



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HIST 1302: US History Since 1876 Fall 2017

INSTRUCTOR: Katherine Gaskamp

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OFFICE: AB4, Room 472

OFFICE HOURS: TR 1:00 – 2:00 PM or by appointment.

Email is the fastest and best way to communicate with me.

Course Title:	HIST 1302.16
Course Subject:	US History Since 1876
Class Days & Times:	TR 2:00 – 3:20 PM
Credit Hours:	3
Class Room Location:	LDB, Room 205

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys United States history from the failure of Reconstruction to the present day racial inequalities. It critically engages the political, social, cultural, and economic aspects of the various groups that contributed to the emergence of the United States at its current form. Other topics discussed are: the rise of Big Business, the American Empire, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, and the Rise of the Right. This course also compares and contrast American culture to other societies through cross-cultural encounters.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Throughout this semester, our course goals are to:

- Examine the contributions of different ethnic and social groups and their development of a multicultural United States society.
- Use cross-disciplinary approaches to provide students with a broad awareness of United States political, economic, social and cultural life through the lens of history.

Despite having a reputation of being nothing more than a mess of dates, names, and places, history is, first and foremost, about people and how they lived their lives. It is about the factors that shaped their existence and the choices they made. You will discover how the origins and evolution of United States societal, political, and economic systems throughout the twentieth century has shaped the present U.S. political institution, civil liberties, and human rights. By reading and reflecting upon a collection of primary and secondary sources during each unit, you will develop the skills to determine your own interpretation of the past.

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CORE CURRICULUM SKILL OBJECTIVES:

This core class fulfills the three credits needed for Component Area VI: American History. All courses in Component Area VI must address, and assess, critical thinking skills, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

- I. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will be taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and cultures, integrating and synthesizing knowledge they gain in the course, forming conclusions, and building an informed belief system from the information presented in the course content.
- II. **Communication Skills:** Students will learn communication skills in this course through class participation, the reading and discussion of historical texts, and written exams. Visual aids such as films and photographs will be used during the presentation of course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these materials originated.
- III. **Personal Responsibility Skills:** By studying how individuals in the past drew upon their cultural belief systems to make ethical choices students will learn how their personal choices based upon ideas, values, and beliefs influence their larger society and culture today.
- IV. **Social Responsibility Skills:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn about the ways in which individuals and groups in the past made decisions aimed at promoting civil discourse, civic participation, and other social values so as to improve society for all.

TEXTBOOK:

This course uses a FREE and ONLINE textbook, *The American Yawp*.

To access the textbook see: <http://americanyawp.com>

MONOGRAPH:

Students will analyze one secondary source in a Book Review thus students are required to purchase or rent a monograph for the course. For more information please visit the "Book Review" link located on the course homepage in Blackboard.

RECEOMMENDED TEXT:

All of your assignments will be written. This is an excellent guidebook for successful writing, research, and avoiding plagiarism.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th Edition. Boston: Bedford, 2010.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Microthemes (500 points):

Interpretation of facts and demonstration of understanding usually requires that you express your ideas in writing. **As a result, each student will complete 12 written microthemes throughout the semester but only your top 10 microtheme grades will be counted towards your final grade.**

Microtheme questions typically require you to respond to a question(s) aimed at measuring your understanding of course facts, theories and themes. Generally professors can determine how well you know the material and base student success on whether students can respond to the question by drawing on class readings, videos, and lectures. Students who provide their own analysis (or independent thinking) of course materials usually do better than those who simply restate material presented through lectures or in the readings. A shorter microtheme requires you to balance a discussion of facts, theories, examples and analysis in a constricted amount of space.

Exams (200 points):

Students will take TWO written exams (100 points each).

Every exam is intended to test your ability in analyzing the information contained in the textbook, and primary sources within the specified time period.

Each exam will have two parts: short answer and essay.

The short answer section will consist of themes, terms, and historical individuals from the textbook readings, videos, and primary sources. You will be given 10 terms to choose from but you will only be responsible for answering **FIVE** totaling 50 points. I am specifically looking for: who, what, where, when, and why. Each short answer must be completed in paragraph format.

The essay section of your exam will also be worth 50 points. You will be given 3 to 4 essay options and you will choose **ONE** to answer. You must have an introduction paragraph with a thesis statement, a body paragraph with evidence to support your thesis, and a conclusion paragraph re-stating your thesis.

Book Review (100 points):

Students are responsible for completing one book review over a chosen monograph. This will be completed throughout the semester. Please refer to Blackboard and your Course Schedule for more information and the assignment's due dates.

Primary Source Quizzes (200 points):

Students will complete 12 primary source quizzes throughout the semester. Students will use critical thinking to answer research questions while interpreting the past. Your top ten scores will be calculated into your Final Grade.

**NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU NOTIFY ME BEFORE THE
ASSIGNED DUE DATE.**

GRADE DETERMINATION:

This course is based off a standard 1,000-point system.

*****To pass this course you must have a minimum of 600 points*****

A = 900 – 1,000 points

C = 700 – 799 points

F = 599 points or less

B = 800 – 899 points

D = 600 – 699 points

MICROTHEMES (10)	500 POINTS
PRIMARY SOURCE QUIZZES (10)	200 POINTS
EXAMS (2)	200 POINTS
BOOK REVIEW (1)	100 POINTS
TOTAL	1000 POINTS

ASSISTANCE WITH STUDYING AND WRITING:

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the support resources available through the university.

The **SAM Center** (Student Advising & Mentoring Center), which helps students improve their note-taking, time management, and study skills. The SAM Center is located in CHSS, suite 170. You can make an appointment at the SAM Center by email (samcenter@shsu.edu) or phone (936-294-4444).

Additionally, you can visit the **Reading Center**, which assists students with effective reading strategies and developing the confidence to excel in their classes. The Reading Center is located in Farrington, room 109. You can stop by during their office hours (M-Th 8:00am-7:00pm; F 8:00am-3:00pm; Sun 2:00pm-7:00pm) or make an appointment by calling 936-294-3114.

For help with organizing an essay or formulating a thesis, go the **Writing Center** in Farrington 111. Their office hours are (M-F 10:00am-3:00pm) or contact them by phone (936-294-3680) or email (wctr@shsu.edu). They also offer distance tutoring via Skype.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

If caught plagiarizing or cheating the student will receive a 0 on the assignment or exam. If the student attempts to cheat or plagiarize again that student will fail the course and be turned-in to the Dean.

For the complete listing of the university's policy please see:

http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/faculty-handbook/academic_dishonesty.html

Please see the student code of conduct for more details on academic honesty here:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Students are permitted to use laptop computers, tablets, or cell phones for the sole purpose of taking notes, referencing assigned reading materials, and researching relevant class material. Cell phones, iPods, MP3, or any other technological device that is not necessary for classwork needs to be silenced and put away at the beginning of each class. At no time should students answer a call or text during class. If there is an emergency please leave the classroom to answer the call or text.

EMAIL:

Email is our primary line of communication. All emails will be sent to your SHSU.EDU email address, not your personal email account. I will not respond to emails if they are from your personal account. Please check your email every other day.

BLACKBOARD:

All handouts and outside reading material not in your textbook will be posted on the blackboard site for this course.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

The student must notify the faculty member in writing within the first 12 days of the semester of the intent to be absent due to a religious holy day. Under Texas Education Code 51.911, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time as established by the faculty member.

For a complete listing of the university's policy, see:
http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/faculty-handbook/student_absences_religious_holy_days.html

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Be nice. Treat others as you want to be treated. If you have any questions as to what exactly this means see:

<https://www.shsu.eu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

AND

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=7>.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT:

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. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit the Services for Students with Disabilities in Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building).

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities.

For a complete listing of the university's policy, see:
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf

CLASSROOM VISITORS:

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 through the Registrar's Office or email the professor.

*****Student enrollment in this course confirms that you have read and accepted these policies.*****

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEKLY UNITS	TEXTBOOK CHAPTER	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
WEEK ONE Aug. 23 – Aug. 27	Introduction	
WEEK TWO Aug. 28 – Sept. 3	HURRICANE HARVEY	HURRICANE HARVEY
WEEK THREE Sept. 4 – Sept. 10	CH 16 - Capital and Labor	PSQ1 (in-class) Microtheme 1 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 10.
WEEK FOUR Sept. 11 – Sept. 17	CH 17 - Conquering the West	PSQ2 (in-class) Microtheme 2 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 17 .
WEEK FIVE Sept. 18 – Sept. 24	CH 18 - Life in Industrial America	PSQ3 (in-class) Microtheme 3 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 24. Book Review DB1 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 24.
WEEK SIX Sept. 25 – Oct. 1	CH 19 - American Empire CH 20 - The Progressive Era	PSQ4 (in-class) Microtheme 4 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 1.
WEEK SEVEN Oct. 2 – Oct. 8	CH 21 - World War I & Its Aftermath	PSQ5 (in-class) Microtheme 5 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 8.
WEEK EIGHT Oct. 9 – Oct. 15	CH 22 - The New Era CH 23 - The Great Depression	PSQ6 (in-class) Microtheme 6 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October, 15. Book Review DB2 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 15.
WEEK NINE Oct. 16 – Oct. 22	CH 24 - World War II	Midterm Exam DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 22. PSQ7 (in-class) Microtheme 7 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 22.

WEEK TEN Oct. 23 – Oct. 29	CH 25 - The Cold War	PSQ8 (in-class) Microtheme 8 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 29.
WEEK ELEVEN Oct. 30 – Nov. 5	CH 26 - The Affluent Society	PSQ9 (in-class) Microtheme 9 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 5.
WEEK TWELVE Nov. 6 – Nov. 12	CH 27 - The Sixties	PSQ10 (in-class) Microtheme 10 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 12. Book Review DB3 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 12.
WEEK THIRTEEN Nov. 13 – Nov. 19	CH 28 - The Unraveling	PSQ11 (in-class) Microtheme 11 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, November 19
WEEK FOURTEEN Nov. 20 – Nov. 26	Thanksgiving	
WEEK FIFTEEN Nov. 27 – Dec. 3	CH 29 - Triumph of the Right CH 30 - The Recent Past	Book Review DUE by 11:59 PM on Monday , November 27. PSQ 12 (in-class) Microtheme 12 DUE by 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 3
WEEK SIXTEEN Dec. 4 – Dec. 7	Finals	Final Exam Deadline TBA

The schedule may be adjusted to accommodate the pace of this course.