History 134.006 -- U.S. History Survey, 1877-Present

Syllabus, Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Troy Davis
Department: History
Office: 303, Liberal Arts North
Office Hours: M-F 9:00-9:50 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m.; and by appointment
Office Phone: 468-2229 or 468-3802
E-Mail: TDavis@sfasu.edu
Class Meeting Time and Place: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., Ferguson 472
SI Leader and Meeting Information: Mary Piro, MW 3:00-4:00 p.m., Lumberjack Landing Room 139B

Optional Textbook: *The American Yawp: A Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook*, available online at http://www.americanyawp.com. (The textbook for this course is optional. All material appearing on the exams in the course are covered in class during lecture. However, some students are visual learners who benefit from access to a textbook as a supplement to lecture. I am suggesting *American Yawp* to those students because it is available free of charge online. If you prefer to read hard copies of books, any U.S. history textbook available in the SFA bookstore, covering the period since 1877, will work just fine.)

Additional Books (required):
- *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family*, by Yoshiko Uchida

Course description for History 134 from SFA General Bulletin: Comprehensive survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Meets Texas state requirements for all graduates.

Course grade: Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on four equally weighted exams. The fourth exam will be administered during finals week, but it will be non-cumulative. Each exam will be a combination of objective questions and short essay questions.

Attendance policy: Regular attendance is an important part of the educational experience in any university-level course. Accordingly, your final average in this course will be dropped three percentage points for each absence beyond six. In addition, in order to discourage excessive tardiness, which is distracting to both the instructor and other students, two tardies will be treated as the equivalent of one absence. (If you have to leave any class meeting early for some legitimate reason, please notify Dr. Davis of that fact before the class period begins. Otherwise, you will be counted absent for that class period.)

Makeup policy: Makeup exams will be allowed only in documented cases of emergency. If you fail to show up for an exam without having consulted with Dr. Davis beforehand (or without having called the History Department beforehand in an attempt to consult with Dr. Davis), you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. Makeup exams that are allowed will be administered during the last week of classes and will follow an all-essay format.

Policy on cheating: Cheating is an extremely serious offense and will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. A full description of university procedures in response to cheating and plagiarism can be found on-line at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/. Click on Policy 4.1 “Student Academic Dishonesty.”

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, 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/.

Cell phones: Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices before coming to class.

Classroom conduct: Unprofessional or inappropriate behavior, especially any that might distract or demoralize other students or interfere with their learning (side conversations, texting, sleeping in class, etc.), may result in your being asked to leave the classroom.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:


Topic 4 — The United States and the Great War. *American Yawp*, chapter 21. (Also, have *Honest Graft* completed by the date of the first exam.)

**September 23 — First exam: Will cover Topics 1-4, plus *Honest Graft*.**


**October 18 — Second Exam: Will cover Topics 5-7.**

Topic 8 — The United States in World War II. *American Yawp*, chapter 24 continued.


Topic 10 — The Eisenhower Years. *American Yawp*, chapter 26. (Also, have *Desert Exile* completed by the date of the third exam.)

**November 13 — Third Exam: Will cover Topics 8-10, plus *Desert Exile*.**


**Wednesday, December 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Fourth Exam: Will cover Topics 11-13.**
Additional Information on Learning Outcomes and University Policies Relevant to this Course

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.

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. Many also require students to take quizzes. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. 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. Online sections of the course contain extensive written content within modules, and instructors hold "electronic office hours" to consult with students as needed, generally responding to student inquiries within twenty-four hours. Online course content includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least 150 minutes per week. Besides engaging the material in the modules, online students have outside reading assignments similar to those mentioned above for face-to-face students. Thus, for every hour an online student spends engaging the content in the modules, he/she spends at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

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.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to D2L this semester, and the date
the assignment should be uploaded to D2L. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Due in D2L</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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**Source Analysis Assignment**
To measure the success of student acquisition of these mandated skills, one assignment during the semester will require critical analysis of an historical event in United States history from the period before 1877. Each student will be provided a selection of primary and/or secondary sources to interpret and evaluate, place in historical context, and utilize to answer a series of questions. This source analysis assignment will require that students think critically about the sources, examine how individual choices and decisions influenced the course of history, and consider the ways in which people engage with regional, national, or global communities. Completion of this assignment is required by the university and is an important component in the successful completion of this course. **Further instructions will be provided towards the end of the semester.**

**Academic Integrity**
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/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

**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.