Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to United States history from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the early 21st century. We will not only consider how some of the major political and economic events of this time ultimately shaped the country’s social/cultural atmosphere, but also focus on a number of seemingly “ordinary” people who changed how Americans perceived their place in the United States and abroad. I will cover an array of topics to serve as the thematic platform for this course, such as freedom and citizenship, immigration and inclusion, imperialism and nationalism, capitalism and urbanization, equality and racial discord. These themes will help you follow the progression of American history during this period. They will also help you relate to the realities of today and you’ll understand the significance of this history, how the issues of our past are intricately tied to those of the present.

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 writing, 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 Materials:


Grade Events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes (4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triangle Discussions (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Essay &amp; Abstract</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Description of Graded Events:
You will have two exams, a Midterm and a Final. Both exams are comprised of three parts; chronology, matching, and short essay. The **Midterm** is worth 15% of your overall grade and will cover the period after the Civil War to the end of World War II. Your **Final** is worth 20% of your overall grade and will cover from the end of WWII until the Presidential election of 2008 (if we get that far). I will give you the review for each exam at least two weeks prior.

There will be four **unannounced Reading Quizzes** worth 5 points each. They make up 20% of your overall grade and focus on the assigned daily reading. These are designed to encourage you to show up to my class, to keep up with the reading, and take comprehensive notes. They are here to help you stay focused throughout the semester. You **will be allowed** to use your notes for these quizzes.

You will answer (3) questions via Bb about **Triangle**. You are responsible for creating a thread that answers the prompted discussion question(s) and comment on two other students’ posts in order to receive full credit; 15% of your overall grade. Full instructions for this assignment will be provided.

You will write one **Research Essay** that counts 20% of your overall grade. This essay will be on a topic of your choosing that deals with a cultural or social phenomena(s) of the 1960s. You may choose from a wide array of topics from abortion rights to the war in Vietnam to the rise of Black Power. This essay is due at the **beginning** of the **FINAL EXAM period** on **Dec. 9**th. Full instructions for this assignment will be provided.

Participation and Electronic Device Policy:
To be successful in this course, it is essential that you attend class every day. Although I will not take roll during every class period, there are **weekly participation activities** that account for 10% of your final grade. For each activity, you will write a short response to a primary source provided in class and turn it in to me before you leave that day. The (2) lowest grades will be dropped.

This grade also includes your involvement in class and lecture discussions. I expect you to be both physically and mentally present during class.

**Please refrain from being on your cell phone.** Any and all cell phone use during class, and especially during lecture, is considered extremely rude and unprofessional. Furthermore, **please refrain from using your laptop computer during class.** I’d prefer you take written notes during lecture but am aware that some of you may use your computer for this task. I will allow it. If you are on your phone or use your computer for any other means than recording lecture notes, you will be asked to leave class for the day.

Class Conduct Policy:
You are expected to be respectful of everyone in the class. We are going to cover a number of controversial topics like race, immigration, class, sex, and political ideologies, so please be mindful and respectful of your peers’ opinions and beliefs. If at any time you are blatantly disrespectful, you will be asked to leave class for the day. If your behavior warrants extreme action, I may be forced to request your removal from the course.

Late Work Policy:
I will not accept late work. Weekly participation activities and reading quizzes will not be allowed to be made up. Again, I drop the lowest (2) weekly participation activity grades.

I will not accept late posts on Bb for **Triangle**. I am going to post the question(s) and open the discussion board a full week prior to the due date so there should be no reason to turn this in late.

I will not accept your Final Research Essay late. You will need your Final Research Abstract on the day of our final, so that will not be accepted late either.

If you miss the **midterm** or **final**, you are responsible for contacting me before or on the day of the exam. Make-ups will be given on **Dec. 9**th at **12:30pm**. Make-up exams are **one essay question** for **100%** of your grade.

Extra Credit:
Turn in proof of your attendance to a University event for (1) participation activity grade. You may attend anything from a TAMUCC girls’ volleyball game to the History Department’s Turnbull Film Series event to one of the various plays or productions or gallery events put on by the Art Department. Only ONE activity grade can be replaced. Write a one-page observation of your experience. Your one-page response is mandatory for full credit. No exceptions.

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 or log onto http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

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:
Students who feel they have 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. 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 (http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Tentative Course Schedule
(Subject to change at the professor’s discretion)

Week I:
Aug. 24 – Introduction to HIST 1302.003

Aug. 26 – Reconstructing the South
“In the light of freedom” Foner (434-439, 442-454)

Week II:
Aug. 29 – “A lonely, stubborn man” Foner (454-466)
Activity – Letter from S.C. Freedmen to President Johnson (1865)
Aug. 31 – ‘A Reign of Terror’ Foner (467-473)

Sept. 2 – It’s a Gilded Age
   “The most rapid and profound economic revolution” Foner (476-482, 494-498)
   *READING QUIZ

Week III:
Sept. 5 – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Sept. 7 – “Something had gone wrong” Foner (498-506)

Sept. 9 – “The frontier of continuous white settlement” Foner (483-494)
   Activity – Chief Joseph Speech at Washington, D. C. and Ghost Dance clip

Week IV:
Sept. 12 – Boundaries of Freedom
   “The popular understanding of freedom” Foner (509-516)

Sept. 14 – “The full imposition of a new racial order” Foner (517-527, 529-535)
   Activity – Ida B. Wells on the burning death of Samuel (Hose) Wilkes

Sept. 16 – Progressive Politics and a Consumer Society
   “To humanize industrial capitalism”
   Foner (556: “The New Immigrants on Strike”-572)
   Part I Discussion of Triangle: The Fire that Changed America due on Bb by 5pm.

Week V:
Sept. 19 – An Era of Globalization
   “The United States as an International Empire” Foner (576-584, 599-606)
   *READING QUIZ

Sept. 21 – “Reforming American society” Foner (584-598)
   Activity – “Don’t Bite the Hand that Feeds You” Audio

Sept. 23 – Boom, Bust, and Dealing with the Crisis
   “Mass culture throughout the nation” Foner (610-616, 619-631)

Week VI:
Sept. 26 – “A fall in the bloated stock market” Foner (616-619, 631-637)

Sept. 28 – “Protection against the dislocations caused by modern capitalism”
   Foner (641-659)

Sept. 30 – “The political realities … of disenfranchisement” Foner (660-670)
   Activity – “New Deal: We Work Again” Video
Week VII:
Oct. 3 – *A Good Neighbor*
“Isolationism … dominated Congress” Foner (673-682)

Oct. 5 – “Four Freedoms and the role of the national government” Foner (682-694)

Oct. 7 – “The stubborn hold of racism in American life” Foner (694-705)

Week VIII:
Oct. 10 – “A form of controlled power” the Atomic Bomb and midterm review

Oct. 12 – MIDTERM EXAM

Oct. 14 – *America: The World’s Greatest Power*
“It seems all but inevitable” Foner (709-720)

Week IX:

Oct. 19 – *The 50s and 60s*
“Back toward isolationism?” Foner (745-752, 764-766)
Activity – Morley Safer / Walter Cronkite report from Vietnam

Oct. 21 – “Challenge to the complacency of the 1950s” Foner (754-764, 769-773)
Part II Discussion of *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* due on Bb by 5pm.

Week X:
Oct. 24 – “Challenge to the complacency of the 1950s” Continued

Oct. 26 – ‘*A New Generation of Americans’* Foner (773-782, 785-793)

Oct. 28 – ‘*A New Generation of Americans’ Continued* Foner (782-785, 795-804)
Activity – Malcom X Recording “On Black Power” 1964

Week XI:
Oct. 31 – *Amidst an Era of Radicalism*
“The revival of conservatism” Foner (807-823)
*READING QUIZ*

Nov. 2 – “The conservatives’ best hope” NO READING
*Proposal for Final Essay due on Bb by 5pm.

Nov. 4 – *Living in a Globalized World*
“The country’s global role” Foner (842-845: “Visions of America’s Role”)
Week XII:
Nov. 7 – “A former governor of Arkansas” Foner (845-852, 867-872)

Nov. 9 – ‘A rebellion of particularisms’ Foner (857-867)
*READING QUIZ

Nov. 11- The emergence of rap culture NO READING
Activity – Negroid wit’ an Ego – Salt n Peppa 1990
La Raza – Kid Frost 1990
Something’s Got to Give – The Beastie Boys 1992

- Last day to drop

Week XIII:
Nov. 14 – U.S. and the Middle East
   “Bush Sr., Clinton, and Bush Jr.” Context to the War on Terror
   Activity – Frontline Interview: John Miller with Osama Bin Laden (May 1998)

Nov. 16 – Context to the War on Terror Continued

Nov. 18 – “That beautiful late-summer morning” Foner (875-882)
Part III Discussion of Triangle: The Fire that Changed America due on Bb by 5pm.

Week XIV:
Nov. 21 – Activity – Response to United 93 clip
   *Draft of Abstract for Final Essay due on Bb by 5pm.

Week XV:
Nov. 28 – “Balancing security and liberty” Foner (883-885)

Nov. 30 – The age of terrorism – Mass Media and American Culture

Dec. 2 – Closing discussion: American Discord

Week XVI:
Dec. 5 – FINAL EXAM

Final Research Essay due Friday, December 9 (11am-1:30pm) Your abstract and essay are due at the beginning of the final exam period. No exceptions. I will not accept essays via email nor will I accept your essay late.