SYLLABUS FOR HIS 134.001
US HISTORY 1877 - PRESENT

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Taaffe
Room: F 477
Office: Dugas Liberal Arts North 310
Office Hours: M-Th 9:30 to 10 and 12:15 to 12:45, or by appointment
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Texts: Tindall and Shi’s America, A Narrative, vol. 2 (any edition)

MakeUps: You have 24 hours to contact me if you miss a test. I will give all make-up exams on Thursday, 8 August, at 6:30 AM.

Grading Rationale:
Midterm 50%
Final Exam 50%

There is also an optional assignment factored in equally with the others 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, except for the final exam, to pass the class.

Attendance Policy: You can skip up to and including six hours of class for any reason, excused or unexcused, but I will deduct a letter grade off your final grade for each hour missed after that, regardless of the reason.

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.

Disability Services: If you have a proven disability, I am willing to make reasonable accommodations if you come see me before the first exam with the required paperwork. I define what is and is not “reasonable.”

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.

Other Details: Read the SFA handbook for anything else.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: Tindall and Shi, chapters 19-24
Tue 16 Jul Gilded Age and Immigration and Urbanization
Wed 17 Jul Big Business and Labor and Discussion
Thu 18 Jul Populism and the 1890s and Progressivism

Week 2: Tindall and Shi, chapter 25-30
Mon 22 Jul American Overseas Expansionism and Wilson and the Road to World War One
Tue 23 Jul United States in World War One and Discussion
Wed 24 Jul 1920s Politics and Life in the 1920s
Thu 25 Jul Hoover and the Great Depression and Roosevelt and the New Deal
Week 3:
- **Mon 29 Jul**: Tindall and Shi, chapters 31-34
- **Tue 30 Jul**: Discussion and Cold War’s Origins
- **Wed 31 Jul**: MIDTERM
- **Thu 1 Aug**: Postwar America and Korean War and the 1950s

Week 4:
- **Mon 5 Aug**: Life in the 1950s and Civil Rights Movement
- **Tue 6 Aug**: Kennedy Administration and Discussion
- **Wed 7 Aug**: Johnson and the Great Society and Vietnam War
- **Thu 8 Aug**: Counterculture and Discussion

Week 5:
- **Mon 12 Aug**: Nixon’s Presidency and 1970s Politics
- **Tue 13 Aug**: Life in the 1970s and Reagan and Conservative Resurgence
- **Wed 14 Aug**: End of the Cold War and Discussion
- **Thu 15 Aug**: Clinton and 1990s Politics and Bush and Iraq

**Final Exam**: Friday, 16 August

**Course Objectives:**
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American political history since 1877, with emphasis on the expansion of federal and presidential power, the evolution of American political parties, and the role of dissenters in American politics.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American economic history since 1877, with emphasis on the role of corporations and the rise of the welfare state.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American social history since 1877 with emphasis on urban history, reform movements, labor history, family and gender roles, and religion and culture.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the changing role of the US in the world since 1877, with emphasis on imperialism of the 1890s, World War I, World War II, the origins of the Cold War, and the Vietnam War.
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in cultural interactions since 1877, with emphasis on immigration to the United States, the history of ethnic/race relations, and the post-war Civil Rights movement.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods historians use to gather and analyze evidence about the past.
7. 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.

**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.

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:**
HIS 134 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 134 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:
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American political history since 1877, with emphasis on the expansion of federal and presidential power, the evolution of American political parties, and the role of dissenters in American politics.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American economic history since 1877, with emphasis on the role of corporations and the rise of the welfare state.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of key developments in American social history since 1877 with emphasis on urban history, reform movements, labor history, family and gender roles, and religion and culture.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the changing role of the US in the world since 1877, with emphasis on imperialism of the 1890s, World War I, World War II, the origins of the Cold War, and the Vietnam War.
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6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods historians use to gather and analyze evidence about the past.
7. 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](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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).