

Common Course Syllabus

Department: Social Sciences

Course Number: HIST 1302

Course Title: American History Since 1877

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees.

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in reading.

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Meadow

Textbook: Tindal and Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, volume 2, 10th edition. Documents assigned and provided by the instructor.

Course Description: This course is a survey of United States history from the end of Reconstruction to the Present. Primary emphasis is placed on ideas and social concepts that constitute the American heritage.

Course Purpose: To acquaint students with the diversity of American history and to promote critical thinking in interrelating the past with the present. Fundamentally, the course promotes general understanding of a body of knowledge any literate person should possess about the history of his own country.

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all classes, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

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

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who have completed this course will be expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major perspectives in American history.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of cause and effect of major events of the past.

- Understand the nature of history as a fundamental subject in the study of humanity.
- Evaluate the diversity of interpretations of the past and the quality of evidence for that interpretation.
- Tolerate ambiguity in explanations of the past and realize that historical explanation will often be complex and tentative.
- Apply historical knowledge with caution to current events, seeing common threads of development of the past with the present.

Through course assignments, papers, activities, and assessments, students will:

- Demonstrate the ability to read and write clearly and concisely.
- Validate diversity and differences in people.
- Explore relationships of ideas and see their similarities and differences.
- Gain a basic understanding of the career fields related in the major.
- Assimilate and synthesize information.
- Integrate ideas across the curricula.
- Interrelate the past to the present.

HIST 1302, U.S. History Since 1877

Instructor: Dennis Berger, Ph.D

Location: Meadow High School

Class Format: The teaching style will consist almost entirely of lecture. PowerPoint slides will be used to provide a basic outline, but it is the student's responsibility to flesh that out with notes from the lecture and from the readings. Important concepts and terms will be on the PowerPoint so that the student will know the correct spelling as well as the relevant definition. Students should not hesitate to ask the instructor to define a term with which they are not familiar. Students are expected to take notes from the lecture to help them learn the material and study for exams.

Participation: The instructor guarantees that every student in class at the end of the semester will have had at least one question in class. This is not done to humiliate the student, but to encourage them to voice coherent opinions about the subject matter. Students who consider the themes and work in articulating ideas regarding the material will be rewarded (and it will help their grade).

Attendance: Attendance is expected and required. Roll will be taken at each class meeting. On the fifth absence, the student will be dropped from the course with an F. ten percent of the final grade will be based on attendance.

Class Behavior: Behavior during the class period that interferes with the learning process of other students, such as talking, excessive tardiness, and reading non-class materials or sleeping will not be tolerated.

Examinations: There will be three exams during the semester, including the final exam. Exams will primarily be composed of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions. There may be identification or essay questions on as many as two exams. Additionally, there will be three written assignments that will constitute an exam level grade.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 897-9611, ext. 2429 or 2530.

Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days: A student who is absent from classes for the observation of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence, if not

later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent from for a religious holy day.

Grade Calculations: Examinations (and their equivalent): 50% of total grade.
Daily work: 40% of total grade.
Attendance: 10% of total grade.

Grading: All grades will be based upon a 100-point scale:

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

Extra Credit: No extra credit will be assigned. However, at the end of the semester, an essay may be written covering a person or event discussed in class that had an impact on the student. It should cover who or what it was and why it impacted you. Up to a possible 5 points will be provided to the final class grade.

Plagiarism: The term plagiarize is defined as to “take (ideas, writings, etc.) from another and pass them off as one’s own” in *Webster’s New World Dictionary*. In other words, plagiarism is stealing. Students who plagiarize in this class on any test or assignment will be dropped with a final grade of F.

Research Project: In addition to the class exams, another assignment which will constitute a test level grade is the research paper. Said paper will consist of six pages, excluding the title and works cited pages. It will be accomplished in Times New Roman, double spaced, and will follow citation requirements as set forth in Turabian. A list of topics that may be researched are below:

1. Jacob Riis’ *How the Other Half Lives* and its implications for urban reform
2. The Triangle Waistshirt Fire
3. The Second Ku Klux Klan
4. The Five Power Treaty of 1922
5. The 1950s Red Scare and McCarthyism
6. The 1948 Texas Senatorial Race
7. The Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
8. The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley
9. The Stonewall Riots
10. Watergate
11. Reagan and Gorbachev
12. Operation Desert Storm
13. Bush v. Gore
14. FDR’s Court Packing Scheme
15. The Tuskegee Airmen
16. The Great American Songbook
17. The American Indian Movement and the Standoff at Wounded Knee

18. The Rise of American Feminism
19. The Manhattan Project
20. Roe v. Wade
21. The 9/11 Attacks
22. The Moral Majority
23. Woodstock
24. Project Mercury
25. The Invasion of Normandy

Class Schedule

Week of:

Jan 13:	Review Civil War and Reconstruction.
Jan 20:	Rise of Industrialization. Big Business and organized labor.
Jan 27:	Emergence of Urban America. Gilded Age Politics and Agrarian Revolt. Quiz #1
Feb 3:	“Pictures vs. Word? Public History, Tolerance, and the Challenge of Jacob Riis” precis due Monday. Seizing an American empire. The Progressive Era.
Feb 10	America and the Great War. Exam #1
Feb 17	The Modern Temper. Republican Resurgence and Decline. “Stages of Consumerism: Recent Work on the Issues of Periodization” due Friday.
Feb 24	New Deal America
Mar 2:	The Second World War. Quiz #2
Mar 9:	“The ‘Double-V’ Campaign in World War II Hawaii: African Americans, Racial Ideology, and Federal Power” precis due Tuesday. The Fair Deal and Containment. Exam #2.
Mar 16:	Spring Break
Mar 23:	First Draft of Research Paper due Monday. The 1950s: Affluence and Anxiety in an Atomic Age
Mar 30:	New Frontiers: Politics and Social Change in the 1960s. “From Front Porch to Back Seat: A History of the Date” precis due Monday.
Apr 6:	Rebellion and Reaction: The 1960s and 1970s. Quiz #3
Apr 13:	A Conservative Realignment: 1977-1990.
Apr 20:	America in a New Millenium. Research Paper due Friday.
Apr 27:	America in the 21 st Century.
May 4:	Review for final exam. Exam #3