

HIST 1302 -- U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1865

Fall Semester 2026

Tu Th 9:30-10:45 AM

Classroom: MADLA 210

Instructor: Dr. William Kiser

Office: Central Academic Building, Room 313F

E-Mail: william.kiser@tamusa.edu

OFFICE HOURS:

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Incorporating many perspectives, this course examines Reconstruction, the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, post-war America, and other topics.

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 to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of historical topics and to provide your own interpretations of events and themes. 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).

BOOK EXAMS

You will be required to read two books (Neill and LaFeber, listed above) and take an essay exam on each one. These exams will be taken in class. Students are allowed to use handwritten notes (but not computer-generated notes) and a hard copy of the book (but not an e-book) during the exam. I will provide a prompt for each of these essay exams, so you will be using the readings to respond to a specific historical question.

GRADING SCALE

Midterm Exam: 200 points

Final Exam: 200 points

Book Exams: 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. 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.

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 at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback

from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. 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. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.* The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/current-year/Fall-2026.html>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 10: Quiz 1

October 22: Midterm Exam

October 29: Book Exam (Neill)

November 17: Quiz 2

December 3: Book Exam (LaFeber)

December 8: Final Exam (10:00-11:50 AM)

Week 1: August 25, August 27

Tuesday: Class Introduction & Syllabus

Thursday: WLDCC Introduction; Reconstruction

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 15

Week 2: September 1, September 3

Tuesday: Reconstruction

Thursday: WLDCC Workshop; The Gilded Age

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 16

Week 3: September 8, September 10

Tuesday: The Gilded Age

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

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 18

Week 4: September 15, September 17

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

Thursday: Progressive Era

READINGS: Textbook Chapters 19 & 20

Week 5: September 22, September 24

Tuesday: World War I

Thursday: World War I

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 21

Week 6: September 29, October 1

Tuesday: The 1920s

Thursday: WLDCC Workshop; The Great Depression

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 22

Week 7: October 6, October 8

Tuesday: The New Deal

Thursday: The New Deal

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 23

Week 8: October 13, October 15

Tuesday: World War II

Thursday: World War II

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 24

Week 9: October 20, October 22

Tuesday: Midterm Exam Review

Thursday: Midterm Exam

Week 10: October 27, October 29

Tuesday: The Cold War

Thursday: **Book Exam (Neill)**

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 25

Week 11: November 3, November 5

Tuesday: The Cold War; Postwar America

Thursday: The 1960s

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 26

Week 12: November 10, November 12

Tuesday: The 1960s

Thursday: Vietnam War

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 27

Week 13: November 17, November 19

Tuesday: Vietnam War; **Quiz 2**

Thursday: The 1970s & Domestic Terrorism

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 27

Week 14: November 24

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

Thursday: No Class (Thanksgiving)

READINGS: Textbook Chapter 30

Week 15: December 1, December 3

Tuesday: The Modern War on Terror

Thursday: **Book Exam (LaFeber)**

Week 16: Final Exam: Tuesday, December 8th, 10:00-11:50 AM