

United States History, 1890-Present
History 2112/20
Mon & Wed., 8:00AM-9:45AM, **SO 2036**
Fall, 2009

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Student conferences by appointment

Required Textbooks:

Davidson, Gienapp, et.al. "Nation of Nations, A Narrative History of the American Republic Since 1865, Vol. II." 6th edition.

Hoffman, Elizabeth C. and Jon Gjerde (eds.). Major Problems in American History, Vol. 2: Since 1865. 2nd edition.

Overview

This course examines the history of the United States from the 1900s to the 1990s with an emphasis on how political, economic, and social developments shaped the conditions, attitudes, and values of present-day America. This course focuses on the central themes and issues in American growth and institutional change as to how Americans faced them.

Course Objectives: The student will understand a broad knowledge of the United States since 1890 based on the knowledge of the major movements, events, and personalities of the American scene.

1. Every student will obtain a basic knowledge of the evolution of American political beliefs and institutions. Through this academic process, a foundation for an educated citizenry will be developed so that global citizenship will be more responsible, sophisticated, and analytical.
2. The student will understand how the American economy developed and how it changes influenced its institutions and society in general.
3. Every student will discover, understand, and appreciate the interplay of forces and personalities that shaped historical change and American life.
4. Every student will acquire an appreciation of the historical methodology. In doing so, each student will learn to think historically, learn to ask questions of the past and develop communicative skills, both in writing and with speaking, primary among these is the skill of shaping, substantiating, and communicating historical arguments.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend both classes each week. Attendance will be taken. All students are expected to attend classes on time, read the assigned class material, and participate in class discussion in a substantive manner. You should involve yourself in class discussions by asking questions, participating in group activities, and contributing your thoughts, interpretations, and ideas.

While conflicting commitments and unforeseen and unpreventable developments may occasionally force an absence, this class, like one's job, is a major commitment. Leaving class early without the instructors prior consent will result in a student's being counted absent for that day. If appropriate documentation for participation university athletics, severe illness, employment conflict, or other compelling reason for absence is presented, that absence will be "excused" and will not be charged against you. (Car trouble, traffic jams, poor weather conditions, and the like will not be grounds for an excused absence.) This policy reflects life in the working world, where employers have strict attendance policies and the penalties for violating them are much greater.

Academic Integrity:

There will be a **zero toleration** for any student who violates university policies regarding cheating or plagiarism with his or her work. Once established that a student plagiarizes or cheats, as outlined in the Student Handbook, with any assignment in or for this class, a grade of F will be automatic.

Examinations and Grading:

You will have **two** examinations during the semester. Each will be announced at least one week in advance. The exams will consist of two basic parts: Part I will consist of three questions from which you will select two questions. Each essay question will be worth twenty-five points each for a total of 50 points. Part II; this section will deal with the supplemental reading. An essay question will be developed from the readings that coincide with the material covered for that particular examination. Part II of the exam will be worth 10 Points. A review session will be conducted as well as example of the type of questions and appropriate answers. Remember, the examinations will be based upon class lectures and assigned readings as indicated on the course syllabus. **Blue Books** are required for both Examinations.

A final examination will be optional. During the last week of the course each student will meet with the instructor to review his or her grades. After the review, the student, if satisfied with his/her grade has the option of taking or not taking the final examination. This will be a comprehensive examination. A detailed outline of the examination will be explained at a later date. **THE FINAL EXAMINATION IS NOT REQUIRED. IT IS OPTIONAL.**

Grading

I do all the grading for this course! Student negotiation for higher grades or seeking changes to assignments will not be tolerated.

Grading for this course is based upon an accumulated point system as follows:

Examination I	60 points
Examination II	60 points
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	120 points
Final Examination will replace the lower score of one of the two regular examinations.	

Extra Credit Policy

Your grade for the course is based solely on the required course work. **NO OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTRA CREDIT IS AVAILABLE.**

Course Schedule

Please read and review this syllabus carefully. You are responsible for knowing the contents and for requesting clarification.

Lecture Topics:

- A. Introduction to the Course
1. Review of class policies and syllabus.
 2. The Old Order Passes

Readings: Text, Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 to page 610.
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 3.

- B. Imperialism and Expansionism
1. American Emergence as a World Imperial Power
 2. The Spanish American War and the Responsibilities of International involvement

Readings: Text, pp. 611-631.
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 4.

- C. The Origins and Results of the Progressive Movement
1. The Reform Agenda and its accomplishments
 2. The American Presidency and the Progressive Movement

Readings:Text, Chapter 22.
Hoffman, et al. Chapter 5

D. The United States and the Great War

1. U.S. Foreign Policy and the Road to War
2. Woodrow Wilson and the League of Nations

Readings:Text, Chapter 23.
Hoffman,et.al. Chapter 6.

E. The 1920's

1. America's Return to Normalcy
2. The Search for National Security

Readings:Text, Chapter 24.
Hoffman, et.al. Chapter 7

F. The Crash, the Depression, and the New Deal

1. The Great Depression and Herbert Hoover
2. The New Deal of FDR.

Readings: Text, Chapter 25.
Hoffman, et.al. Chapter 8.

G. Isolationism and the Coming of World War II

1. The Road to War.
2. World War II and the ushering of the Cold War

Readings: Text, Chapters 26 and Chapter 27 – pp.-801-808.
Hoffman, et.al. Chapters 9 and 10.

H. The 1950's

1. The Fair Deal and the American People
2. The Eisenhower Era

Readings: Text, Chapter 27 – pp. 808-825; Chapter 28- pp. 827-846
Hoffman, et.al. Chapters 11 and 12

I. The Resurgence of liberalism and Vietnam

1. JFK and the New Frontier

2. The Great Society and the War in Vietnam

Readings: Text: Chapter 28 – pp.846-855; Chapter 29, Chapter 30-pp.885-895.
Hoffman, et.al. Chapters 13 and 14.

J. The Imperial Presidency

1. Nixon's Presidency
2. Nixon and Watergate

Readings: Text: Chapter – pp.894-924.

K. The Rise of American Conservatism

1. The Reagan Revolution
2. The End of the Cold War and the Post-Cold War Era in American Politics and Society.

Readings: Text: Chapters, 31 and 32.
Hoffman, et.al. Chapter 15.

