal – Part 1**

Thursday – October 3rd

- **Great Depression and New Deal – Part 2**
- Exam 1 due at noon

Week 7

Tuesday – October 8th

- **World War II – Part 1**
- Secondary Source List for semester project due at noon

Thursday – October 10th

- **World War II – Part 2**

Week 8

Tuesday – October 15th

- **World War II – Part 3**

Thursday – October 17th

- **World War II – Part 4**

Week 9

Tuesday – October 22nd

- **Post-War America – Part 1**

Thursday – October 24th

- **Post-War America – Part 2**
- Exam 2 available after class

Week 10

Tuesday – October 29th

- **1960s and 1970s – Part 1**

Thursday – October 31st

- **1960s and 1970s – Part 2**
- Exam 2 due at noon

Week 11

Tuesday – November 5th

- **Cold War – International Challenges**

Thursday – November 7th

- **Cold War – Space Race**
- Interview Completed Description for semester project due at noon

Week 12

Tuesday – November 12th

- **Cold War – Home front**
- Teach-a-Topic 2 due at noon

Thursday – November 14th

- **1980s and 1990s – Part 1**

Week 13

Tuesday – November 19th

- **1980s and 1990s – Part 2**

Thursday – November 21st

- **2000s and Recent US History – Part 1**

Week 14

Tuesday – November 26th

- **2000s and Recent US History – Part 2**
- Exam 3 available after class

Thursday – November 21st

- **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15

Tuesday – December 3rd

- **Semester Project Presentations**
- Submit presentation materials by noon if you present this day

Thursday – December 5th

- **Semester Project Presentations**

- Submit presentation materials by noon if you present this day
- Final paper for semester project due at noon
- Exam 3 due at noon