HIST 1302.006: U.S. History since 1865
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Fall 2014
Wednesday/7:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
BH 205

Instructor: Dr. Jen Corrinne Brown
Office Hours: MWF/10a–11a
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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.

**Pop Quizzes (10@20 points each=200 points):** These unannounced, in-class quizzes are designed to ensure that you study and read outside of class and that you come to class on time. The quizzes will have short answer, essay, and some multiple-choice questions.

**In-Class Assignments (10@10 points each=100 points):** Your attendance and participation will be rewarded with graded, point-boosting assignments that will be completed during class time.

**Storm Essay Draft (50 points):** You will be turning in a full, complete draft of your Storm 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.

**Storm Final Essay (200 points):** Drawing from the interesting book *Isaac’s Storm* 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.

**Midterm Exam (200 points):** This in-class test will cover key modern American history topics that we have learned in class during the semester’s first half. It will be an essay exam.

**Final Exam (250 points):** The final will be a non-comprehensive examination of American history, covering important topics we learned during the second half of the semester. It will be an essay exam.

**LATE POLICY**

**Quizzes and In-Class Assignments:** In the case of a documentable absence (serious illness or death in the family), you may make up quizzes and in-class assignments with no grade penalty. You will need to bring me the documentation during my office hours to make up the quiz or assignment. They will need to be made up within one week of your absence.

**Exams:** There will be no make-up exams or alternative days/times for the final exam. In the case of a documentable absence, you will need to contact me.

**Storm Draft and Final Essay:** Unless students have received prior instructor approval, essays received after their due time and date will be marked down 5% for arriving after the due time (even one minute late) and 10% for each day late. I do NOT accept electronic copies of essays. You will need to turn in your late paper during class or during my office hours.
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
Academic integrity is an important requirement for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, 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.
- 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, and everything else). If you opt to do these things and turn in assignments on time, 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.
- 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. 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. Review your notes before and after class. Skim back through the textbook occasionally. Study in small increments throughout the week and the semester.
- 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.

Wednesday, 8/27: Course Introduction; Historical Sources

Wednesday, 9/3: Greater Reconstruction
Reading Due: Give Me Liberty!, pp. 441–474; 483–494; 524–526
Isaac’s Storm, pp. 1–27
Wednesday, 9/10: Industrialization and the Gilded Age
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 475–483; 492–507
*Isaac’s Storm*, pp. 28–97

Wednesday, 9/17: Discuss *Isaac’s Storm*
Reading Due: *Isaac’s Storm*, pp. 98–273

Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 543–573

Wednesday, 10/1: World War I
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 574–607
**Assignment Due: Storm Essay Draft**

Wednesday, 10/8: Triumph and Tragedy in the Interwar Years; Review
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 608–671

Wednesday, 10/15: Midterm Exam; World War II

Wednesday, 10/22: World War II
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 672–706
**Assignment Due: Final Storm Essay**

Wednesday, 10/29: The Atomic Bomb and Cold War
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 707–735

Wednesday, 11/5: Conformity and Confrontation in the 1950s and 1960s; Civil Rights
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 736–805

Wednesday, 11/12: The Sunbelt; Deindustrialization
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 806–839

Wednesday, 11/19: Globalization: The United States and the World
Reading Due: *Give Me Liberty!*, pp. 840–909

Wednesday, 11/26: Final Course Business and Review

Wednesday, 12/3: NO CLASS, Reading Day

Wednesday, 12/10: Final Exam, 7:15 p.m.–9:45 p.m. in BH 205
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 1302.006).
- 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
Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. In our college the undergraduate advisor is Linda Miller, (361) 825-3466, Linda.miller@tamucc.edu. The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley, (361) 825-3466, Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu. Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
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 contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.

GRADE APPEAL 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 at http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.