

Department of Humanities  
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Hours of Availability:  
Monday and Wednesday, 2-4:30p  
Thursday, 2-6p



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

Spring 2020  
Monday and Wednesday, 4:30-5:45pm  
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**

This course does not have required textbooks to purchase. For each class I may provide texts and/or videos to watch. These materials are part of the learning process and are important to class periods and exams. All materials will be uploaded to the class page on Blackboard as PDFs and internet links.

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	100 points (50 each)
Research Project	200 points
Exams	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.

## **Teach-a-Topic**

The goal of a teach-a-topic is to create a voice-over slide show 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 a larger topic that we discuss.

## **Research Project**

This class will have a semester research project. It will be based on primary source material available online. More detail will be provided we begin the project in class.

## **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.

## **Marketable Skills**

SLO 1—The history student will demonstrate historical research skills in a logically organized, written paper that is mechanically correct and supported by relevant documentation of historical content.

Marketable skills---Students can identify useful resources from a pool of data.

Students can select and organize data in a relevant manner.

Students can make written presentations to various audiences.

SLO 2—The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.

Marketable skills---Students can utilize data to persuade various audiences.

Students can utilize data to generate and strengthen ideas.

Students can decipher stances adopted by various individuals.

SLO 3—The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.

Marketable Skills---Students can meet deadlines in a successful manner.

Students can discharge responsibilities in an adequate manner.

Students can manage the absorption of data.

## **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

M – Jan. 13 / W – Jan. 15

- **US at the turn of the century**
  - Next Week: Research Project – Potential Topic List – due Jan. 22

### Week 2

M – Jan. 20 / W – Jan. 22

- **Lewis and Clark / Young Nation in a Big World**
  - Jan. 20 – No Class – MLK Holiday
  - Jan. 22 – Research Project – Potential Topic List – due at noon

### Week 3

M – Jan. 27 / W – Jan. 29

- **U.S. Extending its Influence**
  - Next Week: Teach-a-Topic 1 – Begin work on your topic and video
    - Assignment due Feb. 3 at noon

### Week 4

M – Feb. 3 / W – Feb. 5

- **Expansion and Missouri Compromise**
  - Feb. 3 – Teach-a-Topic 1 – due at noon
  - Next Week – Research Project – Secondary Source List – due at noon on Feb. 12

### Week 5

M – Feb. 10 / W – Feb. 12

- **Problems Between the North and the South**
  - Feb. 12 – Research Project – Secondary Source List – due at noon
  - Feb. 12 – Exam 1 – material from weeks 1-5 – available after class

### Week 6

M – Feb. 17 / W – Feb. 19

- **Civil War – part 1**
  - Feb. 19 – Exam 1 – due at noon

#### Week 7

M – Feb. 24 / W – Feb. 26

- **Civil War – part 2**
  - Next Week: Teach-a-Topic 2 – Begin work on your topic and video
    - Assignment due March 2

#### Week 8

M – Mar. 2 / W – Mar. 4

- **Aftermath and Reconstruction**
  - Mar. 2 – Teach-a-Topic 2 – due at noon

#### Week 9

M – Mar. 9 / W – Mar. 11

- **Spring Break – No Class**

#### Week 10

M – Mar. 16 / W – Mar. 18

- **Industrialization**
  - Mar. 18 – Exam 2 – material from weeks 6-10 – available after class

#### Week 11

M – Mar. 23 / W – Mar. 25

- **Urbanization and Immigration**
  - Mar. 25 – Exam 2 – due at noon
  - Next Week: Research Project – Short Discussion of Primary Research Findings – due Apr. 1

#### Week 12

M – Mar. 30 / W – Apr. 1

- **Progressivism**
  - Apr. 1 – Research Project – Short Discussion of Primary Research Findings – due at noon

#### Week 13

M – Apr. 6 / W – Apr. 8

- **Late-Century Expansion**

#### Week 14

M – Apr. 13 / W – Apr. 15

- **1893 Chicago Exposition and Financial Panic**

#### **Week 15**

M – Apr. 20 / W – Apr. 22

- **Monuments of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**
  - April 22 – Exam 3 available after class

#### **Week 16**

M – Apr. 27 / W – Apr. 29

- **Research Projects**
  - Apr. 27 – Research Project Writing Workshop
  - Apr. 27 – Presentation of Research Projects
  - Apr. 29 – Exam 3 – due at noon
  - Apr. 29 – Final draft of your research project – due at noon
  - Apr. 29 – Presentation of Research Projects