COURSE DESCRIPTION

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.

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.

Course Materials


Additional readings and documents will be provided on Black Board.

Graded Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Document Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>(2 X 7.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Analysis</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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EXAM 1 15%

EXAM 2 20%

EXAM 3 30%

Document Analysis: You will read two primary documents from and write a two page analysis. You will be provided with a separate handout that outlines the specific instructions and requirements. These two short papers will make up 15% of your total grade.

Book Analysis: You will read the Autobiography of Malcom X. This book is easily accessible for free online. I will provide you with a link to a site where you can download or read on your computer or mobile device. You will write a five page paper analyzing this book and connecting the content to important themes and points we will discuss over the course of the semester. You will be provided with a separate handout that outlines the specific instructions. This assignment will count for 15% of your total grade.

Participation: You are all adults and responsible for attending the lectures and keeping up with readings and assignments. Attendance will not be recorded. However, throughout the semester you will participate in unannounced small group activities. These activities will require you to turn in an assignment that can only be completed in class. These assignments will count for 5% of your total grade.

Exams:

Most of this course’s points are earned through three exams. All three exams will consist of the following format, matching and essay.

Matching items will consist of ten brief definitions pertaining to significant, people places or things discussed in lectures and readings. You will chose the correct answer that best matches the definition from a word bank of fifteen to twenty terms. The matching portion makes up 30% of your exam grade.

70% of your exam grade is based on the essay portion. Two essay prompts will appear on the exam. You will write an essay answering all parts of one prompt. To do well on these essays you
must provide a detailed answer that includes critical thinking and utilizes evidence from readings and lectures to support your conclusions.

**Classroom Policies**

You are expected to treat your fellow students with all guidelines outlined by Student Code of Conduct. Please respect the professor, your fellow students and yourself.

Technology can be both beneficial and extremely distracting to your success in this class. If the professor finds that your use of electronic devices is distracting you will be asked to put away your phone, computer, tablet etc.

We will use BlackBoard for communication, posting grades, course materials and assignments. YOU MUST USE BLACKBOARD! You can access this iol.tamucc.edu

**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. The last day to drop a class for the spring semester is April 10, 2020.

**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site 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).

**Course Calendar**

*GML = Assigned readings in *Give me Liberty*

Week 1 January 21-24 Reconstruction GML Chap 15

Week 2 January 27-31 Gilded Aged Chap 16

**Paper 1 Due Jan 31 BlackBoard**

Week 3 February 3-7 Rise of Populism Chap 17

Week 4 February 10-14 Progressive Era and American Empire

**EXAM 1 Thur Feb 13**

Week 5 February 17-21 World War 1
Week 6 February 24-28  Chap 20 Roaring Twenties and Great Depression

**Paper 2 Due Feb 28 BB**

Week 7 March 2-6 Chap 21 Great Depression and New Deal

Week 8 Spring Break

Week 9 March 16-20 World War II

**Paper 3 Due March 20 BB**

Week 10 March 23-27 The Cold War Chapter 23

**Exam 2 March 26**

Week 11 March 30- April 3  Chapter 24 Cold War at Home

Week 11 April 6-10 Chapter 25 The Sixties and the rise of the Boomers

Week 12 April 13-17 Chapter 26 Nixon, the 70s and America’s Right Turn

**Malcolm X paper Due November 22 1159 BB**

Week 13 April 20-24  Chapter 27 Morning in America

Week 14 April 27-May 1 Chapter 28 The Bubble Bursts: The Nineties and the War on Terror

Week 16 May 4-6 Final Exam Review