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Office Hours: MWF 11-12, W 3-5 and TR 3-4pm and by appointment
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Course Description:

This course will introduce you to United States History from the end of the Civil War to the late 20th century. We will look at some the major political, economic, and especially social changes that took place during this period, paying particular attention to issues of race, class and gender/sexuality, and how “ordinary” people helped shape the nation we know today. The course covers themes including citizenship and the rights of citizens, identity and inclusion in the nation, political and social movements, immigration/urbanization, imperialism and nationalism and changing social values and practices. Students in this course must learn to view history thematically. The course is organized around these overarching themes that serve as unifying threads throughout the course, helping you to relate what is particular about each time period or society to a “big picture” of history. This thematic approach provides a way to organize comparisons and analyze change and continuity over time.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

Assignments: Two exams, a mid-term and a final, will be given. These exams will focus on the information presented in class lectures and obtained from reading assignments. You will receive a study guide well ahead of time to assist in your exam preparation. You are required to provide your own bluebooks (see supplies). You must give two blank bluebooks to me by Monday, September 7th.

Exam 1 – 25% of your overall grade, will cover the lecture and reading content presented in the first half of the semester  Exam 2 – 30% of your overall grade, will cover the lecture and reading content presented in the second half of the semester

Quizzes – Four announced in-class reading quizzes. Added together, these quizzes are worth 20% of your overall grade. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and CANNOT, under any circumstances, be made up. Reading guides will be provided on Blackboard to assist you as you prepare.
Oral History Paper – 25% of your overall grade This semester you will complete an oral history in which you will conduct an interview with a person from a previous generation. You will complete a 4-5 page paper detailing your experience. A separate handout explaining the assignment in more detail will be distributed and posted on the course Blackboard page at a later date. More information will be provided in the form of class discussion.

Attendance and Participation - I expect you to attend every class. Even though I do not take attendance, knowing the material covered in lecture is essential to doing well on the exams. I do not post or share my notes or slides. Participation means more than showing up. I expect you to read assigned material by the due date, take part in classroom activities, add thoughtfully to discussion, and support your classmates through maintaining a respectful classroom environment.

Extra Credit – I do not offer any.

Grade Breakdown: A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 59 or below

GRADED EVENTS: If you feel that you were graded unfairly & are disappointed with a grade that you earned, please follow these steps: 1.) Read the rubric or assignment description and consider; did you follow all of the guidelines? 2.) Look on your paper for my specific, hand-written comments...do these shed any light? 3.) Next, come see me during office hours or schedule an appointment to see me to discuss your concerns. If you are disappointed in your performance, and believe that the assignment you turned in is not representative of your best work, please come and see me as well. I am open to discussing ways to help you improve the grade you earned. You must observe a 24-hour waiting period and meet with me personally to discuss these options.


Two copies of each text are available on course reserves at the Bell Library. You will need to use your Sandollar Card to check them out. Additional course readings will be made available on Blackboard under the Content Folder.

Policies and Expectations: Since you are in college, I expect you to approach this class like the responsible adults you are. This means:

- Arriving to class on time
- Turning off cell phones, music players, and other distractions. And putting them away. Your phone needs to stay in your backpack/bag/purse during class time – you do not need a phone out during lecture. Please do not text during class time, or I will ask you to leave lecture. Take care of your personal business before or after class.
- You are welcome to use laptop computers for appropriate classroom activities, such as taking notes, but I reserve the right to ask students who are doing other things (like checking email, Facebook, or completing assignments for other courses) to leave class.
- I do not post or share notes or lecture PowerPoint slides. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. Be present.

Late Work: - I WILL NOT accept late work. (Seriously.) All assignments must be submitted on the due date at the beginning of your class time – no exceptions. This includes all written work, exams and quizzes. Written assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class in print form. If they are turned in after I start the day’s lecture, they are considered late and will not be accepted. I expect you to be in class to take all exams and quizzes. I do not offer make-ups except under EXTRAORDINARY circumstances. Vacations, colds, doctor’s appointments, changes in work schedules etc. do not count as extraordinary. That said, I want you to succeed in this class, so if something comes up that will impact your ability to come to class and meet the expectations of the course, please let me know as soon as possible.

- All written work must be handed in as a hard copy. Assignments will NOT be accepted via email. NO EXCEPTIONS. (SERIOUSLY.)
- All papers must be stapled. Buy or have access to a stapler – I will not accept multi-page work that is not stapled together. Double-sided printing is fine.

- **Blackboard:** You are responsible for tracking your grade in the course. Grades will be recorded and course grade averages will be calculated on Blackboard.

- **Email communication:** I may occasionally send you emails regarding the course. You are responsible for checking your Texas A&M email account frequently. Please consider e-mail as official correspondence. Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 24 hours. If you do not receive an email within 24 hours, please send a follow-up email.

- No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.

- E-mail communications should be about class business. E-mail is not the place for summaries of lectures, discussions, or readings, however. You will need to avail yourself to scheduled office hours or make an appointment to discuss these.

- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please use professional language and include your full name and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. **Unprofessional emails will result in non-response.**

- **Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 6th** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term. You are responsible for adding and dropping yourself from the course.

- I expect you to abide by TAMUCC’s Student Code of Conduct, which can be found at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/index.html](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/index.html)

- TAMUCC’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism are available at [http://cla.tamucc.edu/forms/academicmisconductprocedures.pdf](http://cla.tamucc.edu/forms/academicmisconductprocedures.pdf). If you cheat or plagiarize on one or more assignments you will fail this course.

**By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by these policies.** - In the event of a hurricane, I will follow the published policies of TAMU-CC. If the campus remains officially open during the time that our class normally meets then class will proceed as scheduled (including all graded events). If the university closes campus then we will push the course requirements to the next official class meeting. If an exam date is cancelled, the exam will be held during the next official class meeting.

**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.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities and Veterans** 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 CCH 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 and they can assist you.

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

Provisional Course Schedule  (May be subject to change at the instructor’s discretion)

Week 1 – Introductions
8/26- Expectations and Introduction to primary and secondary sources
Read for 8/28:  Course syllabus
Don’t forget to: Purchase books and bluebooks
Write assignment due dates in your calendar!

8/28- Reconstruction: “What is freedom?”
Read for 9/4: Triangle, Prologue, CH 1-2

Week 2 – Reconstruction/American West
8/31 - Reconstruction: “What is freedom?”
9/2- The Transformation of the American West
9/4 – The American West cont’d
Read for 9/9: Triangle, CH 3-4

Week 3 – The Gilded Age City
9/7 -Labor Day, NO CLASS
9/9 An Industrializing Economy
9/11 Workers’ Responses
Read for 9/14: Triangle, CH 5-6

Week 4 – The Progressive Empire
9/14 Redemption and Jim Crow  Reading Quiz 1
9/16 Building an American Empire
9/18 Building an American Empire cont’d
Read for 9/21: Triangle, CH 7, 8, 9, Epilogue and your Exam 1 Study Guide! Start preparing!
Week 5 – Progressives at Home
Read for 9/28  Sections from “Legacies of World War I” on CNN.com

Week 6 – The Roaring ‘20s
9/28 World War I, “The Good War”  Reading Quiz 2
9/30 A Rising Consumer Culture
10/2 Culture Wars
Read for 10/5:  Your Exam 1 study guide! Be prepared!

Week 7 – The Great Depression
10/5 Culture Wars cont’d
10/7 Exam 1
10/9 “Surviving the Dust Bowl” American Experience documentary
Read for 10/12:  Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 1

Week 8 – Economic Woes and a “New Deal” for the American People
10/12 The Causes of the Great Depression
10/14 The New Deal
10/16 The New Deal cont’d
Read for 10/19:  Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 2

Week 9 – Nuclear Fears and the Nuclear Family
10/19 World War II on the Home-front  Reading quiz 3
10/21 World War II on the Home-front
10/23 Facing the Bomb
Read for 10/26:  Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 3

Week 10 – Beginnings of Dissent
10/26 The Nuclear Family
10/28 The Early Civil Rights Movement
10/30 The Early Civil Rights Movement continued
Read for 11/2: *Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 4*

Optional: Take some time and watch this: [http://www.pbs.org/pov/brotheroutsider/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/brotheroutsider/)

**Week 11 – Turn to the Left**

11/2 Social Movements of the 1960s
11/4 Social Movements of the ‘60s/ The Vietnam War
11/6 1968: the turning point  **Reading Quiz 4**  FYI - Today is the drop deadline.

Read for 11/9: Court documents related to Cisneros vs. Corpus Christi Independent School District 1970


(or google “PBS American Experience,” and search the site for “Stonewall Uprising”)

**Week 12 – Protest and Conservative Backlash**

11/9 The Vietnam War
11/11 The New Left and Counterculture
11/13 A Revolutionary Time


Read for 11/16: Excerpt from *The Killing Zone* by Frederick Downs posted on Blackboard under Content Folder

For more on Watergate, see: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/watergate](http://www.washingtonpost.com/watergate)

**Week 13 – Nixon and Carter**

11/16 Nixon and the Rise of the New Conservative
11/18 The Rise of the New Right
11/20 Carter’s White House


**Week 14 – The Cold War Ends**

11/23 The Reagan “Revolution”
11/25 Watch: Uprising: Hip Hop and the LA Riots


11/27 No Class - Thanksgiving

Read for 11/30: None – study, and work on your Oral History Paper!

**Week 15 -**

11/30 Culture Wars 1989-2000s
12/2 **Exam 2** (normal class time)
12/7 Oral History Paper due: Monday, Dec 7th, 8:00-10:30 am (our University mandated “final exam” time) Your paper must be dropped off at my office (Faculty Center 121) between the above hours. I will NOT accept papers by email. I will not accept papers late, or papers left in my mailbox or with the Department Secretary. Papers may be accepted early, by permission.