Welcome to History 1302: U.S. History Since 1865, an introductory level survey course designed to provide the student with a broad foundational understanding of the establishment and development of American institutions from the Civil War era through the present.

As a class you may come to this course with a wide variety of backgrounds in American history. Some of you may be well read on certain elements of American history and have even traveled to see several of the historical sites scattered throughout the country and around the world. Others may have only a meager knowledge. Some may be from other nations with no prior knowledge of the subject. Regardless, I trust that all of you can profit from this course.

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 U.S. History.

Course Topics:
History 1302 will focus on the key issues and trends that dominated U.S. History from the Civil War era through the present. Prominent topics to be discussed include Reconstruction, the Settlement of the American West, the Rise of Big Business and Organized Labor, the Gilded Age, the Emergence of the United States as a World Power, the Progressive Era, the Great Depression, the Two World Wars, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the development of the U.S. in the post-Cold War Era.

Course Objectives:
1) To give the student a solid foundational and functional understanding of American history since 1865. Such knowledge will equip the student to better understand the present United States of America and its future.
2) To expose the student to different interpretations of history and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the historical process through the use of lectures, readings, discussions, media presentations, and writing assignments.
3) To assist the student in the development of critical thinking and communication skills to include writing, interpretation, and presentation.

Student Learning Objectives:
1) Understand the key events, figures, and forces that shaped U.S. history from the Civil War to the present;
2) Identify the connections between historical facts and fit them into larger narrative frameworks;
3) Construct persuasive essays using sound logic and concrete examples.

Instructional Material:
Course Requirements:

Please read the following with care prior to the first class. If any of the information is unclear, please ask for clarification during class or in an individual meeting with the professor. In the absence of questions, I assume that the student has read and understood the basic requirements for the course.

Lectures and Attendance – Class lectures are foundational to the course and provide approximately 75% of the material for which the student will be responsible. Therefore, regular and punctual attendance is essential to overall performance. It is also essential that the student pay careful attention during the lecture and take reliable notes. PowerPoint slides are provided to guide the discussion and assist in note taking. However, it is not enough to simply copy the slides. The bullet points provided must be fleshed out with material from the lecture that accompanies the slides. Any material presented in the lecture is possible test material.

Textbook - Jacqueline Jones, et. al., *Created Equal: A History of the United States*, Brief Third Ed. Vol. 2. *Created Equal* is the primary text utilized in the course. The assigned readings should be completed prior to the class as preparation for the lecture and to assist in note taking.

Primary Documents – Primary documents are assigned each week for the student to read. These primary documents can be found at [www.myhistorylab.com](http://www.myhistorylab.com). Textbooks purchased from the university bookstore contain an access code for the website. Access codes can also be purchased separately from the university bookstore. For those without an access code, a primary document reader - *Voices of Created Equal* – is on reserve in the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. The assigned readings should be completed prior to the class and will provide a point of departure for our discussions. The student will also choose one of the assigned primary documents as the subject of the assigned document analysis.

Historical Sketches of the Period - Stephen B. Oates, *Portrait of America*, Tenth Ed., Vol. 2. The text is a collection of essays written by historians and designed to present the human side of U.S. history. The assigned readings should be completed prior to the class and will provide a point of departure for our discussions. From the assigned selections, the student will choose five on which to write a brief critical essay.

Critical Essays – Over the course of the semester, the student will write five brief critical essays (400 words) on selections from *Portrait of America*. In each critical essay, the student must: 1) identify the author’s major thesis/theme/argument; 2) give the evidence provided by the author to support that thesis; and 3) assess the author’s success or failure in making a persuasive case. The critical essays are due on the day the selections from *Portrait of America* are assigned. At least two of the critical essays must be completed prior to the midterm exam.

Primary Document Analysis – Primary documents are essential to the accurate study of history and provide a vital link between the historian and the past. It is essential that historians be able to correctly analyze a primary document and place it in the proper context. For the assignment, the student must address six basic issues: 1) author (Who wrote the document?); 2) intended audience (Who did the author wish to address with the document?); 3) purpose or intent of the document (Why was the document written?); 4) content (What did the document say?); 5) impact of the document (Did the document achieve its intended goal? Did it have unintended consequences?); and, 6) significance (Why is the document significant?). Required length: two to three pages.

Essay Assignments – There will be two essay assignments over the course of the semester. To complete each assignment the student must answer a question on a topic taken from the lectures with a comprehensive essay.

Examinations – There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final. The exams are composed primarily of identification and essay questions. The student will be responsible for all materials connected with the lectures, readings, discussions, and media presentations that will be a part of this course.
Quizzes – Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and be prepared to discuss the reading material assigned for each class. There will be seven unscheduled quizzes given over the course of the semester. Students will be able to drop the two lowest quiz grades. Each quiz will cover course material from the previous quiz or exam through the date of the new quiz. Students may not make up a missed quiz.

Grading Policy:
Communication is an important part of scholarship; therefore, all work turned in will be expected to have proper grammar and spelling. Failure to do so will affect the grade of the assignment.

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<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Assignments</td>
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<td>Primary Document Analysis</td>
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<td>Critical Essays</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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Course Policies:
Make-up Examinations – Only students with a valid reason (verified illness, accident, family crisis, etc.) will be allowed to make-up a missed exam. In order to take a make-up exam, the student must contact the professor as soon as possible to determine if a make-up is possible. The professor reserves the right to refuse a make-up exam if, in his judgment, the excuse does not justify it.

Late Work - All late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each class period it is late. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a zero grade for that assignment.

Written Assignments - All written assignments must be typed and double-spaced. Work at improving your writing skills by focusing on three areas: 1) Economy: choice and memorable use of words; 2) Precision: avoiding vague references and wording; 3) Power: avoiding passivity.

Student Code of Conduct, Classroom Conduct, and Academic Integrity – Students are expected to follow the guidelines provided in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. Academic Misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or exam, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question, and, in more serious cases, lead to further academic penalty. For definitions of and penalties for plagiarism, see University Rules and Procedures, 13.02.99.C3.01 “Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases.”

Notice to Students with Disabilities:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable 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 me 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 mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeals 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 responsibilities 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 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
Tentative Class Schedule

The Tentative Class Schedule provides the basic time frame and structure for the course work. You are responsible for all of the reading assignments and should be able to intelligently discuss them in class. Of the fifteen chapters from *Portrait of America*, the student is responsible for choosing five for the brief critical essay assignments.

Jan. 24  Class Orientation and Introduction
         *Created Equal* Ch. 15

Jan. 31  *Created Equal* Ch. 16, *Portrait of America* Ch. 3 & Ch. 6
         *Created Equal* Ch. 17, *Portrait of America* Ch. 5

Feb. 7   *Created Equal* Ch. 18

Feb. 14  Essay Assignment #1 Due
         *Created Equal* Ch. 19, *Portrait of America* Ch. 8 & Ch. 9

Feb. 21  *Created Equal* Ch. 20, *Portrait of America* Ch. 12

Feb. 28  *Created Equal* Ch. 21, *Portrait of America* Ch. 13 & Ch. 14

Mar. 7   Midterm Exam

Mar. 21  *Created Equal* Ch. 22, *Portrait of America* Ch. 15 & Ch. 16

Mar. 28  *Created Equal* Ch. 23, *Portrait of America* Ch. 19

April 4  *Created Equal* Ch. 24, *Portrait of America* Ch. 20 & Ch. 21

April 11 Essay Assignment #2 Due
          *Created Equal* Ch. 25, *Portrait of America* Ch. 23

April 18  *Created Equal* Ch. 26

April 25  *Created Equal* Ch. 27, *Portrait of America* Ch. 27

May 2    Primary Document Analysis Due
          *Created Equal* Ch. 28
          Summary and Review

May 9    Final Exam (7:15-9:45)