

## HIST 1302: American History Since 1876

Course Number: 1302.23  
Class Time: TR 9:30-10:50  
CRN Number: 21148  
Credit Hours: 3 hours  
Semester: Spring 2018

### Teaching Faculty

**Dr. Jeffrey L. Littlejohn**

Office: AB4 – 455  
Office Hours: TR 11:00-12:30  
Telephone: 936.294.4438  
Email: [littlejohn@shsu.edu](mailto:littlejohn@shsu.edu)  
Web: <http://www.studythepast.org>

**Ingrid Patino**

Graduate Assistant in History  
Office: AB4 309  
Telephone: 936.294.3752  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: [ivp001@shsu.edu](mailto:ivp001@shsu.edu)

**Jacy Teston**

Graduate Assistant in History  
Office: AB4 309  
Telephone: 936.294.3752  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email:  
[jlt054@shsu.edu](mailto:jlt054@shsu.edu)

### Course Description

HIST 1302 is the second half of the U.S. history survey at Sam Houston State University. This class offers students an overview of the chief social, cultural, and political developments in the United States between 1876 and 2018. Credit 3.

### Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will gain factual knowledge about United States history.
- 2) Students will learn the fundamental principles of historical scholarship.
- 3) Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

### Skill Objectives

- 1) Critical Thinking: 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 complex of information presented in the course content.
- 2) Communication: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Communication skills will be addressed in this class through class participation, the reading and discussion

of historical texts, attending lectures, and watching films. Students will learn through the use of historical materials to critically evaluate the time periods in which these materials originated.

3) Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. Personal responsibility will be addressed in this course as students articulate how to make sound ethical judgments based on the development of their personal value system. 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.

4) Social Responsibility: to include inter-cultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability 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. Students will thus learn about their own social responsibilities in improving current American society.

## Free Online Textbook

### The American Yawp - After 1877

Editors Joseph Locke and Ben Wright

<http://www.americanyawp.com/>

The American Yawp offers a free and online, collaboratively built, open American history textbook designed for college-level history courses. Unchecked by profit motives or business models, and free from for-profit educational organizations, The American Yawp is by scholars, for scholars. All contributors—experienced college-level instructors—volunteer their expertise to help democratize the American past for twenty-first century classrooms. In addition to the book listed above, you will be assigned a variety of essays and documentary films on American history.

## Coursework and Grading

Your final score in this course will be based on the following assignments.

Assignment	Due Date	Points	Total
Four Unit Exams	Varies - see schedule	100 points each	400 points
Eight Writing Assignments	Varies - see schedule	50 points each	400 points
Creative Writing Project	To be announced	50 points	50 points
3X5 Note Card Participation   25 of 29	Every class day	6 points each	150 points
<b>Total points</b>			<b>1000 points</b>

<b>Scale:</b>	A=1000-900	B=899-800	C=799-700	D=699-600	F=599-0
---------------	------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	---------

## Coursework Description

**Examinations** - Four exams will be offered during the semester. Each exam will cover the unit immediately preceding it. Exams will be based on reading assignments, as well as PowerPoint presentations and other class materials. Exams may include multiple-choice, matching, true-false, and sequencing questions. You may access the exams in Blackboard by

clicking on the appropriate link in the left menu bar of our course. You will have one hour to complete each exam. All exams must be completed by the due date. Absolutely no exceptions. All exams will be used to calculate your final score.

**Writing Assignments** - During each unit of this course, students will complete two writing assignments. These assignments require that students address a set of questions based on a film, reading, or collection of documents. Each writing assignment should demonstrate thorough knowledge of the material being discussed. All writing assignments will be submitted via Blackboard and checked for plagiarism using turnitin.com. Due dates for each writing assignment are provided in the course schedule. No late assignments will be accepted for any reason.

**Creative Writing Project** - This term, we will work with Dr. Ching-In Chen from the English Department to examine the powerful role that poetry has played in American history. Each student will also be asked to develop a creative project of his or her own design. Specific information will be provided in class.

**3X5 Note Card Participation** - We have assigned reading for each class this term. To assess your engagement with the reading, we ask that you fill out a 3X5 note card before each class. Your note card should be [formatted like this example](#). Each note card may earn six points. (Note: We meet 29 times. 25 note cards will count for a grade, so you may miss 4 note cards without penalty).

## Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Students in HIST 1302 will select their own seats during the first week of class. After that, students will sit in the same location every class period. Attendance will be taken daily, and students missing more than four class periods may receive a grade reduction at the end of the term. Students missing more than six class periods may receive a failing grade for the course.

## Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom -- side conversations, internet surfing, texting -- may result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

## 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.

## Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

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 the following: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>.

## Communication and Assistance

As part of this class, you will be expected to check your university email and our Blackboard page at least once every two or three days. To email us for assistance, you may either go to Blackboard or send your note directly to us.

You are very fortunate to be enrolled at SHSU, which has an outstanding academic resource to help you succeed as a student: the SAM Center. The SAM Center is located in CHSS Suite 170. The SAM Center offers academic advising and counseling for numerous issues. They also offer an excellent study skills course. Visit their website for more information.

## 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](#)

The University expects all students 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 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. 5.31 The University and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

"Cheating" includes the following and similar actions:

- (1) Copying from another student's test paper, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
  - (2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
  - (3) Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.
  - (4) Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
  - (5) Substituting for another student, permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
  - (6) Bribing another person to obtain a test or information about an unadministered test.
  - (7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- 5.32 "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

5.33 "Collusion" means unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work for credit.

5.34 "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

5.35 "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

### 2.00 PROCEDURES IN CASES OF ALLEGED ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

2.01 Procedures for discipline due to academic dishonesty shall be the same as in disciplinary actions specified in The Texas State University System Rules and Regulations and Sam Houston State University Student Guidelines except that all academic dishonesty actions shall be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member teaching the class. The faculty member may impose failure or reduction of a grade in a test or the course, and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If the faculty member believes that additional disciplinary action is necessary, as in the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the case may be referred to the Dean of Student Life or a designated appointee for further action. If the student involved does not accept the decision of the faculty member, the student may appeal to the chair of the appropriate academic department/school, seeking reversal of the faculty member's decision.

2.02 If the student does not accept the decision of the chair of the academic department/school, he/she may appeal to the appropriate academic dean. The chair of the academic department/school may also refer the case directly to the academic dean if the case so warrants.

## Students with Disabilities

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 the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure 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 we encourage you to register with the Counseling Center and to talk with us about how we can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Please note: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center and provide us with proper documentation.

## Instructor Evaluations

At the end of the semester, students will be asked to complete an evaluation of the course, but we welcome feedback about readings, assignments, and our instruction throughout the semester. Let's work together to make this a successful and rewarding learning experience for everyone.

## Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is your contract for the course. We will not change the nature of the course, the number of assignments, or the grading system. However, we reserve the right to update the course schedule and reading assignments throughout the term. Additional information for university syllabi may be [found here](#).