HIST 1302.005: U.S. History since 1865  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Spring 2015  
MW/3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.  
BH 205

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“*We are the prisoners of history. Or are we?*” —Robert Penn Warren

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course surveys the social, economic, and cultural history of the United States from 1865 to the present. As the rise of nineteenth-century nationalism and industrial capitalism ushered America into the modern world, the nation quickly moved from a rural, agrarian society to a political and economic world power. In this course, we will study the rise of modern America, focusing on expansion, technological change, social reform, war, economic fluctuations, and other key events that shaped the nation. In class, there will be lectures, discussions, films, and other activities that will require your participation. Out of class, there will be reading, writing, and studying. Throughout, we will read and analyze primary sources—the raw materials that historians use to construct their stories—to learn more about American history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students who successfully complete this course will:

- demonstrate critical thinking by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information, gathering and assessing information relevant to a question, and analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information;
- develop communication skills by interpreting and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication;
- demonstrate personal responsibility by evaluating historical choices and actions, and relating consequences to decision making;
- develop social responsibility by identifying intercultural competence and civic responsibility in past regional, national, and global communities.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
Note: other short readings and primary sources will be posted on Blackboard.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING (1,000 total points possible)
Note: more detailed assignment sheets and study guides will be posted on Blackboard.

Tuesday Quizzes (10@10 points each=100 points): These in-class quizzes are designed to ensure that you study and read outside of class. The quizzes will have short answer, essay, and some multiple-choice questions. They will be held at the beginning of class on Tuesdays.

In-Class Assignments (20@10 points each=200 points): Your attendance and participation will be rewarded with graded, point-boosting assignments that will be completed during class time.

Rock Essay Draft (50 points): You will be turning in a full, complete draft of your Rock Essay. The draft will be graded with the same standards and rubric as the final version, but will receive feedback to allow you to improve your essay. You are first turning in a draft to learn that writing is a process and that good writers always revise.

Rock Final Essay (200 points): Drawing from the interesting book All Shook Up and other course materials, the purpose of this essay is to help sharpen your writing skills while discovering more about American history. You must turn in the graded draft with the final essay to show your revisions.

Exam #1 (150 points)
Exam #2 (150 points)
Final Exam (150 points)

LATE POLICY
TBD

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
Academic integrity is an important requirement for this course. Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. As a student, you are responsible for knowing how to avoid plagiarism. For more information, please see the Student Code of Conduct, available at http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/studentcofc.html. Any student guilty of academic misconduct may receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the university’s Judicial Affairs Officer.

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER (HISTORY) STUDENT
• You are in this class because Texas state law requires it. However, learning American history will provide you with information and context to understand the world and the
nation. It will help you improve your intellectual and civic skills, building you a foundation for future studies and life outside of college.

- You should know that learning is a struggle, that you will make mistakes, and that no one is naturally good at history. It takes work.
- I want everyone to succeed in this class, but that means you have to put in the work. Successful students work hard and try to improve throughout the semester.
- Do not fall into the “optional” trap! Everything in college is optional (attending class, taking notes, reading, showing up on time, taking quizzes, spending a lot of time writing papers, studying, turning in assignments on time, and everything else). If you opt to do these things, you will pass this class.
- Carefully review the syllabus and make note of important dates, including when readings and assignments are due as well as exam days.
- Reading creates knowledge. You should read before class on the days assigned and take reading notes.
- Use the textbook study space (http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/giveliberity4-brief/welcome.aspx). It includes chapter outlines, quizzes, maps, flashcards, and a variety of other resources to help you.
- Show up to class on time and prepared to take a quiz, to take notes, to discuss readings, and to ask questions.
- Take good notes during both lecture and discussion. Lecture outlines will be available on Blackboard. They are just a general guide, you should fill it in with details like people, dates, events, descriptions, importance, terms, definitions, historical context, or anything else relevant. If you missed something during class, ask a friend or your instructor (during office hours) to fill in the gaps.
- Study. Study in small increments throughout the week and the semester. Quiz yourself. Use flashcards.
- View writing as a process in which you will only get better if you make the conscious attempt to improve. You should start assignments early, read the directions carefully, develop an outline first, and then write. Spend time revising and improving essays.

COURSE SCHEDULE
The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as needed prior to or during the course. Any changes will be announced in class.

Course Introduction; Why Study History?

Reconstruction

Reading and Analyzing Historical Sources

The West

The Gilded Age and Industrialization
The Gilded Age (con’t)
New Imperialism
The Progressive Era
Review
Exam #1
The Great War
The Great War (con’t)
The Roaring ‘20s
The Great Depression
World War II
World War II
The Atomic Bomb and Cold War
The Atomic Bomb and Cold War
Review
Exam #2
The Affluent Society
Images of Women in the Postwar Era
All Shook Up
Long Civil Rights Movement
Civil Rights (con’t)
The 1960s
All Shook Up
Vietnam
The Sunbelt; Deindustrialization

Globalization

Post-9/11 Era

A New Cold War?

Review

Final Exam

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND COURSE POLICIES
Class attendance, participation, and etiquette are key expectations. In order to facilitate your learning and not distract others, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- All students should help foster a respectful atmosphere that considers and includes different viewpoints and beliefs.
- You are expected to attend every class, arriving prepared and in a timely fashion. All important announcements and quizzes will be given at the start of class.
- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during class time.
- Due to recent studies about poor note-taking skills and lower testing averages with computer use, you may NOT use computers during class.
- In the event of a college-sponsored absence, you must notify the instructor ahead of time and turn in all assignments or take any quizzes or exams before you leave. Failure to do will result in a zero.
- Please include your course and section number in all email correspondence and on all assignments (i.e.: HIST 1302.005).
- You are expected to keep track of your own course grade as the semester progresses. Be sure to keep all class materials and returned assignments.
- In the event of a hurricane, we will follow the published policies of TAMU-CC.
- There will be no make-up exams or alternative exam days/times for the final exam. You will need to speak with the instructor and provide documentation in the event of an illness or death in the family.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

STARFISH
Starfish is a software communication program used to connect you (the student) to your “Success Network” of instructors, advisors, and other academic support programs on campus. If you receive an email from starfish@tamucc.edu, this means I have raised a Starfish “communication” item useful for connecting you to campus resources and course progress guidance. Starfish “communication” items include:

- Flags: early alerts regarding course effort and/or progress (missing a quiz or exam, poor attendance, a poor exam grade)
- Kudos: commendation for course effort and progress
- Referrals: recommended utilization of campus services: SI sessions, the Writing Center, and others

Acting on these messages in a timely manner is vital to your success as a student at TAMU-CC. The purpose of Starfish is to help instructors communicate information with their students and connect students with campus resources available to them. For Starfish assistance, please call (361) 825-3653 or email Starfish@tamucc.edu