

Department of Humanities  
Dr. Christopher B. Davis  
Email: cdavis@sulross.edu  
Phone: 830.703.4845  
Office: Del Rio, F215  
Hours of Availability:  
Monday-Thursday, 2-4:30p



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

Fall 2020  
Online

### Course Description

This course will focus on 20<sup>th</sup> 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. We can email, 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.

In the course I will typically communicate with everyone via announcements on Blackboard. That way you should receive them via email and have them available on the class Blackboard. Please check both your email and Blackboard regularly for communications for this class and all of SRSU.

### Resources

For this course readings and videos will be made available on Blackboard under the weekly 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

Your course syllabus is available at the Blackboard syllabus link. 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 Responses	100 points
Research Project	200 points
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 630 points among the assignments that is 630 divided by 700 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

I will give talks on certain subjects, but we will also discuss topics. This is especially important in an online class. To stay engaged and enjoy the experience we all need to work together. Your participation in the weekly responses will be the interactive portion.

### 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. The points breakdown for the project will be: Ideas 10 – Secondary Source List 20 – Project check-in/Interview description 20 – Discussion/Presentation 50 – Paper 100)

### 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.

### Blackboard Help

If you run into trouble using Blackboard (accessing resources, submitting assignments, etc.) the best source of help is the Online Blackboard Support Desk. It is staffed 24/7. Please contact them at 888-837-6055 or via email at [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu).

### Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty hurts everyone and reduces the value of college degrees. Doing someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read and understand the university's policy on academic dishonesty in the SRSU Student Handbook, as all violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The Student Handbook can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook>

### 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

Monday – August 24<sup>th</sup>

- **US at the Turn of the Century**
- Weekly Response due Sunday August 30

### Week 2

Monday – August 31<sup>st</sup>

- **Rail and Industry**
- **Science and Innovations**
- Weekly Response due September 6

### Week 3

Monday – September 7<sup>th</sup>

- **US and the World**
- Teach-a-Topic 1 due at noon
- Weekly Response due September 13

### Week 4

Monday – September 14<sup>th</sup>

- **World War I**

- Topic Ideas for semester project due at noon
- Weekly Response due September 20

#### Week 5

Monday – September 21<sup>st</sup>

- **Roaring 20s**
- Exam 1 Available

#### Week 6

Monday – September 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Great Depression and New Deal**
- Exam 1 due at noon
- Weekly Response due October 4

#### Week 7

Monday – October 5<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Week 8

Monday – October 12<sup>th</sup>

- **World War II – Part 2**
- Weekly Response due October 18

#### Week 9

Monday – October 19<sup>th</sup>

- **Post-War America**
- Exam 2 Available

#### Week 10

Monday – October 26<sup>th</sup>

- **1960s and 1970s**
- Exam 2 due at noon
- Weekly Response due November 1

#### Week 11

Monday – November 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **Cold War**
- Project Check In/Interview Description due at noon

- Weekly Response due November 8

#### Week 12

Monday – November 9<sup>th</sup>

- **1980s**
- Teach-a-Topic 2 due at noon
- Weekly Response due November 15

#### Week 13

Monday – November 16<sup>th</sup>

- **1990s**
- Weekly Response due November 22

#### Week 14

Monday – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

- **2000s and Recent US History**
- Exam 3 Available

#### Week 15

Monday – November 30<sup>th</sup>

- **Semester Project Work Day**
- Exam 3 due at noon
- Semester Project Presentations due December 2
- Semester Project Paper due December 2