

**Common Course Syllabus  
History 1302  
Revised December 10, 2024**

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Discipline:** History

**Course Number:** HISTORY 1302

**Course Title:** United States History II

**Credit:** 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

**This course partially satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** American History Foundational Component Area (060)

**Available Formats:** Conventional (Fully Face-to-Face), Fully Online, Hybrid, ITV

**Campus:** Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview, Dual Credit

**Textbook:** Varies according to instructor.

**Course Specific Instructions:** Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

**Course Description:** A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include: American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy.

**Course Objectives addressed:**

1. **critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be familiar with the evolution of the nation and its role in the world from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. This would include the ability to:

- Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** A writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

**Course Evaluation:** See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Attendance Policy:** Students must make every effort to attend face-to-face courses. Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

**Dropping a Course:** Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

**Syllabus Statements:** For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

History 1302  
Modern US

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1 – 3pm.

Or by appointment, in person or virtually. Please email me 24 hours in advance.

**Required Texts:** (This is also the correct bibliographic entry for the Works Cited page of your essays.)

Corbett, P. Scott, et al. “U.S. History.” *OpenStax College*.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>. Accessed January 6, 2026. Web.

O’Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Print.

You may download a free copy of the textbook, read the textbook online for free, or purchase a copy from the bookstore. We will begin with Chapter 16, “The Era of Reconstruction, 1865 – 1877.” *The Things They Carried* is NOT free online. You may read any unabridged copy. The book is available at the bookstore on campus, at [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), Audible, and Kindle, etc.

This class requires consistent access to the internet. I will not accept excuses about computer access; there are several computer labs available on all SPC campuses.

**How do I get my grade?**

|                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| Essay on <i>The Things They Carried</i> | 10% |
| Exam Essays                             | 40% |
| Chapter Assignments                     | 50% |

**Essay on *The Things They Carried* (10% of your grade)**

*The Things They Carried* is a collection of short stories by Tim O’Brien. The book is about O’Brien’s experiences in Vietnam during the American War in Vietnam. While the book is a work of fiction, it is also an examination of historical truth versus historical memory. You will write a formal essay over O’Brien’s text. This is a formal 3 – 5-page essay and should conform to MLA standards. The essay is due during Week 14.

**Exams (40% of your grade)**

There will be 4 Exam essays approximately four weeks apart. Each exam will cover materials for those weeks. For example, the first exam will cover weeks 1 – 4 and the final exam will cover week 13 – 16. This will include assigned readings, discussion questions, and videos. The essays are not timed and can be completed in advance, however, there will be no essays accepted after the due date.

These essays will connect specific information from the readings with the broader themes of the course. **Do not use outside sources**; the assigned readings will be all that you need to complete the essays.

### **Weekly Assignments (50% of your grade)**

Each chapter in *U.S. History* has a corresponding quiz and/or writing assignments in Blackboard. Complete each assignment as you finish the readings. Please note: no assignment will count after its due date.

### **Important Dates and Deadlines**

|                                      |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Weekly Assignments                   | Each Thursday, due in Blackboard by 11pm.                |
| Exam Essays                          | Weeks 4, 8, and 12, due in Blackboard on Thurs. by 11pm. |
| Essay <i>The Things They Carried</i> | Week 14, due in Blackboard on Thursday by 11pm.          |
| Final Exam                           | Tuesday, December 8 <sup>th</sup> by 11 pm.              |

### **Course Rules**

**Late Assignments:** You may only turn in an assignment after the due date if you've let me know the assignment will be late before the original due date and time. There may be a 5-point penalty for each day an assignment is late after the original due date.

**Feedback:** I will reply to all messages or emails within 24 hours during the week. I will grade your short essays in one week. I will grade exams within two weeks. I typically grade Discussion Board posts in 1 week. I will not respond to every discussion post, rather, I might add something or emphasis on a point made in the post. Sometimes I ask for clarification if I am unsure what the poster was trying to share.

**Discussion Boards:** Some of your weekly assignments will use the Discussion Board tab in Blackboard. Those will be indicated by date. During the semester, I will also post links in the Discussion Board to address any questions you might have about the Syllabus, Exams, Response Papers, and Blackboard. Please post any question you might have on the appropriate Discussion Board. Please do not hesitate to email me or message me through Blackboard with any issues of a more personal nature or if the discussions do not fully answer your questions. I check my messages and emails for the last time each weekday before 5 pm; please do not expect an answer after 9 pm or while I am in a class.

**Netiquette:** Netiquette is etiquette used online. Remember, every poster on Blackboard is a living, breathing human being. It should be a positive exchange of ideas. Remember to treat people with the same respect as you would in person. Please don't use ALL CAPS; this is the same as yelling. Simply put – be polite.

**Blackboard Messages:** The best way to contact me is through Blackboard Messages. Messages are private, and all correspondence about the course should go through Messages. Please, only use my

email if Blackboard is unresponsive. Do not send assignments through email; **I will not accept any assignment through email or messages.**

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated:** I consider academic dishonesty (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference with another student's work) to be serious misconduct. Anything that is plagiarized will receive an automatic Zero (0) and possible expulsion from the course or disciplinary action through the school. Simply stated, plagiarism is claiming another author's work as your own. It is theft. **If you quote or use another author's work, you must cite that author.** You can find information about proper citation here: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library/cslibrary/vl/plagiarism.php> If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please feel email or meet with me as soon as possible.

**Other concerns:** I strongly encourage you to meet with me or email to discuss any circumstances that might affect your performance in this class. I cannot assist you if I do not know you have a problem.

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1, August 24 - 28, Reconstruction and the New South**

Readings: Chapter 16, *U. S. History*

Week 1 Assignments, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

### **Week 2, August 31 – Sept. 3, Transforming the West**

Readings: Chapter 17, *U. S. History*

Week 2 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

### **Week 3, Sept. 7 - 11, Industrialization and Factories**

Readings: Chapters 18, *U. S. History*

Week 3 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

### **Week 4, September 14 - 18, Urbanization, the Great Migration, and Immigration**

Readings: Chapters 19, *U. S. History*

**Complete Exam Essay 1 by Thursday at 11 pm.**

### **Week 5, Sept. 21 - 25, Politics in the Gilded Age**

Readings: Chapter 20, *U. S. History*

Week 5 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

### **Week 6, Sept. 28 – October 2, The Progressive Era**

Readings: Chapter 21, *U. S. History*

Week 6 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

### **Week 7, October 5 - 9, An American Empire**

Readings: Chapter 22, *U. S. History*

Week 7 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Week 8, October 12 - 16, The Great War**

Readings: Chapter 23, *U. S. History*

**Complete Exam Essay 2 by Thursday at 11 pm.**

**Week 9, October 19 - 23, The Decade that Roared**

Readings: Chapter 24, *U. S. History*

Week 9 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Week 10, October 26 - 30, And It All Came Crashing Down**

Readings: Chapter 25, *U. S. History*

Week 10 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Week 11, November 2 - 6, The Second World War**

Readings: Chapters 26, *U. S. History*

Week 11 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Week 12, November 9 – 13, The Cold War and Foreign Policy**

Readings: Chapters 27, *U. S. History*

**Complete Exam Essay 3 by Thursday at 11 pm.**

**Week 13, November 16 - 20, The 1950s: Age of Conformity?**

Readings: Chapter 27, *U. S. History*

Week 13 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Week 14, November 23 - 27, The Civil Rights Movements**

Readings: Chapter 28, *U. S. History*

Week 14 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11 pm.

**Essay Over *The Things They Carried*, due by 11 pm on Thursday.**

**Week 15, Nov. 30 – December 4, The 1960s: Age of Rebellion? Vietnam, Watergate, and the Middle East**

Readings: Chapter 29, *U. S. History*

Week 15 Assignment, complete by Thursday at 11pm.

**Week 16, December 7 - 10**

**Complete Exam Essay 4 by 11 pm on Tuesday, December 8th**

The final grade will be available in MySPC by 11 am on December 11th