

HIST 1301
Fall 2017
United States History Since 1876
T-Th

Dr. Ian Abbey

Office: AB4 406

Phone:

Email: iia003@shsu.edu

Office hours: T/Th 4-5 or by appointment

Course Description:

Welcome to US history! This course is a survey of how the United States pulled itself back together after the Civil War and progressed to what it is today. No civilization developed in a vacuum, but was very much dependent on events and trends that occurred elsewhere, even on the far side of the world. The United States was created through a trans-national fabric of many different cultures which drove it forward. US history is rich, complex, and often painful. By examining both the good and the bad, you shall gain a more complete understanding of the United States.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- be familiar with the geopolitical and social trends that affected the modern United States
- be able to understand historical context and why it is important
- know how Americans reacted to political, socioeconomic, and demographic changes and how they defined themselves throughout the modern era
- analyze primary and secondary sources, and synthesize them into a thesis statement

Skill Objectives:

A) *Critical Thinking:*

In this course, students will be taught to think critically and analytically, and to ask appropriate questions about different historical societies and culture, integrating and synthesizing knowledge they gain in the course, forming conclusions, and building an informed belief system from the complex of information presented in the course content.

B) *Communication Skills:*

Communication skills will be addressed in this course through the reading and discussion of historical texts, attending lectures, and question/answer periods during class. Visual aids such as films and photographs will be used during presentation of the course material. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these

material originated.

C) *Personal Responsibility:*

Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course as students articulate their understanding of different cultures and their histories without being judgmental.

D) *Social Responsibility:*

Social responsibility will be addressed in this course as students learn to differentiate between major periods of world history and the significance of historical context.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to attend all classes, do the reading assignments, and participate in class discussions. You are required to write two book responses worth 15 points each, and detailed instructions will be given later in the semester. There will be 3 exams, including the final. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions worth 20 points each. Exams are not cumulative, and the lowest exam grade will be dropped. There will be 5 quizzes (ID matching) throughout the semester, held on random dates (yes, pop quizzes). The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and the remaining four will be worth 5 points apiece. Finally, your class participation is worth 10 points. Only attending the class will not earn you the maximum number of participation points. You have to keep up with the readings, ask and answer questions, and participate in the class discussions in order to earn the full 10 points.

Absences and Attendance:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class with a sign-in sheet. I understand you may have a special event or appointment during class time, but leaving in the middle of class without warning will be considered an unexcused absence for the day. If you must leave early, *please* inform me beforehand. Everybody gets ONE unexcused absence stricken from the record. Every subsequent unexcused absence will mean 5 percentage points deducted from your final grade. If you are sick or otherwise unable to attend, let me know and provide some sort of documentation (doctor's note, letter from ROTC, etc). University-approved excused absences do not count against your grade.

Required Text:

Goldfield, David. *The American Journey, Volume 2*. 8th edition. Available on Revel.

Larson, Erik. *The Devil in the White City*, 2004.

Parks, Gordon. *The Learning Tree*, 1987.

Calculating your final score:

Assignment	Individual Point Value	Total
Quizzes (x4)	5	20
Exams (x2)	20	40
Class Participation	10	10
Book Responses (x2)	15	30
Total		100

Grading Scale

A	100–90
B	89–80
C	79–70
D	69–60
F	59–0

My House Rules:**Electronic Devices:**

Taking notes on laptops or tablets is fine. I recognize that has become more common and I do it myself. However, there shall be no web-surfing, game-playing, Facebooking/Skyping/tweeting/etc. As for cell phones, treat the classroom like a movie theater. Keep them on silent.

Final Grades BEFORE the Final:

I will strive to have all quiz, exam, and assignment grades posted online within a week's time so you have an accurate idea of your status going into the final. Please do not email me asking what grade you received on the final, because I am legally not allowed to disclose that via email.

Late Work and Missed Exams:

You will receive a score of zero if you do not show up to an exam. There will be no make-ups for missed exams, unless you missed it due to an excused absence. If you're representing the university in a special academic or sporting event that conflicts with a scheduled exam, you may schedule a make-up exam if AND ONLY IF you inform me beforehand.

UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT:

<https://netreg.shsu.edu/mirror/codeofconduct.html>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences 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 proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](#)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

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 with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

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 affect adversely your work in this class, then 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 . For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

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 Outline:

Week 1 August 24	Introduction Why Study US History?
Week 2 August 29-31 Reading:	Reconstruction Killed Redemption and Southern Terror Goldfield, Chapters 16-17.
Week 3 September 5-7 Reading:	The Other Half Immigration and Urbanization Goldfield, Chapter 18. Begin <i>The Devil in the White City</i>
Week 4 September 12-14 Reading:	Cowboy's Sunset Settlement in the Old West Goldfield, Chapter 19
Week 5 September 19-21 Reading:	The Progressive Era A Square Deal Goldfield, Chapters 20, 21.1, 21.2 Finish <i>The Devil in the White City</i>
Week 6 September 26-28 Reading:	The Imperial Republic American Overseas Expansion Goldfield, Chapters 21.3-22 First Reading Assignment Due
Week 7 October 3-5 Reading:	Over There America in the Great War Goldfield, Chapter 23
Week 8 October 10-12 Reading:	First Midterm - October 12 The Roaring Twenties Goldfield, Chapter 24
Week 9 October 17-19 Reading:	The Hangover The Great Depression and New Deal Goldfield, Chapter 25 Begin reading <i>The Learning Tree</i>

Week 10 October 24-26 Reading:	The Arsenal of Democracy World War 2 Goldfield, Chapter 26 Finish <i>The Learning Tree</i>
Week 11 October 31-Nov. 2 Reading:	Reds Under the Bed The Cold War and the Affluent Society Goldfield, Chapters 27, 28.1-28.3 Second Reading Assignment Due
Week 12 November 7-9 Reading:	Social Change Civil Rights Goldfield, the rest of 28. Second Midterm - November 11
Week 13 November 14-16 Reading:	The Malaise Crisis of Confidence and Economic Bust Goldfield, Chapter 29.
Week 14 November 21-23 Reading:	It's Morning Again The Reagan Years Goldfield, Chapter 30
Week 15 November 28-30 Reading:	The End of History? The '90s and the Present Goldfield, Chapter 31.
Week 16	Final Exam