



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

### **HIST 1302: US History Since 1876 Spring 2018**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Katherine Gaskamp

**EMAIL:** KWQ001@shsu.edu

**OFFICE:** AB4, Room 472

**OFFICE HOURS:** TR 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment.

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

<b>Course Title:</b>	HIST 1302.27
<b>Course Subject:</b>	US History Since 1876
<b>Class Days &amp; Times:</b>	TR 12:30 – 1:50 PM
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	3
<b>Class Room Location:</b>	AB4, Olson Auditorium 220

#### **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>

## 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:**

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### **Exams (800 points):**

Students will take FOUR written exams (200 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.

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### **Primary Source Quizzes (200 points):**

Students will use critical thinking to answer research questions while interpreting the past through primary sources. Your top ten scores (out of 14) 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

PRIMARY SOURCE QUIZZES (10)	200 POINTS
EXAMS (4)	800 POINTS
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000 POINTS</b>

## **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](mailto: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**

### **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 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](mailto: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 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.

#### **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](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.

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

## Tentative Course Schedule

<b>WEEKLY TOPICS</b>	<b>TEXTBOOK CHAPTER</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES</b>
WEEK ONE Jan 17 – Jan 21	Introduction	
WEEK TWO Jan 22 – Jan 28	Capital and Labor	
WEEK THREE Jan 29 – Feb 04	Conquering the West	
WEEK FOUR Feb 05 – Feb 11	Life in Industrial America	Unit 1 Exam due by Sunday, Feb 11 @ 11:59 PM
WEEK FIVE Feb 12 – Feb 18	American Empire	
WEEK SIX Feb 19 – Feb 25	The Progressive Era	
WEEK SEVEN Feb 26 – Mar 04	World War I & Its Aftermath	
WEEK EIGHT Mar 05 – Mar 11	The New Era	Unit 2 Exam due by Sunday, Mar 11 @ 11:59 PM
WEEK NINE Mar 12 – Mar 18	Spring Break	
WEEK TEN Mar 19 – Mar 25	The Great Depression	

WEEK ELEVEN Mar 26 – Apr 01	World War II	
WEEK TWELVE Apr 02 – Apr 08	The Cold War	Unit 3 Exam due by Sunday, Apr 08 @ 11:59 PM
WEEK THIRTEEN Apr 09 – Apr 15	The Affluent Society	
WEEK FOURTEEN Apr 16 – Apr 22	The Sixties	
WEEK FIFTEEN Apr 23 – Apr 29	The Unraveling	
WEEK SIXTEEN Apr 30 – May 06	The Triumph of the Right The Recent Past	
WEEK SEVENTEEN May 07 – May 10	Finals Week	Unit 4 Exam due by Thursday, May 10 @ 11:59 PM

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