

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course: History 1302**

**Title: U.S. History Since 1877**

**Section: 11: U.S. History Since 1877**

**CRN 20844**

**Semester: Fall**

**Year: 2017**

**Class Days: MWF**

**Time: 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm**

**Building/Room: AB4-303**

**Instructor Office: AB4 467**

**Instructor Phone and e-mail:** 936-294-1486; his\_jso@shsu.edu (Dr. Olson will communicate electronically only through SHSU e-mail.)

### **About the Professor**

James S. Olson today is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Sam Houston State University. He received the B.A. from Brigham Young University in 1967 and the M.A. and Ph.D. Stony Brook University in 1972. He is the author and/or editor of more than forty books on U.S. and world history and the recipient of many research and writing awards. His book *Bathsheba's Breast: Women, Cancer, and History* was a nominee for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in History, received the 2002 History of Science prize from the Association of American Publishers, and was named one of the fifty best non-fiction books for 2002 by the *Los Angeles Times*. In 2001, his *A Line in the Sand: The Alamo in Blood and Memory* won the Diolece Parmelee Award from the Texas Historical Foundation. Olson's biography of John Wayne--*John Wayne American*--was a nominee for the 1996 Pulitzer Prize in Biography and won the Ray and Pat Browne National Book Award from the Popular Culture Association. In 2005, the Carnegie Endowment for Education and the Council for the Advancement of Education named Olson one of America's best undergraduate teachers. His most book *Making Cancer History: Disease and Discovery at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center* was published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009. The Sixth Edition of Olson's book *Where the Domino Fell: American and Vietnam*--was published in London by Wiley Blackwood in 2014. His most recent book--*The Industrial Revolution: Key Themes and Documents*--was published by ABC-CLIO in 2015.

### **Course Schedule**

The course schedule is fluid, and the calendar below should be viewed only as a guideline.

*August 23, 2017: Course Introduction and Lecture on the Resurrection of Slavery.*

*August 25, 2017: The Resurrection of Slavery (cont.)*

*August 28, 2017: The Resurrection of Slavery (cont.)*

*August 30, 2017: The Resurrection of Slavery (cont.)*

*August 25, 2017: Domestic Imperialism: Indigenous America*

*August 29, 2016: Domestic Imperialism: Latino(a) America*

***August: 31, 2017 Examination 1 (American Saga Ch. 12)***

*September 1, 2017: The Market Revolution*  
*September 4, 2017: The Market Revolution ont.))*  
*February 1, 2016: The From Market Revolution to the Industrial Revolution*  
*February 3, 2016: The Organizational Response: Business and Labor*  
*February 5, 2016: The Organizational Response: Government*  
*February 8, 2016: The New Immigration*  
*February 10, 2016: The Nativist Reaction*  
*February 12, 2016: **Examination 2 (American Saga, Ch. 13, 14, and 16)***  
*February 15, 2016: From Domestic to International Empire: Asia and the Pacific*  
*February 17, 2016: From Domestic to International Empire: Mexico and the Caribbean*  
*February 19, 2016: The U.S. and World War I*  
*February 22, 2016: World War I*  
*February 24, 2016: Foreign Policy in the 1920s*  
*February 26, 2016: The 1920s*  
*February 29, 2016: The Causes of the Great Depression*  
*March 3, 2016: The Great Depression and the New Deal*  
*March 5, 2016: **Examination 3 (American Saga, Chs. 15, 17, 18, and 19)***  
*March 7, 2016: SPRING BREAK*  
*March 9, 2016: SPRING BREAK*  
*March 11, 2016: SPRING BREAK*  
*March 14, 2016: The Causes of World War II (Europe)*  
*March 16, 2016: The Causes of World War II (Asia and the Pacific)*  
*March 18, 2016: World War II*  
*March 21, 2016: World War II at Home*  
*March 23, 2016: The Origins of the Cold War*  
*March 25, 2016: GOOD FRIDAY BREAK*  
*March 28, 2016: Atomic Diplomacy and the Korean War*  
*March 30, 2016: The Origins of the Vietnam War*  
*April 1, 2016: The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*  
*April 4, 2016: The Federal Courts and the Civil Rights Movements*  
*April 6, 2016: Kennedy, King, and LBJ*  
*April 8, 2016: Disaster in Vietnam*  
*April 11, 2016: The Conservative Revival*  
*April 13, 2016: The Collapse of the Soviet Bloc and End of the Cold War*  
*April 15, 2016: The Culture Wars at Home*  
*April 18, 2016: Oil, the Islamic Revolution, and Wars in the Middle East*  
*April 20, 2016: The Great Recession*  
*April 22, 2016: Russia, Obama, and the New Cold War*  
*April 25, 2016: Immigration and Immigrant Rights*  
*April 27, 2016: Terrorism and Civil Liberties*  
*April 29, 2016: Review*  
**May 4, 2016: Final Exam May 4, 2016 12:00 to 2:00 pm (Chs. 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23)**

## **Course Description**

History 1302.11 is a survey of United States history from 1877 to the present. The major topics of the course will include the Industrial Revolution and the development of a modern

economy, the rise of the United States to a position of global superpower, the evolution of civil rights issues in modern America, and the history of U.S. immigration policy. Course content will be delivered through instructor lectures and student reading of the required texts. 1302 is a reading-intensive course, and students should know that earning a good grade depends, in part, upon diligent reading of the texts.

### **Course Objectives for Students**

- Understand the nature of ethnicity, ethnic relations, and assimilation in recent American history.
- Understand the history of U.S. immigration policy.
- Understand the social, political, and economic elements of industrialization and modernization.
- Understand 20<sup>th</sup> century U.S. foreign policy and explain the controversies of America's role as a global superpower.
- Understand the evolution of economic policy in the United States.
- Understand the major ideas and events of the civil rights movement.

**Required Texts and Supplies.** Students will need a notebook of some kind to take lecture notes. For exams, students will need 882 Scantrons and #2 pencils. The textbook—James S. Olson, *American Saga*—will be provided via e-mail free of charge to students. Other readings materials will be distributed to the class during the course of the semester.

### **Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is required. Students who attend class regularly are more likely to succeed than students with frequent absences. Students will punish themselves by missing class frequently because their ability to do well on exams will be compromised. Students with more than five absences (for any reason) will not be eligible for any grade curve should that become available.

### **Dropping the Course**

It is the responsibility of the student to drop a course. Students who decide to drop the course should do so by following the regulations of the Registrar's Office. The last day to drop the course with a Q grade is March 28, 2016.

### **Examinations**

Examinations will consist of multiple-choice questions. Each examination will be worth a maximum of 80 points. Students will take five examinations during the semester. Make-up examinations, except those missed for observance of a religious holy day, will be **far** more difficult than regularly-scheduled examinations because the absent student will have had more time than other students to prepare. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to make up more than one missed examination. Students missing an examination for observance of a religious holiday must make-up the examination no later than 72 hours after the holy day. The final examination will cover only the last quarter of the course. Under no circumstance will a student be allowed to make up more than one missed exam. All missed examinations will be made up in class on the day of the final.

### **Grading Plan**

At the end of the semester, students with 450 to 500 points will receive an A. Students with 400 to 449 points will receive a B. Students with 350 to 399 points will receive a C. Students with 300 to 349 points will receive a D. Students with less than 300 points will receive an F.

### **Extra Credit**

There are no individual options for extra credit. Extra credit opportunities, when offered, will be extended to the entire class. They will consist of in-class writing assignments employing historical documents as sources.

### **Learning Disabilities**

Federal law requires that students with handicaps, including learning disabilities, receive reasonable accommodations to assist them in completing course requirements. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically-related problems from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling 96-294-3512. As a person with a physical disability and a modest learning disorder, Dr. Olson is happy to provide any reasonable assistance. Learning-disabled students must have the disability certified by the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Students should also realize that laziness is not a learning disability.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience, both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary action against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. In History 1302, Spring 2013, academic dishonesty consists primarily of copying another student's work and claiming it as your own or employing any type of written, audio, or video material during an exam to assist in answering questions. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will immediately receive a grade of F for the entire course.

### **Religious Holidays**

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. 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.

### **Classroom Rules of Conduct and Cell Phone Use**

As members of the classroom community, all students have a responsibility to others who are a part of that community. The goal is to produce an environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and other students with respect. Cell phones, laptop computers, pagers, and similar devices have become increasingly a part of life in our society;

however, when used in the classroom environment they can become disruptive. Laptop computers, if allowed, may be used for note taking purposes if they are not disruptive to other class members. Students are to turn off cell phones, pagers, and other similar electronic equipment while in the classroom. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the use by students of cell phones, pagers, or similar communication devices during scheduled class-time is prohibited unless specifically permitted by the instructor. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class.

If there is an emergency situation for a student, that student should inform the instructor and place himself/herself in a seat near the door where an exit for a phone call would be only minimally disruptive. With instructor approval, students may record lectures, take notes via laptop computer, etc., provided that they do not disturb other students in the process. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Any use of cell phones or other electronic devices during a test period is prohibited. Even the visible presence of a cell phone or other device during an exam will result in a score of zero on that test. Use of a cell phone during a test could result in a charge of academic dishonesty (see student code of conduct reference below). During the test these instruments should be left at home or stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. Their attendance must not disrupt the class. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor may attend.

For further official information on student conduct, academic dishonesty, visitors in the classroom, religious holidays, and students with disabilities, see [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus)