American History 13-497 – 1877-Present

Course Overview and Goals

Course Description: American History 1302 is a continuation of History 1301 and is a historical survey of American History from 1877 to present. Topics included in this course will be: Settlement of the West, The Gilded Age, Immigration, Industrialization, and Urbanization, Imperialism, The Progressive Era, World War I, The Jazz Age (1920s), The Great Depression and The New Deal, World War 2, The Cold War, The 1960s and Vietnam, The Civil Rights Movement, The 1970s and Watergate, and from the 1980s to the Present. Since this is a survey course, a wide variety of subjects will be covered including Social History, Political History, Military History, as well as major events in science, technology, medicine, industry, and economics.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop critical thinking skills which would include the knowledge, comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and the evaluation of the significant events of United States history.

2. To enable the student to understand the primary elements of cultural heritage and the cultural diversity of the United States.

3. To foster in the student an understanding of the uses of historical knowledge, to show how the past helps to explain the present, and to assist the student in developing a historical perspective in and for one’s personal life.

4. To provide students with a base of historical knowledge and the tools to further their studies in other disciplines and as transfer students to other colleges.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required per Texas State School Compulsory Attendance Law and taken daily.

Academic and personal integrity: Plagiarism and cheating during an examination is considered intellectual theft. It will result in a zero for the assignment and referral to administrators without any opportunity for making redress; it may result in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help on a test, copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers. Such misconduct may result in the student being placed on disciplinary probation or suspension (dismissal).

Classroom Civility: Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Assignments:

Quizzes:
- There will be twelve (12) quizzes during the semester.
- Quizzes will cover textbook chapters and lectures.
- Each quiz will carry the same weight. Each quiz is worth 10 points.
- The instructor will drop the two lowest quiz grades.
- No makeup quizzes will be given.

**Book Reviews:**
- You will write a book review over a book you will read this semester.
- Each book review will be worth 50 points.
- You will be provided with topics and guidelines at a later date.
- No late work will be accepted for any reason.

**Tests:**
- You will take three exams. Each will cover the textbook and class lectures.
- The exams will be in essay format.
- Bring a bluebook and pen to the exam.
- Each exam will be worth 100 points.

**Grade Determination:**
- Quizzes: 10 points each, 12 per semester, drop lowest two: 100 points total
- Book Reviews: 100 points
- Exams: 3 total, 100 points each, 300 points total
- 500 total points for the semester

**Letter Grade Assignment:**

- **A** 90-100% 450-500 Points
- **B** 80-89% 400-449 Points
- **C** 70-79% 350-399 Points
- **D** 60-69% 300-349 Points
- **F** 59% and Below 299 Points

**Make-up Exam Policy:** The instructor must be notified before the exam if an exam is to be missed. Upon your return proper documentation must be presented to be able to make-up an exam.

**Extra Credit: Pop Culture Points**- You will have the opportunity to earn 10 extra credit points throughout the semester. Anytime you find a reference to U. S. History in the mass media you may either fill out a form outlining what the reference is for one (1) point or copy or download the reference for me to see for two (2) points.

**Readings:**


**Test Dates:**

**Paper Due Dates**
- Paper #1 – Thursday, March 7 - 10 points extra credit if turned in by Thursday, February 28.
- Paper #2 – Thursday, May 2 - 10 points extra credit if turned in by Thursday, April 25

**Note**- Please be reminded that this a COLLEGE course and will be treated as such. There will be no late work accepted, no retaking or redoing assignments or tests, no reassessments, and no extra credit (except for Pop Culture points and turning book reviews in early).

**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.

**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.


**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/.