United States History Since 1865 (History 1302.004)
10:00-10:50 MWF, CI 112
Fall Semester, 2011, Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi

Instructor: Harry L. Krenek

Office Hours: 9-9:45 MW, 2:00-3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment

Office Location: Classroom East, Room 214A

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Course Description: A survey of the political, social, economic, military, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from 1865 to the present. Satisfies the university core curriculum requirement in United States History.


Student Learning Outcomes:

*To demonstrate an understanding of the history of the United States since 1865, including its major concepts, themes, methods and theoretical approaches by producing short reflection papers, topic papers, and essay exams.

*To demonstrate an understanding of how historical sources are used, how historians utilize historiography to build scholarship, and to interpret the past by reading, writing and commenting in class.

*To identify, synthesize and interpret historical arguments and to explain these arguments cogently in writing assignments and in class discussion.

*To apply the skills and knowledge learned in the course by successfully completing essay exams, and other papers as assigned.

Graded Activities

Your course grade will be determined by the following activities:
*Scores on three major exams to be administered on September 23, October 21, and December 2, as well as a final exam to be administered on December 14. The final exam will be comprehensive.

All exams will include a minimum of 33 objective questions and a maximum of 50 questions (multiple choice, true-false, etc.), as well as one or two essay questions. The questions will be taken from lectures and reading assignments.

All exams have the same value (25%) in determining your grade in the course. The grades for the four tests will be added together and divided by the number of tests (4). An average of 90 or above will earn an A, 80-89 would be a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and an average below 60 would earn a grade of F.

Classroom Etiquette

(“The conventional rules for conduct or behavior in polite society.”—THE WORLD BOOK DICTIONARY.)

While it is impossible to make a list of “conventional rules for conduct,” it is expected that you will conduct yourself as a college student. Most importantly, your conduct must not interfere with the rights of other students to learn. This means, for example, that talking to another person in class while the instructor is talking or another student is asking or answering a question, will not be permitted. If you do not conduct yourself within these “rules for conduct in polite society,” you will be asked to leave the class.

Class Attendance

Attendance is an essential element in your success in this class, and students will be expected to attend each class. However, should it be necessary for you to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes, assignments, and other material covered in the class you missed.

Arriving late for class disturbs the class and should be avoided. Nevertheless, it is not always possible to arrive in class on time. This is not a problem if the practice is occasional; however, if arriving late for class becomes a habit, you will be asked to meet with the instructor to discuss the situation and seek a solution to the problem.

Make-up Policy

Should you miss a major exam, December 6 has been designated as the class day when you will be able to make up an exam. Prior to the make up exam date, the student should inform the instructor that he or she wishes to take a make up exam. Questions on the make up exam will be essay questions, as well as identify, definition, and listing questions.
Students With Disabilities

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities act in making responsible accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.) please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Advising:

The College of Liberal arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty member, and the department chair. The College Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process.

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibility of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals and University Procedure 13.02.99C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamuycc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Supplies: Please purchase four of the green Scantron answer forms. These forms are available in the college bookstore and may be purchased individually or in a packet of about six.
COURSE OUTLINE

August 25  First class day, review syllabus, and introduction of the textbook

August 30- Sept. 1  Reconstruction  (Chapter 15: “Consolidating a Triumphant Union, 1865-1877,” Pp. 356-379)

Sept. 6-8  The Emergence of Modern America, 1877-1900  (Chapter 16: “Standardizing the Nation: Innovations in Technology, Business, and Culture, 1877-1890,” Pp. 382-401)


Sept. 20-22 (Chapter 18: “Political and Cultural Conflict in a Decade of Depression and War: The 1890s,” (Pp. 422-442)

September 22  Exam I


October 4-6 (Chapter 20: “War and Revolution, 1912-1920,” (Pp. 466-484)  EXAM I ON FEBRUARY 24

October 11-13 (Chapter 21, “The Promise of Consumer Culture: The 1920s,” (Pp. 486-505)

October 18-20  From Depression and War to World Power, 1929-1953  (Chapter 22: “Hardship and Hope in the 1930s: The Great Depression,” (Pp. 508-529)

October 20  Exam II

November 1-3  (Chapter 24: “Cold War and Hot War, 1945-1953,” (Pp. 550-570) EXAM II

November 8-10  The Cold War at Full Tide, 1953-1979


November 24  Thanksgiving Holiday

November 29- December 1  Global Connections at Home and Abroad, 1979-2006

December 1  Exam III

December 6  Exam Make up Day

December 13  Final exam

It is a pleasure to have you as a member of this class. Please contact me should you have any questions about this syllabus. Also, please contact me in person or by email at any point in the semester in which you need my assistance.