

**Sul Ross State University
Spring 2025**

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1877

Course Syllabus

HIST 1302; Sec. 003

TR: 11:00 am to 12:15 pm

LH 300

Instructor: John Eusebio Klingemann, Ph.D.

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Office: BAB 207

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10 to 11 or by appointment. *Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances such as emergencies, the professor may not be available. Scheduling office hours ahead of time is always encouraged.*

Course Description:

A survey of American development from Reconstruction to the present, with emphasis on America in world affairs. The course will examine the various political, social, cultural and economic themes that have contributed to the development of the United States as a nation, people, and society.

REQUIRED READINGS:

<https://openstax.org/books/us-history>

On occasion, primary readings will be announced in class and students will be provided a copy by the professor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course, the student should have a greater appreciation of the contemporary history of the United States and be prepared to act as mindful citizens in American democracy. More specially, the student will learn the historical events and developments related to the emergence of the United States as a world power and to how citizens fought to enlarge the concepts of freedom and liberty for all.

This course complies with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) requirements. Instruction in the Core Objectives (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and social responsibility) will be given and reinforced throughout the semester.

In completing HIST 1302, the student should be able to:

- Understand the political, economic, and social changes in the United States from 1877 to the

present in relation to political parties, transportation, labor unions, agriculture, business, race, and gender.

- Demonstrate knowledge of the effects of reform and third-party movements including their leaders in U.S. society.
- Analyze the causes and effects of industrialization in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of significant individuals who shaped political, economic, and social developments in the United States from 1877 to the present.
- Demonstrate knowledge of events and issues that shaped political, economic, and social developments in the United States from 1877 to the present.
- Analyze the impact of civil rights movements in the United States, including the African American, Hispanic, Native American, and women's rights movements.
- Understand the factors and events that contributed to the emergence of the United States as a world power.
- Analyze how national and international decisions and conflicts from World War II to the present have affected the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of significant individuals who have shaped U.S. foreign policy from 1898 to the present.
- Understand the origins of major foreign policy issues facing the United States and the challenges of changing relationships among nations.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The graduating student in history will be able to:

- 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 will learn the importance of meeting deadlines in a successful manner.
 - Students can identify the differences between primary and secondary sources, a crucial step in developing critical thinking skills.
 - Students can learn to select and organize data in a relevant manner.
 - Students can hone their writing skills.
- The history student will demonstrate the ability to write about topics in historiography and how those topics are interpreted.
- Marketable Skills:
 - Students can learn how ideas and interpretations change over time.
 - Students can learn how to evaluate different interpretations and ideas.
 - Students can learn how to use evidence to persuade various audiences.
- The history student will demonstrate knowledge of American History, World History, and Non-American History.
- Marketable Skills:
 - Students can develop a better understanding of the development of various cultures, political and economic systems, gender and race relations, and environmental change.
 - Students can develop a multicultural perspective necessary for an increasing globalized world.
 - Students can learn how to manage and absorb various perspectives and information.

The Student Learning Outcomes will be measured by the administration of daily quizzes, exams, book reviews, research papers, and group presentations.

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

General Thoughts: Honesty and integrity are critical character values. Cheating will not be tolerated. You need to attend every class meeting. Please arrive to class on time. All students must be familiar with the Sul Ross Student Handbook and the Academic Honor Code. The handbook can be obtained through the university website located at the following address: <https://www.sulross.edu/student-life/>.

Classroom Conduct: Per the Student Handbook “students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University’s function as an educational institution.” Students should treat their classmates with courtesy and respect. Students talking over others, using persistent profane or vulgar language or otherwise disrupting the class may be dismissed from the class.

Cell Phone Policy: TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Use of electronic devices during the class is strictly prohibited and anyone who uses an electronic device may be asked to leave the class.

Make Up Exam Policy: Make exams will only be given because of documented emergency situations such as severe/extreme medical conditions for yourself or a dependent, or in the case of a death in the immediate family. Students who have this type of problem must either contact the instructor by e-mail or phone prior to the date of the exam OR bring in a validated excuse upon their first day back in the course. Please note that make up exams will not be the same as the ones given in class.

Student Absence: The Student Handbook defines student absence in the following statement, “*An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences. An absence due to participation in an official University activity is considered an authorized absence.*”

Statement on Academic Honesty: According to the SRSU Student Handbook, “*The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.*”

Writing Tutoring: Students needing assistance with writing are urged to use the services of the Writing Lab, part of the Tutoring and Learning Centre, located in the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library first floor. Please check with the Tutoring & Learning Centre for hours of operation. Please note that while the writing tutors can help you with grammar, structure, formatting and citations they will not write assignments for you nor are they editors.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day: According to the SRSU Student Handbook, *“In accordance with Texas Education Code 51.911, SRSU shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under section 11.20 of the Texas Tax Code.”*

A.D.A. Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the students responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact:

Mary Schwartz, M.Ed., L.P.C.
Accessibility Services Coordinator
Counseling and Accessibility Services,
Ferguson Hall 112.
Mailing Address: P. O. Box C-171; Alpine, TX 79832
Phone: (432) 837-8203

If you have an accessibility letter, it is your responsibility to ensure that the instructor has received a copy of it so your specific accommodations can be met

Library Information

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library’s website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Quizzes:** On occasion, the professor may deliver impromptu quizzes based on the readings. Please be sure to read the assigned material. The quizzes will count towards a student’s participation grade.
- **Exams:** There will be three exams. Exams will cover lecture material, but they will not be cumulative. Exams will consist of a multiple-choice section and a short essay question (except the final). Study guides with specific guidelines for preparing for each exam will be provided in advance.
- **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in the class. This includes participation in class assignments and class discussion. Some things to consider for discussion include identifying major themes, posing major questions you have about the material, and presenting your opinion of the readings. You are encouraged to meet with your professor throughout the

semester to discuss your participation grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	360-400
B	359-320
C	319-280
D	279-240
F	239<

GRADES:

Course Requirements

Exam 1	100 pts.	
Exam 2	100 pts.	
Final Exam	100 pts.	
Class Participation/Attendance		100 pts.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 16

Introduction

Week 2: January 21-23

Civil War and Reconstruction and Westward Expansion

Read: The Era of Reconstruction, 1865–1877

Week 3: January 28-30

Westward Expansion and Industrialization

Read: Go West Young Man! Westward Expansion, 1840-1900

The Growing Pains of Urbanization, 1870-1900

Week 4: February 4-6

Industrial Expansion and Gilded Age Politics

Read: Industrialization and the Rise of Big Business, 1870-1900

Politics in the Gilded Age, 1870-1900

Week 5: February 11-13

The Progressive Era and American Imperialism

Read: Leading the Way: The Progressive Movement, 1890-1920

Age of Empire: American Foreign Policy, 1890-1914

Week 6: February 18-20

World War I

February 18 – **Exam 1**

Read: Americans and the Great War, 1914-1919

Week 7: February 25-27

The Roaring Twenties and The Great Depression

Read: The Jazz Age: Redefining the Nation, 1919-1929

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? The Great Depression, 1929-1932

Week 8: March 4-6

The Great Depression and New Deal America

Read: Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1941

Week 9: March 11-13

World War II and Post-War America

Read: Fighting the Good Fight in World War II, 1941-1945

Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fears, 1945-1960

Week 10: March 18-20

Spring Break!

Week 11: March 25-27

March 25 – Exam II

The 1950's and the Civil Rights Movement.

Read: Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fears, 1945-1960

Week 12: April 1-3

LBJ, Politics, and Social Change in the 1960s

Read: Contesting Futures: America in the 1960s

Political Storms at Home and Abroad, 1968-1980

Week 13: April 8-10

Vietnam, Richard Nixon and Watergate

Read: Political Storms at Home and Abroad, 1968-1980

Week 14: April 15-17

The Reagan Revolution

Read: From Cold War to Culture Wars, 1980-2000

Week 15: April 22-24

America since 1990 and Terrorism

Read: From Cold War to Culture Wars, 1980-2000

The Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

Week 16: April 29 – May 1

Last Day of Regular Class: April 29

May 1 – Dead Day

Final Exam III: DATE & TIME TBD