

COURSE SYLLABUS

UNITED STATES HISTORY, Since 1876 **online**

HIST 1302.01 * CRN 80021

3 credit hours

FALL 2017

As a required course, there is no prerequisite for HIST 1302 beyond the university's approval



Thomas Hart Benton, "City Activities," 1930

Professor: Ty Cashion (PhD, TCU, 1993)

Contact Info: his_rtc@shsu.edu

History Dept. 936-294-1475

RE, Office Hours & Correspondence

Because **this is an online course**, we will conduct all of our business through **Blackboard (Bb)**—**no exceptions!**

Instructions for contacting me: 1) open Bb; 2) click on the link for this course; 3) on the menu bar, select "Send email"; 4) compose your message, and send it.

It is incumbent upon you to check your email account and make sure that you remain well informed.

Make sure you clear your university mailbox occasionally. If it exceeds your limit, you will not be able to receive messages from me. That could prove fatal to your grade.

If you have an emergency during business hours, please call the history department office.

Important Note Regarding TECHNICAL ISSUES

In the event you experience a technical issue, you might try switching servers (e.g., if you are on Firefox, switch to Chrome). You might also make sure your software is updated. Otherwise, the number for **Bb** support is 936-294-2780. Also, be aware of two useful items in your **Bb** course menu. The "Need Help?" tab will let you know whom to contact. The Technical Support icon located just above the course menu will lead you to additional **Bb** support.

Another important note...*never* use the "digital drop box!"

Please know that I reserve the right to revise the syllabus and the unit assignments in the event of unanticipated circumstances. In those cases, I will try to notify the class by e-mail.

Dr. C's 5-point "Heads Up Bonus!"

The first student to inform me of any error (whether syllabus, **Bb**, or exam) will be able to claim five exam points. Simply send me a note with "Heads Up!" in the subject line, and I will apply it to an exam that is a "keeper."

Textbook

Goldfield, et al., *The American Journey: A History of the United States*, 8th ed., Volume 2

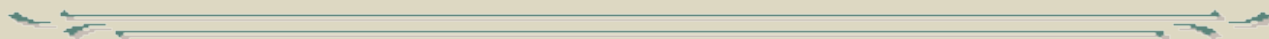
Bb purchased an online version of this volume, and it is available to you without cost. You will find a link to each chapter in the appropriate unit on **Bb**.

If you would rather purchase your textbook from the SHSU Barnes & Noble campus bookstore (<http://shsu.bncollege.com/>), make sure it is volume 2 of the 8th edition.

➤ **NOTE:** In lieu of a formal course reader, you will be assigned web readings and video.

Course Objectives

- Course Objective 1: Factual knowledge. Students will gain a factual knowledge of American history from Reconstruction through the modern age.
- Course Objective 2: Personal responsibility. Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values and a sense of responsibility.



A Note of fair Warning!!!
Everyone needs to view this [link](#) and this [link](#)

University Policies

Important note. The following link will take you to the University policies regarding Academic Dishonesty, Absences for Religious Holidays, Students with Disabilities, and Visitors in the Classroom. Many of these will not apply to online students, but be advised to make sure you know which ones obligate you. If you are unclear, please ask me: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

Course Description & and Instructional Method

This course will cover the period of United States history beginning with Reconstruction and ending with the modern age. Almost every week you will be responsible for covering a chapter from *The American Journey*, vol. 2, which will represent the guiding theme for the lectures and virtual assignments (i.e., online selections from various websites such as History News Network, YouTube, and Wikipedia).

The instructional method for this class will involve 1) **textbook readings**, 2) **virtual assignments**, and 3) occasional **lectures**. The sweep of American history is very broad. Even when divided into two semesters, it will go by with breathtaking swiftness. You do not want to fall behind!

Important note: To see the schedule of weekly assignments and exams, go to **Bb** and click on the tab “Units.” It is located on your course menu. There you will find 13 units, each with a list of assignments, resources, and a link to the weekly exam.

Study Tips

1) **Reading Checks.** *This might be the single most important section of the syllabus you will read.* Rather than providing you with a list of identification terms, let me make available something more direct and helpful. For each chapter in the textbook, you will find a corresponding bank of multiple-choice and true-false questions located in **Bb**. These represent your “**reading checks**.” You do not have to do them, and I will not grade them. But, if you do them, most of the questions on the exams will look very familiar. Connect the dots, my friends...

- **NOTE:** I will **not** expect you to prepare answers for any **essay questions** that might be included in the reading checks test bank.
- **NOTE:** Do not expect **Bb** to issue a grade or give you feedback for these reading checks. The answers are in your book...all you have to do is dig them out! If the answers were made available, no one would have the incentive to read the chapters. I believe making the test bank available is quite generous. If you would rather prepare for each exam by having a long list of ID terms for which you will be expected to know the “who, what, when, where, why, how, significance, and consequences” associated with them, I will be delighted to provide those for you and disable your “Reading Checks” link.

2) **Virtual Assignments.** It may surprise some of you to learn that there is a wealth of history-related clips and readings floating around on the internet that are either thought-provoking, or just plain fun to see/read/listen to. It would be a bummer to spoil the moment by making you memorize everything you are experiencing. So, in that regard...

- **NOTE:** Any exam questions related to the virtual assignments—if any—will be designed simply to make sure you saw/read/listened to them. Ergo—if you pay attention, you should get most of them right. (An example... In one clip, Charlie Chaplin unknowingly sprinkles cocaine on his cereal, thinking it is sugar. If I ask you how he reacts, and you have watched the film clip, I am pretty sure you will get that one correct! The main purpose of these virtual assignments is to help you cultivate an appreciation and fondness for history.)

3) **Lectures.** Unless noted, lectures presented to you will be audio files from previous classes.

- **NOTE:** Disregard any references to information that might obligate you to do something. Obviously, if the lectures are audio files from previous semesters, any such information was directed to students taking the class at that time.

- **NOTE:** I have not included many lectures, so expect to see at least a couple of questions related to them when you take the associated exam. Listen to the lectures just before taking the exam. That way the material will be fresh, and **you should not have to take notes.**

Examinations & Grading

My philosophy regarding exams has changed in recent years because of the way most youngsters have adapted to technology, and the tendency of so many to wait until the last minute to prepare. For these reasons I will post exams almost weekly, rather than hold you responsible for two or three large blocks of information over the course of the semester. There will be no final; the last exam, however, will be administered during the week of finals.

Preparing for exams in this manner will compel you to develop timely study habits, and the information will be fresh, thus facilitating the acquisition of “factual knowledge of American history,” your first course objective. Moreover, if you grow accustomed to this routine, it will help you “develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values”—your other course objective!

- The exams will open at **noon on Fridays** and close at **midnight** the following **Monday**. As outlined above, weekly examinations covering the textbook, virtual assignments, and any lectures or other material will be administered via **Bb**, located in the appropriate unit. The course grade will be calculated on an averaged 100-point scale.
 - On each exam you will have 20 minutes to answer at least 20 questions, composed of some variety of multiple-choice, matching, and true-false.
 - As much as I would like for you *not* to refer to the material at hand, a “closed book” exam would only penalize honest students. Be reminded—the time limit for taking the exams will be BRIEF. Without studying, it is unlikely that you will find sufficient time to look up each answer.
 - If you feel as if you are running out of time, **do not panic**. If you exceed the time limit, the system will not shut down, and you will not be ejected from the exam. It will, however, post an icon on Gradebook, so you will not be able to see your grade. If it takes you a couple or three extra minutes, no big deal...if, however, you are taking an hour to finish these exams, I am going to assume you are taking advantage of me. In this case, I reserve the right to have you re-take the exam under video supervision through the **Bb** center.
 - If you are ejected from the exam, contact me immediately at his_rtc@shsu.edu. I check my **Bb** account regularly and will either clear and reset your exam, or prorate your grade if you are close to finishing.
 - In all, **13** exams will be made available to you.
 - Only your **10** best efforts will count toward your course grade
 - Be advised...you are responsible for taking only **10** exams. If you know that school or personal-related matters will weigh heavily upon you during some particular week, then do not feel compelled to invest your time in studying for a history exam that you know will not be a “keeper.” BUT, do not leave yourself without the “wiggle room” to deal with unanticipated matters that might come up later...remember “Course Objective No. 2: “Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.”
- **NOTE:** On Tuesdays, after the exams close, the results will be made available to you. Reviewing the results can be most helpful, and each student should be encouraged to make this part of their weekly routine. Please know that I cannot release the results any sooner, because I do not want the answers floating around in cyber space.