

Hist. 1302.008 -- U.S. HISTORY Since 1865

Spring Semester 2024

TR 9-30-10:45

Classroom Hall 319

Instructor: Mr. Chad DeMars

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OFFICE HOURS: TR 1-1:45 & by appointment CAB 348

All emails will be answered within two business days.

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

COURSE READINGS

Textbook:

The American Yawp

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html> The American Yawp Reader

Online only: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html> These readings will be assigned with chapters.

Additional supplemental materials will be posted to Blackboard.

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 review to study. You will be provided with lined paper for the exam. Exams will not be cumulative, BUT the questions will be based on lectures, the textbook, and the 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. The first of these writing assignments must be at least 250 words. The second essay must be at least 900 words in length. Both must be double-spaced, with standard 1-inch margins and 12-point font. Cite your sources in footnotes. 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.

## QUIZZES

Most weeks we will have a quiz. These will usually be short-answer questions based on the assigned textbook readings. Makeup quizzes will only be offered for excused absences as described in the Policies section of the syllabi.

## GRADING SCALE

Exams—500 points (One Midterm worth 250 points and a final exam worth 250 points)

Written Essays: 300 points (1 short essay worth 100 points and 1 longer essay worth 200 points ) Quizzes: 100 points (10 quizzes worth 10 points each)

Discussion Days- 100 Points

Attendance: Each two unexcused absences will result in a loss on 10 points. Please refer to university policy for what constitutes an excused absence.

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. 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.

Extra Credit: I do not offer extra credit.

Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site, which is where your grades will be posted. I will also use Blackboard for course announcements throughout the semester. I do not post any lecture notes online – you must attend class and take your own notes.

Make-Up Exams/Quizzes: Make-up exams/quizzes 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. Online at the provided turnitin link on Blackboard.

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. Earbuds/headphones are not allowed unless part of accommodations.

Communication: E-mail me regarding questions or concerns that you might have. I do my best to respond within one day. You may also schedule an appointment to speak with me in my office outside of regular office hours. Blackboard messaging from students is not well organized for instructors, making it a more difficult platform for communication. Official university email is the best way to reach me.

## IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

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 is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you

know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 2107841331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff, and faculty who are registered in JagE Alert, will have the option to receive a text message, email, and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

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 the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend 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.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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 [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students ([DOS@tamusa.edu](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance, if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person,

Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under A&M System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community.

While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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 nonpunitive 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 Policy: 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 submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook. 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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student. Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C. Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

#### Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and staff, and the administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with and compliant with the University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and in the University Catalog.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official University notifications.
6. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

#### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Schedule is tentative. Assignment date changes will never be moved up, only pushed back as needed. Any changes will be announced in class.

Week 1 Jan 16-19

T-Class Introduction & Syllabus

R- Discuss Secession Documents and The Causes of the Civil War (Graded)

**READINGS: Secession Docs**

Week 2 Jan 22-26

T- Reconstruction

R- Out on the Frontier

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 15&16**

Week 3 Jan 29-Feb 2

T-: Rise of the Robber Barons

R- Discontent & Reform

Jan 31 Census Date

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 17 & 18**

Week 4 Feb 5-9

T- The Colorful Left Coast

R- The Spanish American War & Male Identity on the Eve of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 19 & 20**

**2-11- Main Idea Paper Due**

Week 5 Feb 12-16

T- TR & Taft

R- The Great War

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 21**

Week 6 Feb 19-23

T- White Supremacy in the 1920s

R- 1920s Prohibition & Consequences

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 22**

Week 7 Feb 26-March 1

T- Class Discussion on the Progressive Era (Graded)

R- The Crash and the Early Great Depression

Week 8 March 4-8

T- Midterm Exam

R- FDR & The New Deal

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 23**



Week 9 March 11-15

**Spring Break**

Week 10 March 18-22

T- Defining Fascism and its rise in Europe & Asia

R- World War 2

**READINGS: Textbook Chapters 24 & 25**

Week 11 March 25-29

T- The Holocaust and the Atomic Bomb with Discussion

R- NAZI Roots of NASA (Operation Paperclip)

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 26**

Week 12 April 1-5

T- Truman and Containment

R- Emmett Till from Chicago

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 27**

Week 13 April 8-12

T- Civil Rights

R- Cost War Hot Spots

Last Day to Drop with Automatic W April 13

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 28, Watch Two Days in October**

Week 14 April 15-19

T- Nixon, CREEP & a Constitutional Crisis

R- Class Discussion of Two Days in October & Nixon (Graded)

**Response Paper Due 4/21**

Week 15 April 22-26

T- The Regan Era and the end of the Cold War

R- Discussion of the 1980s and Catchup. (Graded)

**READINGS: Textbook Chapter 29 &30**

Week 16 April 29-May 7

Exams Week, **Final TBD**