

Instructor Name: Stephen Murphy, MA
Semester Year: Spring 2018
HIST 1302 United States History Since 1876
Class Time: MWF 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM
Office Hours: by appointment
Office: AB IV 472
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CATALOG 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

- Olson, James. Where the Domino Fell St. Martins, 9781444350500

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- Shi, David. America: A Narrative History Brief Edition W.W. Norton, 9780393283044
- Shi, David. For the Record W.W. Norton, 9780393283044

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 should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). 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 Services for Students with Disabilities 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 Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom

Only register 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.

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](#)

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](#)

My specific policy for this class is as follows: all written work should represent your own efforts. If you quote directly from a source, you must give credit to the original author in a citation. The same standard applies when you paraphrase a source's words, and even when you use original ideas from a source. Failure to credit the source in these circumstances is called plagiarism—literally theft of someone's ideas and/or words. In addition, failing to properly paraphrase, that is, simply changing a few words from someone else's writing—even with a citation—is considered plagiarism. Both types of plagiarism are absolutely unacceptable. Cheating includes copying someone's answers to an assignment or vice-versa, allowing them to do work for you or vice-versa, or receiving or giving any other kind of unauthorized assistance. Cheating is not confined to tests, but also applies to daily work such as quizzes or notes. Any acts of plagiarism or cheating may result in a zero for the assignment that cannot be made up. A second act of cheating or plagiarism may result in expulsion from the course and an F for the semester. It is better to get a poor grade on an assignment using your own work than risking your integrity by cheating on an assignment.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. should **NOT** be used during the class. Failure to comply results in 3 actions

- *1st – I will make a general statement asking any students with devices out to put them away (students who ignore this request will move to the 2nd action)*
- *2nd – I will acknowledge the offending student and ask them to put their device away (students who ignore this request will move to the 3rd action)*
- *3rd – I will ask the offending student to leave the class and they will receive a 0 for in-class assignments for the day.*

I understand that emergency situations might arise, and you might need to keep a cell phone out. If this is the case, then please speak with me before class, and use your phone outside of the classroom.

Neither the audio nor the video may be recorded unless there is a documented accommodation.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

While attendance is not graded, students are expected to be in attendance.

- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow student. I do NOT give lecture notes out if a student is absent.
- Arriving more than 10 minutes Late will result in a deduction for in-class assignment grade
- Leaving more than 5 minutes early will result in a deduction for in-class assignment grade
- On Exam Days, students MAY NOT be allowed to take the exam if they arrive more than 30 minutes Late

GRADING

In-Class Assignments-----	15%	(150 Points)
Exam One-----	15%	(150 Points)
Exam Four-----	15%	(150 Points)
Exam Three-----	15%	(150 Points)
Final Exam-----	20%	(200 Points)
Book Review-----	20%	(200 Points)

GRADE SCALE:

A = 100-90	(900 – 1000 Points)
B = 89-80	(800 – 899 Points)
C = 79-70	(700 – 799 Points)
D = 69-60	(600 – 699 Points)
F = 59 & BELOW	(599 Points or lower)

COURSE WORK:

In-Class Assignments – Throughout the semester students will participate in a variety of in-class assignments.

Exams – Exam 1 through 3 will be based on class discussions and course readings and may include multiple choice, matching, T/F, and Essay questions

Book Review – Students will read *Where the Domino Fell*. They will then write a 2 page review of the book. This will be submitted through Blackboard. More instructions will be given preceding the assignment. A digital copy of the book is available through the SHSU Library.

Final Exam – The final exam will be cumulative and may include multiple choice, matching, T/F, and Essay questions

MAKEUP POLICY:

In-Class Assignments CANNOT be made up which makes your attendance even more important. Late Book Reviews will NOT be accepted. Missed exams CANNOT be made-up. Only in the case of extenuating circumstances will exceptions be made. These exceptions are rare and should not be expected just because you offer an excuse.

SYLLABUS CHANGES: While every attempt has been made to prepare this syllabus and class schedule in final form, it will be the instructor's prerogative to make any changes as may be deemed necessary in order to meet the learning outcomes of the course. Any changes will be announced in a timely manner.

**HIST 1302
PROPOSED COURSE CALENDAR**

Week of:	Topic	Key Assignments
Week One	Gilded Age - Immigration	
Week Two	Gilded Age - Big Business & Industry	
Week Three	Gilded Age – Wage Labor & Politics	
Week Four	Gilded Age – Regional Changes	Exam 1 (FRIDAY)
Week Five	American Empire & Progressive Era	
Week Six	World War I	
Week Seven	The Twenties	
Week Eight	The Great Depression	Exam 2 (FRIDAY)
Week Nine	World War II	
Week Ten	Post-War & the 1950s	
Week Eleven	Civil Rights	
Week Twelve	Vietnam	Exam 3 (FRIDAY)
Week Thirteen	Nixon to Reagan	
Week Fourteen	The 1990s	Book Review (Friday)
Week Fifteen	First Decade of the 2000s	
Week Sixteen	Finals	FINAL