

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course: History 1302**

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

**Section: 19: U.S. History Since 1877**

**CRN 84243**

**Semester: Fall**

**Year: 2017**

**Class Days: MW**

**Time: 1:00 pm to 4:20 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.) Office hours: MW 12:30-2:00 pm or by appointment.

### **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 is only a guideline.

Week of August 23, 2017

*Course Introduction and Lectures on the Resurrection of Slavery.*

Week of August 30, 2017

*Domestic Imperialism: Indigenous America*

August 28, 2017

*Domestic Imperialism: Latino(a) America*

**August: 30, 2017 Examination 1 (American Saga Ch. Reconstruction and Conquest)**

Week of September 4, 2017

*The Market Revolution*

*From Market Revolution to the Industrial Revolution*

*The Organizational Response: Business, Labor, and Government*

***September 8, 2017: Last Day to drop without a Q grade and receive a 100% tuition refund.***

Week of September 13, 2017

*The New Immigration*

*The Nativist Reaction*

***Examination 2 (Saga Chs. Industrial Giant; American Mosaic; Progressivism and Big Government)***

Week of September 20, 2017

*From Domestic to International Empire: Asia and the Pacific*

*From Domestic to International Empire: Mexico and the Caribbean*

Week of September 27, 2017

*The Spanish American War*

*Week of*

*World War I*

*Foreign Policy in the 1920s*

Week of October 4, 2017

*The 1920s*

*The Causes of the Great Depression*

*The Great Depression and the New Deal*

***Examination 3 (American Saga, Chs. The American Empire; World War I)***

Week of (October 11, 2017)

*The Causes of World War II (Europe)*

*The Causes of World War II (Asia and the Pacific)*

Week of October 18, 2017

*World War II*

*World War II at Home*

Week of October 25, 2017

*The Origins of the Cold War*

*Atomic Diplomacy and the Korean War*

*The Korean War*

***Examination 4 (American Saga, Chs. The American Empire; World War I; The Twenties; The Great Depression)***

*November 1, 2017: The Federal Courts and the Civil Rights Movements*

*November 3, 2017: Kennedy, King, and LBJ*

*November 6, 2017: Disaster in Vietnam*

*November 8, 2017: The Election of 1968*

***November 10, 2017: Last day to drop with a Q grade***

*November 13, 2017: The Trials of Richard Nixon*

*November 15, 2017: Paralysis: The Carter and Ford Administrations*

*November 17, 2017: Ronald Reagan and the Conservative Revival*

*November 20, 2017: The Collapse of the Soviet Bloc and End of the Cold War*

*November 21-21, 2017: Make-up Examinations*

*November 27, 2017: Oil, the Islamic Revolution, and Wars in the Middle East*

*November 29, 2017: The Great Recession*  
*December 1, 2017: Russia, Obama, and the New Cold War*  
*December 4, 2017: Immigration and Immigrant Rights*  
**Final Exam (Chs. 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23)**

#### *The New Immigration*

*September 15, 2017: The Nativist Reaction*  
*September 18, 2017: Examination 2 (American Saga, Ch. 13, 14, and 16)*  
*September 20, 2017: From Domestic to International Empire: Asia and the Pacific*  
*September 22, 2017: From Domestic to International Empire: Mexico and the Caribbean*  
*September 25, 2017: The U.S. and World War I*  
*September 27, 2017: World War I*  
*September 29, 2017: Foreign Policy in the 1920s*  
*October 2, 2017: The 1920s*  
*October 4, 2017: The Causes of the Great Depression*  
*October 6, 2017: The Great Depression and the New Deal*  
*October 9, 2017: Examination 3 (American Saga, Chs. 15, 17, 18, and 19)*  
*October 11, 2017: The Causes of World War II (Europe)*  
*October 13, 2017: The Causes of World War II (Asia and the Pacific) (cont.)*  
*October 16, 2017: World War II*  
*October 18, 2017: World War II at Home*  
*October 20, 2017: The Origins of the Cold War*  
*October 23, 2017: Atomic Diplomacy and the Korean War*  
*October 25, 2017: The Korean War*  
*October 27, 2017: Examination 4 (American Saga, Chs. 15, 17, 18, and 19)*  
*November 1, 2017: The Federal Courts and the Civil Rights Movements*  
*November 3, 2017: Kennedy, King, and LBJ*  
*November 6, 2017: Disaster in Vietnam*  
*November 8, 2017: The Election of 1968*  
***November 10, 2017: Last day to drop with a Q grade***  
*November 13, 2017: The Trials of Richard Nixon*  
*November 15, 2017: Paralysis: The Carter and Ford Administrations*  
*November 17, 2017: Ronald Reagan and the Conservative Revival*  
*November 20, 2017: The Collapse of the Soviet Bloc and End of the Cold War*  
*November 21-21, 2017: Make-up Examinations*  
*November 27, 2017: Oil, the Islamic Revolution, and Wars in the Middle East*  
*November 29, 2017: The Great Recession*  
*December 1, 2017: Russia, Obama, and the New Cold War*  
*December 4, 2017: Immigration and Immigrant Rights*  
**Final Exam (Chs. 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23)**

#### **Course Description**

History 1302.12 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 reading materials will be distributed to the class during the course of the semester. For the research paper, students will need James S. Olson and Randy Roberts, *My Lai: A History in Documents*, New York: Bedford Books, 1998.

### **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 six 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.

### **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, including essay questions, 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 take the 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.

### **Research Paper**

The research paper will be worth a maximum of 50 points. The required text—*My Lai*—will be the sourcebook for the paper. A guideline for the paper will be handed out two weeks after the beginning

### **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, , 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 <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>