Course Description:
This course will introduce you to United States History from the end of the Civil War to the 21st century. We will look at some of the major political, economic, and especially social changes that took place during this period, paying particular attention to issues of race, class and gender, and how “ordinary” people helped shape the nation we know today. The course covers themes including citizenship and inclusion in the nation, urbanization, imperialism and nationalism.

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:
The core of your grade will come from three in-class exams. These are NOT cumulative. You will receive a study guide ahead of time. You are required to provide your own bluebook (see supplies). If you do not submit your bluebooks according to your seminar leader’s instruction, you will not be permitted to take the exam.

Exam 1 – 15% of your overall grade
Exam 2 – 20% of your overall grade
Exam 3 – 20%

Oral History Project – A four-to-five page paper, typed, double-spaced. I will distribute a separate sheet explaining the assignment in more detail. 20% of your overall grade.

Quizzes – Five announced in-class reading quizzes, two on each of the first two books, and one on the third. Two will be given in seminar, 3 in large lecture. Each quiz is worth 3% of your grade, for a total of 15% of your overall grade. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class, and CANNOT, under any circumstances, be made up.
Portfolio – The final writing portfolio you are completing in seminar will count for this course as well. Your seminar leader will tell you more about this. 10% of your overall grade.

Attendance - I expect you to attend every class, and to participate. Even though I do not take attendance every day, 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 comes from not only being there, but contributing intelligently to class discussion, taking part in group work, completing in-class assignments, and attending office hours.

Extra Credit – Find George

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

If you have a question about an individual grade on an assignment, please come to my office hours to discuss.

Texts:
Required:


Supplies:
You will need three bluebooks, to be turned in to your seminar instructor. They will give you more information on the exact due date.

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 it 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 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.
- 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.
- I do not post or share notes or Powerpoint slides. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate.
- You are responsible for adding and dropping yourself from the course.
- You are responsible for tracking your grade in the course. There are many free grade calculator apps you can put on your phone that will help you with this.
- I may occasionally send you emails regarding the course. You are responsible for checking your Texas A&M email account frequently.
- 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
- TUMUCC’s policies on academic integrity and plagiarism are available at http://cla.tamucc.edu/forms/academicmisconductprocedures.pdf. If you cheat or plagiarize on one or more assignments you will fail this course, not just the assignment. **By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by these policies.**
- In the event of a hurricane, flooding, or another incident, 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.

**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.

Provisional Course Outline
(this is open to change)

Week 1 – Introductions
8/27  Expectations and Introduction to Sources

Read for 9/1: Purchase books
   Write assignment due dates in your calendar
   Triangle, Prologue, CH 1

Week 2 – Reconstruction
9/1  Reconstruction
9/3  The West

Read for 9/8: Triangle, CH 2, 3

Week 3 – The Gilded Age City
9/8  An Industrializing Economy
   Reading Quiz 1
9/10  Redemption and Jim Crow

Read for 9/15: Triangle, CH 4, 5, 6
Week 4 – The Progressive Empire
9/15 Building American Empire
9/17 Progressivism

Read for 9/22: Triangle, CH 7, 8, 9, Epilogue

Week 5 – Progressives at Home
9/22 “Triangle Fire”
   Reading Quiz 2
9/24 World War I

Read for 9/29: None – focus on studying for your exam

Week 6 – Entering the Roaring ‘20s
9/29 Exam 1
10/1 A New Consumer Culture

Read for 10/6: Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 1

Week 7 – The Great Depression
10/6 The Dust Bowl
10/8 The Causes of the Great Depression

Read for 10/13: Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 2

Week 8 – Economic Woes and a New Deal
10/13 The New Deal
   Reading Quiz 3
10/15 World War II on the Home-front

Read for 10/20: Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 3

Week 9 – Nuclear Fears and the Nuclear Family
10/20 Facing the Bomb
10/22 The Nuclear Family

Read for 10/27: Coming of Age in Mississippi, Part 4
Week 10 – Beginnings of Dissent
10/27 The Early Civil Rights Movement
Reading Quiz 4
10/29 The Early Civil Rights Movement con’t

Read for 11/3: None – study for your exam

Week 11 – Turn to the Left
11/3 Exam 2
11/5 The Vietnam War

Read for 11/10: The Killing Zone, pp. 15-95
Optional: Watch, “Stonewall Uprising”
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/fILMS/stonewall/
(or google “PBS American Experience,” and search the site for “Stonewall Uprising”)

FYI – Nov 6 is the last day to drop a class

Week 12 – Protest and Conservative Backlash
11/10 The New Left and Counterculture
11/12 Social Movements of the ‘60s

Read for 11/17: The Killing Zone, pp. 99-184
Optional: For more on Watergate, see http://www.washingtonpost.com/watergate

Week 13 – Nixon and Carter
11/17 Nixon and the Rise of the New Conservative
11/19 Carter’s White House

Reading for 11/24: The Killing Zone, pp. 187-237

Week 14 – The Cold War Ends
11/24 The Reagan Revolution
Reading Quiz 5
11/26 No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

Read for 12/1: None – study and work on your paper
Week 15 -
12/1  Oral History Paper Due

Just a reminder – Your paper is due at the BEGINNING of class. I will NOT accept papers by email. I will not accept papers late, slipped under my door, or papers left in my mailbox or with the Department Secretary. Papers may be accepted early, by permission.

Exam 3: Tues, Dec 8, 1:45-4:15 (our University mandated “final exam” time)

Fall Semester Grades will be posted on SAIL Dec 15

Have a wonderful break!