SYLLABUS FOR HIS 134.004 and HIS 134.005
AMERICAN HISTORY FROM 1877

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe
Class Time: MWF 8-9 or 9-10
Room: F 472
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310
Office Hours: MWF 10-11, T-Th 9-10, or by appointment
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Objective and Purpose: The purpose of this class is for students to understand and evaluate the various social, political, ideological, and economic factors that shaped American history from 1877. Students will demonstrate their mastery of material through their performance on exams. By the end of the semester students will be able to use their newly acquired knowledge to interpret, analyze, and assess historical sources and contemporary interpretations of the past so as to recognize their biases and place current societal debates in historical context.

Text: Tindall and Shi’s America: A Narrative, vol. 2.

MakeUps: You have 24 hours to contact me if you miss a test. I will give all make-up exams on Friday, 22 November at 6:30 AM.

Grading Rationale:
First Midterm 33%
Second Midterm 33%
Final 33%

There are also two optional assignments that I will discuss after the first exam.

Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: 59 or less. You must complete and pick up all assignments to pass the class.

Attendance Policy: You can miss up to and including six hours of class without penalty. For each hour missed thereafter, for any reason whatsoever, I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating: If I catch you cheating on an exam or the paper, I will fail you for the exam or for the course.

Pet Peeves:
1. No cellphones on your desks. If I catch you scanning your cellphone during class, I can and will throw you out, and you won’t be allowed back until you complete a writing assignment for me.
2. No computers in class without permission.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments:
Week 1:
Mon 26 Aug  Gilded Age
Wed 28 Aug  Immigration and Urbanization
Fri 30 Aug  Big Business and Labor

Week 2:
Mon 2 Sep  Discussion
Wed 4 Sep  Populism and the 1890s
Fri 6 Sep  Progressivism

Week 3:
Mon 9 Sep  American Overseas Expansionism
Wed 11 Sep  Discussion
Fri 13 Sep  Wilson and the Road to World War One
**Week 4:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 25
Mon 16 Sep  United States in World War One
Wed 18 Sep  1920s Politics
Fri 20 Sep  Discussion

**Week 5:**  Tindall and Shi, chapters 26-27
Mon 23 Sep  First Exam
Wed 25 Sep  Life in the 1920s
Fri 27 Sep  Hoover and the Great Depression
**Week 6:**  Tindall and Shi, chapters 28-29
Mon 30 Sep  Roosevelt and the New Deal
Wed 2 Oct  Road to World War Two
Fri 4 Oct  United States in World War Two
**Week 7:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 30-31
Mon 7 Oct  Discussion
Wed 9 Oct  Cold War’s Origins
Fri 11 Oct  Truman and Postwar America
**Week 8:**  Tindall and Shi, chapters 32-33
Mon 14 Oct  1950s Politics
Wed 16 Oct  Life in the 1950s
Fri 18 Oct  Civil Rights Movement
**Week 9:**
Mon 21 Oct  Second Exam
Wed 23 Oct  Kennedy Administration
Fri 25 Oct  Discussion
**Week 10:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 34
Mon 28 Oct  Johnson and the Great Society
Wed 30 Oct  Vietnam War
Fri 1 Nov  Counterculture
**Week 11:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 35
Mon 4 Nov  Nixon’s Foreign Policy
Wed 6 Nov  Discussion
Fri 8 Nov  Nixon’s Domestic Policy
**Week 12:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 36
Mon 11 Nov  Politics in the 1970s
Wed 13 Nov  Life in the 1970s
Fri 15 Nov  Discussion
**Week 13:**  Tindall and Shi, chapter 37
Mon 18 Nov  Reagan and 1980s Politics
Wed 20 Nov  Cold War Ends
Fri 22 Nov  Clinton and 1990s Politics
**Week 14:**
Mon 2 Dec  Bush and Iraq
Wed 4 Dec  Obama Years
Fri 6 Dec  Discussion

**Final:**  For the 8 AM class it’s on Wednesday, 11 December, at 8 AM
For the 9 AM class it’s on Monday, 9 December, at 8 AM
Pointless Stuff that Administrators Insist Faculty Place In Their Syllabi Even Though It Could Just As Easily Be Put In the Student Handbook and Thereby Save The University Money

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:
HIS 133 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives towards both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for social science classes set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Board has identified six skills, or “intellectual competencies,” as the foundation for all university-level work: reading, writing, listening, speaking, critical thinking and computer literacy. This section of HIS 133 offers students experience in all of these areas, except for speaking. In addition, this course will emphasize the Coordinating Board’s objectives for social science classes:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American political history from the colonial period to 1877, with emphasis on colonial government, the creation and ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the formation of the federal government and its relation with the states, and Texas independence and annexation.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American economic history from the colonial period to 1877.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American social history from the colonial period to 1877 with emphasis on immigration and social change, reform movements, race and ethnicity, family and gender roles, and religion and culture.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of American foreign policy from the colonial period to 1877.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods historians use to gather and analyze evidence.
- Students will be able to use the knowledge and skills gained in the course in the fulfillment of their responsibilities as active citizens in a democratic society.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades 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 point average.

Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Explanation of credit hours awarded for course:
HIS 134 (United States History II) meets for 150 minutes each week for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc). Typical sections of the course require students to take 2-3 exams per semester, in addition to the final exam. Combined, studying for quizzes/exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom.