US History Since 1877  
HIS 134-486

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Office: HS Room  
Office Hours: 12:39-1:26 pm  
Department: History  
Class meeting time and place: Mrs. King's HS Classroom: 8:45 to 9:32 am

Course Description:  
A comprehensive survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Meets Texas state requirements for all graduates.

Texts and Materials:

Required Textbook: Alan Brinkley, The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People,  

Historic Novel: Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High by Melba Pattillo Beals ---this novel will be provided to you

Documentary Series: The Century: America's Time. This series will be used in class during the lectures and can be found online with YouTube.

Course Calendar:

Unit 1: The Gilded Age and Progressive Era (approximately 3 weeks)  
Chapter 17-20 in the Unfinished Nation  
Lecture, discussions, The Century: America’s Time documentary, etc…  
2 Quizzes and one Exam

Unit 2: WWI, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression and the New Deal (approximately 3 weeks)  
Chapter 21-24 in the Unfinished Nation  
Lecture, discussions, The Century: America’s Time documentary, etc…  
2 Quizzes and one Exam
**Unit 3: WWII and the Cold War** (approximately 3-4 weeks)
- Chapters 25-27 in the Unfinished Nation
- Lecture, discussions, The Century: America’s Time documentary, etc…
- 2 Quizzes and one Exam

**Unit 4: The Civil Rights Movement and Vietnam Era** (approximately 3-4 weeks)
- Chapters 28-30 in the Unfinished Nation
- Lecture, discussions, The Century: America’s Time documentary, etc…
- *Warriors Don’t Cry* novel and the Source Analysis Assignment
- 2 Quizzes and one Exam

**Unit 5: The Reagan Years and Beyond** (approximately 1 week)
- Chapters 31-32 in the Unfinished Nation
- Lecture, discussions, The Century: America’s Time documentary, etc…
- 1 Quiz

**Grading Policy:**

40% of your grade will come from quizzes

**Quizzes:** Your quizzes will come from the chapters in the textbooks, class discussions/activities, and will be seen again on upcoming exams. They will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. There will be nine quizzes. Your lowest two quiz grades will be dropped.

60% of your grade will come from Unit Exams and the Source Analysis Assignment

**Exams:** Each exam will include questions from the unit quizzes and other pertinent questions as I deem necessary. A thorough review of the chapters assigned and any notes from our class discussions will be vital before each exam.

**Source Analysis Assignment:** Will be about our novel, *Warriors Don’t Cry* and will be further explained closer to the assignment’s due date.

**Attendance Policy:**
You will follow the policy set by Chireno ISD.

**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.

*Instruction in the Core Objectives (critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and social responsibility) will be given at this time and reinforced throughout the semester.*
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>Date 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 through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>TBA</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>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</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>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</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>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</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 since 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.

In addition, you may include your own guidelines for academic integrity as appropriate.

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/.