

Department of Humanities
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
Email: cdavis@sulross.edu
Phone: 830.703.4845
Office: Del Rio, F215
Hours of Availability:
Monday – Thursday, 3p-5:30p
Please email me anytime to connect.



20th Century U.S. History

HST 4320 – Online – Summer II 2020

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, video creation, 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.

Grading

Teach-a-Topic 1	50 points
Teach-a-Topic 2	50 points
Weekly Write Up	25 x 4
Research Project	200 points (Ideas 10 – Secondary Source list 20 – Project Check In 20 – Project Video 150)

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 360 points among the assignments that is 360 divided by 400 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

In a short semester you must be active weekly to keep up and complete assignments.

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 Weeks and Assignments

Week 1

Wednesday – July 1

- **Topics**
 - **US at the Turn of the Century**
 - **Science and Innovations**
 - **US and the World**
 - **Oral History**
- **July 7 – Assignment – Weekly Write up Due**
- **July 7 – Assignment – Interview Ideas for Semester Project**

Week 2

Wednesday – July 8

- **Topics**

- **World War I**
- **Roaring 20s**
- **Great Depression and New Deal**
- **July 14 – Assignment – Weekly Write up Due**
- **July 14 – Assignment – Teach-a-Topic #1 Due**
- **July 14 – Assignment - Potential Secondary Sources for Semester Project**

Week 3

Wednesday – July 15

- **Topics**
 - **World War II**
- **July 21 – Assignment – Weekly Write up Due**
- **July 21 – Assignment – Semester Project Check-in**

Week 4

Wednesday – July 22

- **Topics**
 - **Post-war America**
 - **1960s and 1970s Culture**
 - **Cold War**
- **July 28 – Assignment – Weekly Write up Due**
- **July 28 – Assignment – Teach-a-Topic #2 Due**

Week 5

Wednesday – July 29

- **Topics**
 - **Recent U.S.**
- **August 4 – Assignment – Semester Video Project Due**