This course surveys the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. The period witnessed a radical reconstruction of ideas on race and gender, the formation of national issue-oriented political parties, the evolution of a powerful industrial-capitalist economy, and the emergence of U.S. influence on the international stage. More importantly, the age saw a deliberate and on-going effort by millions of Americans to express, support, and expand notions of democracy and republicanism for everyone in the United States. This course takes these noble aspirations seriously; asking where and how Americans defined these concepts, whether or not they were met, and how the major social movements both reflected and forced the broader economic and political changes of the era.

Clearly, then, the history of this era is very complex. A survey of American history moves quickly and covers only a portion of these questions. Measuring how well students learn this material is not an exact science, yet historians agree that developing certain analytical skills are essential. The graded components of this course are designed to strengthen these analytical skills.

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 a 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.

**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.

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

- *Give Me Liberty: An American History*, Brief Fifth Edition. Eric Foner [Please note that the quizzes are linked to this edition of the text]
- Specific readings assigned in class/Blackboard

All of the books are available for purchase at the University bookstore or through the Internet. The books on reserve at the library under my name and this course number. You can also find and download files containing all of the lecture notes and study guides on Blackboard. Please see me if you have trouble accessing these electronic materials.

**GRADING STRUCTURE**

A = 89.51-100.00  
B = 79.51-89.49  
C = 69.51-79.49  
D = 59.51-69.49  
F = 0-59.49

Dr. David Blanke  
Office: Faculty Center 265  
david.blanke@tamucc.edu  
Office Phone: 825-2373
DESCRIPTION OF GRADED EVENTS

Four Exams (75% of final grade) will ask you to identify the significance of several key terms AND compose a single well-argued essay answer supported by evidence. Each exam is weighted differently when computing your final grade.

- Exam #1 = 5% of the term grade
- Exam #2 = 15% of the term grade
- Exam #3 = 25% of the term grade
- Exam #4 = 30% of the term grade (the last/final exam will not be comprehensive)

Quizzes Based on Give Me Liberty (15% of final grade) The quizzes will be based on the assigned readings in Give Me Liberty for that day. These will be taken electronically through Blackboard. You will be allowed to take each quiz up to two times (within the assigned window) and drop your two lowest scores for the term. As a result, this component of the course should be something that helps stabilize or increase your overall term grade. In addition, I may assign optional work in class that can be used as a replacement grade for readings quizzes. These quizzes cannot be taken after the assigned due date. There are no make-up opportunities for quizzes after the assigned due date.

- Average of six best quiz scores = 15% of the term grade

Two Short Reflection Papers and in-Class Assignments (10% of final grade). These papers are due on the days indicated on the schedule. A handout will be distributed in class and/or through Blackboard with complete instructions.

- Paper #1 = 5% of the term grade
- Paper #2 = 5% of the term grade

Attendance Policy. Your attendance in class is required and will be periodically recorded over the semester. For each day above three unexcused absences, your final term grade will be lowered by 3 percentage points. Students with more than six unexcused absences will be expected to drop the course.

Hurricane policy: In the event of a hurricane, I 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, of course, we push to the next class period. If an exam date is cancelled, the exam is held at the next class meeting.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THIS CLASS

This course does not require that you memorize speeches, dates, or statistics that (as University students) you are wise enough to look up in any textbook (okay, probably the internet). The focus in this course is on finding the significance of people, events, and ideas. Most people do this in their everyday lives. Your job for the next fifteen weeks is to apply and develop this skill for U.S. history from 1865.

Students who compete for the highest grades regularly attend class, read the assigned work, take their own notes, and learn how to best manage their time. Students who do well also take time to read and understand the syllabus, to ask questions when confused, and to prepare for assignments in advance. Regular attendance in any college course is a strong predictor of student grades. Students who learn how to use office hours is also a strong predictor of success.

PROVISIONAL CLASS TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE

Please note: All Powerpoint presentations and review guides are made available via Blackboard. While the dates of graded events will not change, the dates for the topics covered in class may change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Intro to Federal Modernization</td>
<td>Reading Quiz #1 (Chapter 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/16/18</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 15</td>
<td>Completed on Blackboard by the start</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
<td>Begin Economic Modernization</td>
<td>Economic Modernization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/23/25</td>
<td>MLK Jr. HOLIDAY</td>
<td>• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28/30</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #2 (Chapter 16)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>Social Modernization&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 16</td>
<td><strong>TAKE-HOME EXAM (#1) DUE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4/6/8</td>
<td>Populism&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 18</td>
<td>Populism to Progressivism&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 18</td>
<td>Progressivism</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11/13/15</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #3 (Chapter 19)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>Great Depression/New Deal&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 20-21</td>
<td>Great Depression/New Deal</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18/20/22</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #4 (Chapter 22)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td><strong>IN-CLASS EXAM (#2)</strong></td>
<td>Begin WWII&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 25/27/1</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #5 (Chapter 24)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>WWII&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 22</td>
<td>WWII</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4/6/8</td>
<td>End WWII&lt;br&gt;Begin Cold War at Home and Abroad&lt;br&gt;Give Me Liberty, Ch. 23</td>
<td>Cold War and Viet Nam&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 25</td>
<td>Cold War and Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11/13/15</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18/20/22</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #6 (Chapter 25)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>Conclude Viet Nam</td>
<td>Begin Modern Civil Rights Movement&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty Ch 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25/27/29</td>
<td><strong>IN-CLASS EXAM (#3)</strong></td>
<td>Modern Civil Rights Movement</td>
<td>Intro The Sixties – JFK to LBJ&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 25</td>
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<td>April 1/3/5</td>
<td>The Sixties – JFK to LBJ&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 25</td>
<td>The Sixties – JFK to LBJ</td>
<td>Intro Nixon and Rise of New Right&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 26&lt;br&gt;<strong>Paper #1 Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8/10/12</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #7 (Chapter 26)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>Reagan &amp; the Rise of the New Right&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 26</td>
<td>Reagan &amp; the Rise of the New Right&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15/17/19</td>
<td><strong>Reading Quiz #8 (Chapter 28)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Completed on Blackboard by the start of class</td>
<td>Reagan &amp; the Rise of the New Right&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 26</td>
<td>U.S. and the Middle East (1973-2008)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22/24/26</td>
<td>The U.S. and the Middle East (1973-2008)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 28</td>
<td>The U.S. and the Middle East (1973-2008)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 28</td>
<td>U.S. and the Middle East (1973-2008)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 28&lt;br&gt;<strong>Paper #2 Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29/1</td>
<td>Facebook, Social Media, and Convergence Culture (1990-2010)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 27</td>
<td>Facebook, Social Media, and Convergence Culture (1990-2010)&lt;br&gt;• Give Me Liberty, Ch. 27</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINAL EXAM (#4) – Monday, May 6<br>11AM-1:30PM<br>CI-102**
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, ATTENDANCE, AND OTHER CLASS POLICIES

It is my experience that most students attend class regularly, behave as adults, submit assignments and take exams on time, perform well over the term, and do not cheat. Unfortunately, the following rules are necessary for the remaining few.

The environment of the classroom demands that we conduct ourselves like adults and with respect for each other. As a result, the following guidelines will be followed:

- always conduct yourself with respect and civility toward others. Abusive language or behavior will not be tolerated.
- please turn off or set to vibrate all cell phones and pagers. If you must take a call, do so outside of class.
- please be aware that talking, leaving early, arriving late, and other disruptive behavior affects your peers’s ability to learn the material. Excessive disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- dozing-off sometimes happens (even in my electrifying lectures), but DO NOT come to my class to sleep.
- please refer to the TAMU-CC Student Code of Conduct and the policies listed below for a more complete description of your rights and responsibilities while in class.

Be absolutely clear: I will hold you responsible should your behavior negatively affect others in class. If this happens repeatedly, you will be removed from the class (even if it is the last week of the term).

The penalty for academic dishonesty is clearly specified in the current Undergraduate Bulletin. I will follow these guidelines. In addition, students will be awarded zero points for any assignment in which cheating is detected. Plagiarism is considered by me and the University to be cheating. This is your first and only warning not to cheat in this class.

Make-up exams will be offered to students who inform me before test time of an excused absence. The questions on the make-up exam will not be harder but the exam will not offer optional questions. Make-up exams will be offered for only one week after the scheduled date of the exam. A student may take only one make-up exam over the span of the term. If you miss two exams, the second make-up will be given on the day of the final exam. You must complete both exams during the time allotted for the final exam.

Students who fail the first exam are encouraged to schedule a meeting with me within one week of the return of the exam to discuss their work and ways to improve their performance.

Individual grades can be reviewed with the instructor, grader, or seminar leader as appropriate. Please wait at least 24 hours after receiving your graded work before meeting with the grader to discuss grader materials (you can come see me immediately, I’m fair game and the best bet to get your answer). All final grading decisions are made by me; the grading assistants are not responsible for any final grade decisions in HIST-1302.

Required Statements (College/University/State Policies)

Disabilities Accommodations
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 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.

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.

**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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* 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.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, a student who believes that he or she has 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. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of
academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for that assignment and possible disciplinary action by the University.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

**Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, and includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.