

HIST 1302 -- U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1865

Fall Semester 2025

Tu Th 9:30-10:45 AM

Classroom: MADLA 208

Instructor: Dr. William Kiser

Office: Central Academic Building, Room 313F

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:00 or by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover U.S. history from the end of the Civil War through modern times. Themes to be covered include: global trade and economics, U.S. politics, foreign diplomacy, communism and containment, consumerism, civil rights, and the major wars of the time period. We will focus on historical interpretation and critical thinking, rather than merely memorizing names and dates.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create a thesis 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 this period of United States history.
4. Develop analytical writing skills

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

Textbook: *The American Yawp*

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

Additional Required Readings:

Infantry Soldier: Holding the Line at the Battle of the Bulge (Any Edition)

By: George W. Neill

Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism (Any Edition)

By Walter LaFeber

EXAMS

There will be two exams: one midterm and one final. The exams are given in essay-only format in order to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of historical topics and to provide your own interpretations of historical events and themes. It is more important that you be able to exhibit critical thinking skills than to regurgitate a laundry list of names and dates.

Prior to each exam, you will be provided with a list of five possible essay questions to study. Of those five, two will be on the exam, and you will select one question to write your essay on. You must bring a blank green/blue book to each exam.

Exams will not be cumulative, BUT the questions will be based on lecture, the textbook, and supplementary readings. You will not be able to succeed on the exam by only coming to class and not reading (or vice versa).

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

You will be required to write two essays over the supplemental readings. Each of these essays must be at least 1,000 words in length (but no more than 1,300 words), double-spaced, with standard 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Cite your sources in either footnotes or in-text citations. I will provide a prompt for each of the essays, so you will be using the supplementary readings to respond to a specific historical question. We will discuss these assignments and the citation guidelines in greater detail during class. **No internet sources are allowed for these assignments.**

GRADING SCALE

Exams—400 points (midterm exam worth 200 points; final exam worth 200 points)

Written Essays: 400 points (2 essays worth 200 points each)

Quizzes: 100 Points (2 quizzes worth 50 points each)

Attendance & Participation: 100 points

TOTAL POINTS: 1000

A= 1000-900; B = 899-800; C =799-700; D = 699-600; F = 599 and below.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory and is worth 10% of your overall course grade. You will not be able to succeed in this course if you habitually miss class. Please be punctual – do not arrive late, and do not leave early. If you know that you will be late or must leave early, please inform me ahead of time. **If you arrive more than 10 minutes late for class, you will be marked absent for the entire class period.**

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site, which is where your grades will be posted. Powerpoint slides and course announcements will also be posted to Blackboard.

Make-Up Exams: Make-up exams are only allowed for emergencies such as debilitating illness, a death in the immediate family, and religious or school functions. In any case, you must provide documentation of your absence in order to be allowed a make-up exam.

Late Paper Policy: I do not accept late papers. All assignments must be turned in by the deadline.

Classroom Etiquette: Please be respectful in the classroom. Do not get up and leave early, turn your cell phone to silent mode, and do not hold personal conversations during lecture or discussion. Laptops may only be used to take notes.

Communication: E-mail me at any time regarding questions or concerns that you might have. I do my best to respond to email within one day. You may also schedule an appointment to speak with me in my office outside of regular office hours. All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have a Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at sahelp@tamusa.edu or 210-784-4357.

Statement on Artificial Intelligence: Student work must be generated by the students themselves. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing or any other portion of an assignment for them. This includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments, as well as using artificial intelligence tools including but not limited to ChatGPT, OpenAI, and Grammarly.

Support Services & Disclosures

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and

how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>. Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331. Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Academic Misconduct: Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential

consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation. All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/current-year/fall-2025.html>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 11: Quiz 1

October 16: Midterm Exam

October 28: First Writing Assignment Due (Neill)

November 18: Quiz 2

December 2: Second Writing Assignment Due (LaFeber)

December 7-13: Final Exam Week

Week 1: August 26, August 28

Tuesday: Class Introduction & Syllabus

Thursday: Reconstruction

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 15

Week 2: September 2, September 4

Tuesday: Reconstruction

Thursday: The Gilded Age

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 16

Week 3: September 9, September 11

Tuesday: The Gilded Age

Thursday: Span-Am War & Mexican Revolution; **Quiz 1**

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 18

Week 4: September 16, September 18

Tuesday: Span-Am War & Mexican Revolution; Progressive Era

Thursday: Progressive Era

READINGS: Textbook Chapters 19 & 20

Week 5: September 23, September 25

Tuesday: World War I

Thursday: World War I

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 21

Week 6: September 30, October 2

Tuesday: The 1920s

Thursday: The Great Depression

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 22

Week 7: October 7, October 9

Tuesday: The New Deal

Thursday: The New Deal

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 23

Week 8: October 14, October 16

Tuesday: Exam Review; Discuss First Essay Assignment

Thursday: Midterm Exam

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 24

Week 9: October 21, October 23

Tuesday: World War II

Thursday: World War II

Week 10: October 28, October 30

Tuesday: The Cold War; **First Writing Assignment Due (Neill)**

Thursday: The Cold War

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 25

Week 11: November 4, November 6

Tuesday: Postwar America

Thursday: The 1960s

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 26

Week 12: November 11, November 13

Tuesday: The 1960s

Thursday: Vietnam War

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 27

Week 13: November 18, November 20

Tuesday: Vietnam War; **Quiz 2**

Thursday: The 1970s & Domestic Terrorism

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 27

Week 14: November 25

Tuesday: The 1970s & Domestic Terrorism; 1980s & Reagan

Thursday: No Class (Thanksgiving)

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 30

Week 15: December 2, December 4

Tuesday: 1980s & Reagan; The Modern War on Terror; **Second Writing Assignment Due (LaFeber)**

Thursday: The Modern War on Terror

Week 16: Final Exam: Tuesday, December 9th from 12:00-1:50 PM