

## **History 1302 Section 8 (CRN 80214): United States History Since 1876 3 Credit Hours, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Wesley Phelps  
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Office Hours: M / W 9-10 AM, 2-4 PM, F 9-10 AM  
Or by appointment  
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Class Hours: M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50 AM  
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### **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce you to the discipline of history by examining United States history from 1876 to the present. In addition to learning how historians conduct their work and what their insights can teach us about the world, we will cover topics such as industrialization and urbanization, the Progressive Era, two world wars, the New Deal, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Reagan Revolution, globalization, the War on Terror, and much more. In this course we will endeavor not only to answer the standard “who, what, and when” but to look deeper to the “why and so what” questions that historians ask about the past. In keeping with this approach, you will learn not only how to answer historical questions but also how to ask questions of history.

### **Course Objectives**

- 1) Critical Thinking: Students will gain a broad factual knowledge in the field of United States history since 1876. Students will be encouraged to think critically and analytically, rejecting the simplistic idea that “things just happen” in favor of the more complex ideas of contingency and social constructs.
- 2) Communication Skills: Communication skills will be addressed in this class through reading texts, attending lectures, and question/answer/discussion periods during class. Visual aids will be used to present portions of the course material.
- 3) Personal Responsibility: Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course in course content as well as in performance. In course content, the theme of personal responsibility will be examined through specific historical episodes and the recurring motif of how individual Americans have made change happen throughout our nation’s history. In course performance, the development of personal responsibility will be encouraged through timely completion of assignments and the expectation that students will take the initiative to seek out additional help as needed from the professor and other resources (such as the Sam Center).
- 4) Social Responsibility: Social responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn about how individuals’ actions and choices impacted their communities and their nation, for better or worse.

### **Required Materials**

All required reading materials for this course will be made available on Blackboard.

## Recommended Textbook

*The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook* - available free at <http://www.americanyawp.com>

## Requirements

Introduction Paper (50 points)

Due August 25 by 5:00 PM

History of Anything Assignment (50 points)

Due August 30 by 10:00 AM (bring to class)

3 Exams worth 100 points each (total 300 points)

Exam 1: October 13

Exam 2: November 10

Exam 3: December 4

4 Short Essays worth 100 points each (total 400 points)

Essay 1: September 15

Essay 2: September 29

Essay 3: October 27

Essay 4: November 17

## Grading Scale (out of 800 possible points)

A = 720 – 800 points

C = 560 – 639 points

F = 479 or fewer points

B = 640 – 719 points

D = 480 – 559 points

## Introduction Paper (Due Aug 25 by 5:00 PM)

Write a short essay (1 page or less) introducing yourself to me. Include a photo at the top of your paper (please keep the photo appropriate). This assignment is designed to allow me to get to know you better, so tell me where you are from, what your interests in life are, what your major is and why are you interested in that subject, what you hope to achieve in life, what concerns or fears you have about this course, and at least one interesting thing about you as a person.

Please insert your photo into a Word document with your essay and save it all together to upload to Blackboard.

## History of Anything Assignment (Due Aug 30 by 10:00 AM-bring to class)

Type up a short (about 150 words, or 1/2 page) paragraph on the history of your favorite subject and bring it with you to class on Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. This could be a history of anything – your favorite game, your favorite musician, your favorite food. Just pick something you enjoy or are curious about, look up its history if you don't already know about it, and compose a paragraph. More details about this assignment will be provided in class.

## Exams (Oct 13, Nov 10, and Dec 4)

There will be 3 multiple-choice exams administered on Blackboard throughout the semester. You will have a one-week window of availability during which you must submit each exam. The questions on the exams will be taken from the in-class lecture material and all assigned reading material on Blackboard. You may use any books and/or notes you wish during each exam. The 3<sup>rd</sup> exam will be the final exam for the course and will not be comprehensive.

*Please note that under no circumstances will I reset an exam for any student.* If some technical glitch results in your exam not submitting correctly, you will be required to take a make-up exam that is different from the original exam. For this reason, I STRONGLY encourage you to complete each exam on an actual computer, preferably in a campus computer lab. DO NOT TAKE THESE EXAMS ON YOUR PHONE OR TABLET! While your device will probably submit the exam without any major problems, there is an increased risk of an error on a phone or tablet.

NOTE: All make-up exams will be administered at the discretion of the instructor. Since students who miss an exam will have extra time to prepare and in most cases will have already viewed the regular exam, make-up exams will be more difficult than the regularly scheduled exams. Under no circumstance will a make-up exam be administered more than one week after the regularly scheduled exam.

#### Short Essays (Sep 15, Sep 29, Oct 27, and Nov 17)

You will write 4 short essays (approximately 500 words each) based on the assigned primary documents provided on Blackboard. More detailed information will be provided in class.

#### Extra Credit

Occasionally there will be opportunities to earn extra credit during the semester. Announcements of these opportunities will be made in class as they arise. Every extra credit opportunity will be made available to the entire class. Individual extra credit assignments will not be offered.

#### Note on SHSU Support Resources

All students are advised to take advantage of the support resources available to you as you complete the reading and writing assignments for this course. The SAM Center (Student Advising and Mentoring Center) can assist you with note taking, time management, and study skills. The SAM Center is located in CHSS 170. You may make an appointment by email ([samcenter@shsu.edu](mailto:samcenter@shsu.edu)) or phone (936-294-4444). The SHSU Reading and Writing Center can also be helpful as you read the assigned materials and write the journal entries and other assignments. The Reading and Writing Center offers both in-person and online appointments and can be reached at [asc@shsu.edu](mailto:asc@shsu.edu) or 936-294-3680.

### **Course Policies**

#### Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Students are expected to take notes during class and ask questions if something is unclear. In the event of an absence, students are expected to obtain class notes from classmates. Attendance will be taken each day of class. A seating chart will be made at the beginning of the second week of class, so please select a seat that will enhance your classroom experience by that time. While there is no grade attached to class attendance, I will be tracking each student's attendance in class throughout the semester.

#### Electronic Device Policy

Students are permitted to use laptop computers and other mobile devices for the sole purpose of taking class notes. Students are NOT permitted to check e-mail, use the Internet, complete other assignments, or use the computer for any other purpose other than taking notes. Also, please silence your phones before coming to class and refrain from talking or texting during class. If you need to take a call, please step out of the classroom. Please be respectful of the instructor and others in the class by adhering to this policy.

### Email Policy

The SHSU email system is the official system for this class. I will use your @shsu.edu address to communicate with you throughout the semester. Please check your email regularly.

### Blackboard

Occasionally handouts and other materials will be made available on Blackboard. Make sure you are able to access the Blackboard site for this course.

### Late Assignment Penalties

All assignments must be submitted by the due date/time indicated on the syllabus. If an assignment is submitted on the due date but later than the indicated due time, a late penalty of 5% will be assessed on the assignment. After the due date has passed, a late penalty of 10% will be assessed each day that it is late until a 50% penalty is reached. Assignments will not be accepted for credit one week after the assignment is due.

### Academic Honesty

Section 5.3 of the SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Discipline states: "Academic Honesty: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the 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."

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- Cheating on an examination or test, for example by copying from another's paper or by using unauthorized material during the test
- Plagiarism, which one represents as one's own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source

All academic dishonesty cases may first be reviewed by the instructor, who can assign a penalty. Students have the right to appeal. Please see the Student Guidelines handbook for the proper procedures.

Penalty: The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is a grade of zero for the work in question. A second incident of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course.

### Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20. . . ." 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.

### Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the

university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact Mr. Kelley Osborn with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office at the SHSU Counseling Center, located in the Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building), telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by the SSD, the student is advised to schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation forms and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

#### Visitors in the Classroom

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

## Course Schedule

**Note: (Bb) indicates the reading is available on Blackboard**

WEEK 1 (Aug 23-25): COURSE INTRO

**Introduction Paper Due Friday, August 25, by 5:00 PM (submit on Blackboard)**

WEEK 2 (Aug 28-Sep 1): WHAT IS HISTORY?

**History of Anything Assignment Due Wednesday, August 30 (bring to class)**

WEEK 3 (Sep 4-8): HOW DO HISTORIANS USE SOURCES?

**\*\*No class Monday (Labor Day)**

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 15-Reconstruction and Chapter 17-Conquering the West

Required: Thomas Nast Political Cartoons (Bb)

Required: Chinese Immigration and Exclusion Documents (Bb)

WEEK 4 (Sep 11-15): THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW SOUTH

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 18-Life in Industrial America

Required: Henry Grady, "The New South" (Bb)

Required: A Sharecropping Contract (Bb)

**Short Essay 1 Due Friday, September 15, by 5:00 PM**

WEEK 5 (Sep 18-22): AMERICAN EMPIRE AND PROGRESSIVISM

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 19-American Empire and Chapter 20-Progressive Era

Required: Spanish-American War Documents (Bb)

Required: "Emilio Aguinaldo on American Imperialism in the Philippines" (Bb)

Required: "Progressive Party Platform of 1912" (Bb)

WEEK 6 (Sep 25-29): WORLD WAR I

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 21-World War I and Its Aftermath

Required: World War I Documents (Bb)

Required: World War I Sedition Documents (Bb)

Required: Woodrow Wilson, "Proclamation of Neutrality, 1914" (Bb)

**Short Essay 2 Due Friday, September 29, by 5:00 PM**

WEEK 7 (Oct 2-6): THE 1920S

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 22-The New Era

Required: Scopes Trial Documents (Bb)

WEEK 8 (Oct 9-13): THE NEW DEAL OF THE 1930S

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 23-The Great Depression

Required: New Deal Documents (Bb)

Required: Franklin Roosevelt, "Greater Security for the Average Man" (Bb)

Required: Herbert Hoover on the New Deal and Liberty (Bb)

**Exam 1 due Friday, October 13, by 5:00 PM (covers Weeks 1-7)**

WEEK 9 (Oct 16-20): WORLD WAR II

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 24-World War II

Required: Franklin D. Roosevelt on the Four Freedoms (Bb)

Required: African Americans and the Four Freedoms (Bb)

WEEK 10 (Oct 23-27): THE COLD WAR / 1950S

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 25-The Cold War

Required: Cold War Documents (Bb)

Required: "Joseph McCarthy on the Attack" (Bb)

**Short Essay 3 Due Friday, October 27, by 5:00 PM**

WEEK 11 (Oct 30-Nov 3): THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 26-The Affluent Society

Required: The Southern Manifesto (Bb)

Required: Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (Bb)

WEEK 12 (Nov 6-10): THE 1960S

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 27-The Sixties and Chapter 28-The Unraveling

Required: Civil Rights Act Documents

Required: "James Baldwin on Student Radicals" (Bb)

Required: "Paul Potter on the Antiwar Movement" (Bb)

**Exam 2: due Friday, November 10, by 5:00 PM (covers Weeks 8-11)**

WEEK 13 (Nov 13-17): MODERN CONSERVATISM IN THE 1970S AND 1980S

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 29-The Triumph of the Right

Required: Ronald Reagan, "Inaugural Address" (1981) (Bb)

Required: Jerry Falwell, "Listen, America" (Bb)

**Short Essay 4 Due Friday, November 17, by 5:00 PM**

WEEK 14 (Nov 20-24): GLOBALIZATION AND THE NEW ECONOMY OF THE 1990S

**\*\*No class Wednesday or Friday (Thanksgiving)**

Recommended: *American Yawp*, Chapter 30-The Recent Past

Required: "Contract with America" (Bb)

Required: Bill Clinton, "Speech on Signing NAFTA" (Bb)

WEEK 15 (Nov 27-Dec 1): PUNK ROCK: A CULTURAL HISTORY

Required: Patti Smith, "Gloria" (1975) (Bb)

Required: Patti Smith, "Because the Night" (1978) (Bb)

Required: The Ramones, "Sheena is a Punk Rocker" (1977) (Bb)

**Exam 3 due on the Final Exam day, Monday, December 4, by 5:00 PM (covers Weeks 12-15)**