



HIST 3338.001: U.S. History since 1945

Course Basics

Meets Mondays & Wednesdays
2:00 - 3:15pm
Madla Bldg., Room 236

Instructor:

Dr. Bill Bush
Office: STEC 311R
210.784.2200
wbush@tamusa.edu

Office hours:

By appointment

Course website:

<http://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Assigned Texts

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (Dell, 1968)

Kevin Kruse and Julian Zelizer, *Fault Lines: A History of the United States Since 1974* (Norton, 2018)

Select short readings and multimedia materials on Blackboard



Course Description and Objectives

This course explores the history of the United States since World War Two, a period which includes the Cold War, the rise of suburbanization and consumer culture, the civil rights movement, the rights revolution, the Vietnam War, globalization, the rise of international terrorism, the emergence of an information economy powered by the Internet and social media and increasing social and political polarization.

Because this is a college course, it requires students to sharpen their ability to think about facts and not just memorize them. Students will discuss, interpret, analyze, create, and write – activities that represent core academic skills needed to succeed in college and the wider professional world.

This course is a mix of lectures along with reading, writing, and group discussion. Learning is not a spectator sport, and students will need to speak up in class and demonstrate active learning (passive presence is not enough); take good notes in class; and keep up with assigned reading. Students will be responsible for all the assigned content in the books even if we do not “cover” it in class.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on United States history since 1945.



Graded Work

Class Participation & Attendance:	10%
Quarterly Journal:	10%
Group Projects (2):	30%
Exams (2):	50%

Grade Scale

A:	90%-up
B:	80-89%
C:	70-79%
D:	60-69%
F:	0-59%



Course Requirements

Class Participation & Attendance – 10%

Attendance and tardiness will be recorded. Be on time and ready to participate each day. Several of our classes will be devoted to group activities and discussions. I expect class discussion will be lively, respectful, substantive, and that you will have put in the necessary time to read and understand the assigned reading ahead of time. Your P&A grade will include any in-class writing or group work.

Quarterly Journal – 10%

You will upload a journal entry (approximately **500 words**) via Blackboard by no later than 11:59 p.m. on the Friday of a designated journal week. Each entry should reflect a critical engagement with previous assigned materials and class sessions. A good entry should demonstrate that you have grappled with the issues raised. How did the issues challenge, extend, or confirm your understanding of the course’s themes? Late entries will be accepted but will be marked down by up to one full letter grade. Due dates are September 20, October 11, November 8, and December 6.

Group Projects (2) – 30%

Students will be assigned to working groups at the start of the semester and will work in these groups periodically in class where indicated on the syllabus, as well as outside of class. Students will work in their groups to create two mixed-media projects based on our studies this semester. Due dates are September 30 and November 13.

Exams (2) – 50%

The midterm exam will be worth 20% and the final exam 30%. Each exam will be given in class using an exam booklet available at the A&M-SA Bookstore. The exam will be written, with essay and short answer sections. Students will receive essay questions in advance of the exam and will be permitted to prepare a written outline for use during the exam period.

Schedule

#	Date	Topic / Reading	Due in Class
1	Mon 8/26	Course Intro & Overview START READING: Moody, <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	
2	Wed 8/28	The Cold War and the Red Scare READ: "The Cold War," CH 25, <i>The American Yawp</i>	
	Mon 9/2	NO CLASS – Labor Day holiday	
3	Wed 9/4	Consensus & Conflict in the 1950's READ: "The Affluent Society," CH 26, <i>The American Yawp</i>	
4	Mon 9/9	Group-Led Discussion 1: A Jim Crow Childhood READ: Part 1, <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	
5	Wed 9/11	Brown v. Board of Education: Cracking the Racial Consensus "Civil Rights Timeline," Library of Congress	
6	Mon 9/16	Group-Led Discussion 2: Separate Lives READ: Part 2, <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	
7	Wed 9/18	The Movement WATCH: "Eyes on the Prize, vol 2: Ain't Scared of Your Jails, 1960-61" (2006)	Due Fri 9/20: Quarterly Journal Entry #1
8	Mon 9/23	Group-Led Discussion 3: Woke in the Sixties READ: Part 3, <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	
9	Wed 9/25	Kennedy, Johnson, and the Great Society "Great Society Legislation," Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History	
10	Mon 9/30	Group Project Session 1 READ: Part 4, <i>Coming of Age in Mississippi</i>	Project #1
11	Wed 10/2	Vietnam and the Credibility Gap "Vietnam Event Timeline," BBC	
12	Mon 10/7	The Unraveling of America	
13	Wed 10/9	Review for Midterm Exam	Due Fri 10/11: Quarterly Journal Entry #2
14	Mon 10/14	MIDTERM EXAM	
15	Wed 10/16	Positive Polarization in the Nixon Era READ: Intro, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp1-6) WATCH: "The Most Dangerous Man in America" (2009)	

16	Mon 10/21	Malaise in the "Me" Decade WATCH: Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five, "The Message"	
17	Wed 10/23	Group-Led Discussion 5: Crisis of Confidence READ: Chaps 1-2, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 7-43)	
18	Mon 10/28	Identity and Power in the 1970s WATCH: "Willie Velazquez: Your Vote is Your Voice" (2016)	
19	Wed 10/30	Group-Led Discussion 6: Crisis of Belonging READ: Chaps 3-4, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 44-87)	
20	Mon 11/4	The New Right from Goldwater to Reagan	
21	Wed 11/6	Group-Led Discussion 7: The New Right READ: Chaps 5-6, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 88-134)	Due Fri 11/8: Quarterly Journal Entry #3
22	Mon 11/11	Morning in America	
23	Wed 11/13	Group Project Session #2 READ: Chaps 7-8, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 135-179)	Project #2
24	Mon 11/18	New World Orders and Disorders	
25	Wed 11/20	When the Clock Broke: America in the 90s READ: Chap 9-11, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 179-242)	
26	Mon 11/25	Forever Wars, At Home and Abroad READ: Chap 12-13, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 243-288) WATCH: "The Fog of War" (2004)	
	<i>Wed 11/27</i>	<i>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving holiday</i>	
27	Mon 12/2	Student Choice Lecture Day! READ: Chaps 14-15, <i>Fault Lines</i> (pp 289-348)	
28	Wed 12/4	Final Exam Review	Due Fri 12/6: Quarterly Journal Entry #4

FINAL EXAM
Monday, December 9
2:00-3:50pm



Class Policies & Resources

Civility Code: This course explores a period filled with controversy and thus it is inevitable that we will discuss issues about which there is disagreement, maybe even strong disagreement. That's great! Voice those disagreements openly and thoughtfully. But be sure to do so in a respectful way, in the tone and content of your comments. Per the A&M-SA Student Code of Conduct, students should never engage in name-calling, personal insults (open or veiled), bullying, hate speech, or inappropriate profanity.

Technology Policy: You are responsible for ensuring access to course content, including browser compatibility and Internet connectivity. Any issues with these can't be used as an excuse for late or incomplete work. Please contact the university's ITS for any tech support needs.

Academic Dishonesty: Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy which may be found in the A&M-San Antonio Student Handbook: (<http://www.tamusa.edu/studentengagementsuccess>).

Artificial Intelligence Policy: As new technologies like Chat GPT and other AI tools improve and become more available, it will be important for you to understand the different policies and grading methods each of your professors use. In this class, *you are permitted to use AI* in any way you choose, but you are not required to use it. I will not consider AI-generated text to be plagiarism, and I will not penalize it as academic dishonesty. I will grade the work you submit on its own merits using the grading rubrics I will provide. However, *AI alone will not be very good at completing our class assignments*. It is likely that you will not get a very good grade even if you manage to complete an assignment using AI assistance, unless you make substantial improvements of your own. Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found [here](#).

Late Work / Make-Up Policy: Extensions on graded work, or make-up exams, will be given for only the most serious, truly unavoidable medical or family emergencies, and may require official documentation explaining your request. Unexcused late work will be assigned a one-letter grade penalty per day and will not be accepted after the third day.

