HIST 134: History of the United States, 1877-Present

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Textbook:

Course Requirements: All students are required to complete all exams and quizzes of the course.

Attendance is a vital element in understanding the course material and will be a graded portion of the course. I expect every student to heed the warnings concerning attendance. Lecture material is the portal through which critical topics are discussed and disseminated; a missed lecture is a missed opportunity. If you choose to miss class you will be solely responsible for your poor grade.

Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
HIS 134 includes instruction in the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

In addition to learning the above, students in HIS 134 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written and visual communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of how humans in the past have engaged effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical decisions.

General Education Core Curriculum
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills,
Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Other class requirements are as follows:
I expect all students to act as responsible adults; any undue disruptions or distractions will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Make every attempt to be on time to class. Arriving late disrupts class and demonstrates a lack of seriousness and interest about the course. I will not tolerate tardiness. Thus, I will give you about a five minute “grace period” after class begins. After those five minutes are up I will lock the door, which means that you will not be able to enter the classroom and will be counted absent. Make sure that you fully understand this class policy.

Exams, Quizzes, and Grading: There will be two one hundred (100) point mid-term examinations and a one hundred (100) point examination given during the scheduled final examination period in the course. The exams will consist of two (2) sections, one that you will complete in class, and one that you will prepare outside of class. Section I consist of 10 short answer questions/terms. You will be required to answer 7 and they will be worth ten (10) points each (70 points). Section II will be a take-home primary/secondary document analysis portion. On the day of the exam you will be given a packet of primary source documents along with questions concerning those documents. These will also be posted on the D2L site for the course. You will complete this section outside of class and it is due one week after the scheduled class exam—NO EXCEPTIONS. You may not turn this portion in late. This section is worth 30 points.

In addition to exams there will be semi-daily quizzes over lecture material. These quizzes will be given orally during the first portion of class. They will consist of five very basic factual questions each worth 2 points each, for a total of 10 points. We will have at least 13 of these quizzes during the semester, and may have as many as 20. However, I will only count your 10 highest scores, which means that your quizzes will be worth 100 points.

The scheduled dates for the exams and quizzes are contained within the schedule portion of your syllabus. My advice is to make a full effort to take the exams and quizzes at the scheduled time. While I will offer a make-up for a missed mid-term (there are no makeups for missed quizzes), there is a qualification concerning the make-up. Any make-up exam must be scheduled and completed within one week of the missed exam. After that time period, you will receive a zero for the missed grade.

Calculation of Attendance Grade
After the second day of class I will begin to take an official roll. Each student will begin the semester with 70 attendance points. You will lose points from that total for each absence on a graduated basis as follows:

1-2 absences: 2 points subtracted for each absence
3-4 absences: 6 points subtracted for each absence
More than 4: 12 points subtracted for each absence
Example: if a student misses 2 classes, his/her attendance grade will be 66 (2 x 2 = 4); If a student misses 4 classes, his/her attendance grade will be 46 (4 x 6 = 24); if a student misses 6 classes, his/her attendance grade will be 2 (6 x 12 = 72) As you can see, the more class you miss the more it impacts your final grade. Once you miss more than 5 classes, you will be giving points from exams and quizzes back.

Please, each student take careful note of the following policy as it is often a point of confusion for students. There is no such thing as an “excused” absence in this course, except for a student attending an official, university-sanctioned event or an absence specifically exempted through university policy (i.e. athletic, academic, non-social organization function or a recognized religious holiday). In other words, it matters not that you were ill, attending Aunt Martha’s funeral, your sister’s wedding, working, hung over, or at a doctor’s appointment. IF YOU ARE NOT PRESENT, YOU ARE ABSENT. You cannot bring a doctor’s note or any other kind of documentation and receive the points for attendance. This policy is not negotiable. If you feel that you cannot meet this requirement, you should drop the course immediately. As you can see, I take attendance very seriously.

Grade Criteria:
Mid-term exam #1.......................................................100 points
Mid-term exam #2.......................................................100 points
Quizzes—10 @ 10 points each..........................................100 points
Final Exam.................................................................100 points
Attendance...............................................................70 points
Possible points..........................................................470 points

Your grade will be calculated as a percentage of the possible points on the following scale:
470-421-A 372-327-C 279 and below-F
420-373-B 326-280-D

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any student caught in such unethical activity will receive a zero for the assignment. Serious violations, such as stealing an exam or downloading a paper from the Internet, will result in automatic failure of the course. I will also report cheating to your dean as described in university policy A-9.1. Under this policy, students charged with more than one violation during their academic careers will be summoned before the University Committee on Academic Integrity. If the Committee validates the charges, it may place students on probation or suspend them. You may read the policy, including your right to appeal charges of dishonesty, at:
http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/CHEATING_AND_PLAGIARISM.html

Special Arrangements: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from Disabled Students Services, Dean of Students Office. Any arrangements made are strictly confidential.
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 (15) day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (University Policy A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade average.

Lecture, Reading, and Exam Schedule:
Week One:
Aug. 27: Introduction to Course
Aug. 29: Industrialization and Railroads; 457-466
Aug. 31: Industrialization (cont.)

Week Two:
Sept. 3: The Rise of the City
Sept. 5: Indian Wars and Farmers: The American West in the Late 19th Century; 435-455
Sept. 7: The American South and the Fate of African Americans After Reconstruction; 478-479; 519-522

Week Three:
Sept. 10: Immigrants, Religion, and Workers: Men and Women During the Gilded Age; 467-478
Sept. 12: The Spoils System and Populists: Politics in the Late 19th Century; 480-491
Sept. 14: The Progressive Impulse; Chp. 20 and 511-519

Week Four:
Sept. 17: Progressive Impulse (cont.)
Sept. 19: Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism; 522-532
Sept. 21: Woodrow Wilson and Democratic Progressivism; 532-539

Week Five:
Sept. 24: The U.S. and World War I: From Ferdinand to Intervention; 541-547
Sept. 26: Wilson and Ending World War I; 547-563
Sept. 28: Exam #1

Week Six:
Oct. 1: The 1920s: A Too Often Forgotten—But Important—Decade; Chp. 23
Oct. 3: 1920s (cont.)
Oct. 5: The Great Depression: Causes and Initial Action; 591-596
Week Seven:
Oct. 8: The New Deal and the Great Depression; 596-621
Oct. 10: New Deal (Cont.)
Oct. 12: World War II: The Road to Pearl Harbor; 623-638

Week Eight:
Oct. 15: World War II: Europe and the Pacific; 638-667
Oct. 17: The Cold War: Beginnings; 669-675; 680-683
Oct. 19: In Class SI Session

Week Nine:
Oct. 22: The Cold War: From Korea to Cuba; 683-693; 724-728
Oct. 24: The Vietnam War: A Cold War War; 743-748; 759-762; 787-793
Oct. 26: Nixon and Détente; 785-787

Week Ten:
Oct. 29: Ending the Cold War; 801-804; 824-827; 831-836
Oct. 31: The Affluent Society: America in the 1950s; 707-719
Nov. 2: Exam #2

Week Eleven:
Nov. 5: 1950s (cont.)
Nov. 7: The Civil Rights Movement; 695-707; 728-732; 735-743; 767-769
Nov. 9: Civil Rights (Cont.)

Week Twelve:
Nov. 12: More Civil Rights
Nov. 14: The New Frontier and the Great Society; 721-724; 732-735; 763-766
Nov. 16: Protests, Hippies, and Rock and Roll: The Counter-Culture and the New Left; 748-755; 758-759;

Nov. 19-23: No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Thirteen:
Nov. 26: Counter-Culture/New Left (cont.)
Nov. 28: Nixon and Watergate: An American Crisis; 781-786; 793-798
Nov. 30: The 1970s: A Strange Decade; 805-815

Week Fourteen:
Dec. 5: Clinton’s America and the Millennium; 845-858
Dec. 7: 9/11 and the War on Terror: Change in America; 859-871