

Department of Humanities
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United States History, 1865-Present Readings and Research

HST 5314
Online Course – Fall 2019

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, short teach assignments, 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 and other resources 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.

Grading

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Weekly Responses (10) | 200 points |
| Teach-a-Topic (2) | 100 points |
| Semester Project | 200 points |

Your 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 450 points among the assignments that is 450 divided by 500 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.

Weekly Responses

Weekly responses are meant to give you the opportunity to reflect on the readings and resources for the week and engage with the works in depth. Students can choose from a variety of ways to tackle their response.

Teach-a-Topic

The goal of a teach-a-topic is to create a voice-over video that helps fellow students learn more about the overall subject being studied in the course. You will create the video on a small sub-topic of the overall topic for the week.

Semester Project

The semester project will be original research using oral history methods to conduct interviews and create new knowledge on a topic. Early in the semester students will learn about oral history and then choose topics that are achievable in their local area.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize. (PLO 1)
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly. (PLO 1, PLO 2)
- 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. (PLO 3)
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.
- 6) Students will conduct a research project that conforms to the standards of the profession (PLO 3)

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 Weeks

Week 1

Monday – August 26th

- **The US in 1865**

Week 2

Monday – September 2nd

- **Reconstruction**
- Week 1 response due

Week 3

Monday – September 9th

- **Oral History**
- Week 2 response due

Week 4

Monday – September 16th

- **Gilded Age**

- Teach-a-Topic #1 due
- Topic Ideas for semester project due

Week 5

Monday – September 23rd

- **Industry and Rail**
- Week 4 response due

Week 6

Monday – September 30th

- **Progressive Era**
- Week 5 response due

Week 7

Monday – October 7th

- **Emergence of the US as a World Power**
- Week 6 response due

Week 8

Monday – October 14th

- **World War I**
- Week 7 response due
- Source list and discussion for semester project due

Week 9

Monday – October 21st

- **Great Depression and New Deal**
- Week 8 response due

Week 10

Monday – October 28th

- **World War II – Part 1**
- Week 9 response due

Week 11

Monday – November 4th

- **World War II – Part 2**
- Teach-a-Topic #2 due

Week 12

Monday – November 11th

- **Post-War America**

- Week 11 response due

Week 13

Monday – November 18th

- **Cold War**
- Week 12 response due

Week 14

Monday – November 25th

- **1960s and 1970s**
- Thanksgiving week – SRSU closed November 27-29

Week 15

Monday – December 2nd

- **Semester Project Due**
- Submit the final version of your semester project by Wednesday, December 4th at noon. If you would like for me to provide comments on your project before you turn it in, please submit a draft by Monday, November 25th.