US History 1302.512  
From 1877 to present  
Fall 2020

Instructor: Lea B. Clark  
Class meetings: online  
Office hours: Tues/Thurs 9 to noon, or by appt.  
Contact info: email: Lea.Clark@sfasu.edu

Course Description  
A comprehensive survey of American history from Reconstruction to the present.

This semester we will be looking at the ‘growth of America’ and how that theme changes as we move from one unit to the next.
To fully benefit from this course, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss and share ideas, participate actively and respectfully, and be willing to challenge yourself and your beliefs.
The best discussions require you to be open to hearing alternative points of view and learning to argue your position constructively.
You will be asked to validate your opinions in writing throughout the semester.

Course Requirements  
Assignments will consist of three in-class essay examinations, three document-based essays, reading quizzes, and other daily work. Attendance will play a role in your final grade.

Grading Policy  
Exams [30%]

There will be three exams throughout the semester that will correlate with the three modules. These exams will consist of multiple-choice / short answer questions related directly to the lecture material. Please see the exam schedule for dates.

Essays [30%]

You will be submitting three essays throughout the semester. All essays will be submitted via dropbox in D2L. Please see the essay schedule for dates.

Participation [40%]

Finally, as this is a online class, you will have regular responses, discussion prompts, and possible other various small assignments throughout the semester.
Text

I will be using the text book *America: A Narrative History* by Shi and Tindall as my primary source. You are not required to purchase the book, but it is a good resource. It reads like a typical text book.

Another good text you might consider is *A Short History of the United States* by Robert Remini. It is a much easier read, but does lack some detail.

My personal favorite, because it is free, is *The American Yawp*. You can find this online at americanyawp.com

Technology

If you do not have access to a computer at home, you will need to make arrangements to use the computers on campus.

While I understand that students sometimes need access to phones for family emergencies, it is easy to become distracted by technology. Please place your phones on silent during class and refrain from texting.

Student Learning Outcomes

HIS 1302 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 classes designated for inclusion in the American History Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

HIS 1302 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.

More specific objectives will be included in each of the content modules.
Course responsibilities

I will follow the syllabus and keep to the schedule as best I can, but promise to notify you if there are any changes.

It is your responsibility to come to class, keep up with the reading, and prepare for assignments.

The grade you earn is determined by the quality of your effort, not necessarily by the amount of time you spend.

Consultations

You are always welcome to contact me to discuss readings, lectures or anything else that you have concerns or questions about.

If you are having problems in the class, the worst possible thing you can do is wait until the end of the semester to say something. Let me know right away, so that I can help you.

Professionalism

Students are expected to be on time and to behave in a professional manner. Disruptive or distracting behavior will not be tolerated. Students reading non-course material or disrupting the class in any way will be asked to leave the room.

The penalty for cheating and plagiarism will range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course and referral to your dean, depending on the severity of the incident.

Make-up Work

No make-up exams will be given unless you make prior arrangements to miss the regularly scheduled exam. If you miss an exam due to an emergency on the day of an exam, you will not be allowed to take a make-up until you provide written documentation to justify your absence.

No make-up quizzes will be given regardless of the reason for the absence. Three grades will be dropped; any missed quizzes will count as one of your drops. Students missing more than three classes in which quizzes were administered should speak with the teacher.

Because you have multiple days to turn in reading answers and papers, no late work will be accepted and there are no alternative assignments to replace work turned in after the due date/time.

EXPLANATION OF CREDIT HOURS AWARDED FOR COURSE:

HIS 133 (United States History I) 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (SFA POLICY 4.1)
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; and/or; 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 one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or, incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

You may read the complete policy at
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

WITHHELD GRADES (SFA POLICY 5.5)
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.

DISABILITY POLICY (SFA POLICY 6.1)
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/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND THE SFA WAY (SFA POLICY 10.4)
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program.
Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

For information on the Student Code of Conduct, called The SFA Way, go to:
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/students-conduct-code.pdf

CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
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, Personal Responsibility, Social Responsibility, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork. The Coordinating Board has indicated that American history courses should focus on the first four of these objectives, although this course will also provide some opportunities for you to improve your teamwork skills.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT 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.