



**HIST 1302**  
**America History Since 1877**

**Credit:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 45

**Class Days:** Monday to Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Course Description**

This class traces the story of United States history from the post-Civil War era to the recent past. It probes political, diplomatic, economic, social, and cultural developments of the past century and a half. During this time American life was transformed from primarily agricultural to industrial to technological. In its investigation of the industrial and post-industrial eras, the course gives special attention to the assertion of American economic and military power abroad and the roles of immigrants, minority races, and women in the social transformations of the times.

**Course Objectives**

The students in this course will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of course materials and will analyze and evaluate information as it relates to post Civil War US history.
2. Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information to create arguments and inquiry with respect to recent American history topics.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively about recent American history topics in written forms.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively about recent American history topics in oral and visual forms.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of cultural interactions, show an understanding of civic responsibility, and articulate how modern Americans have engaged and continue to engage regional, national, and global communities.
6. Demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making as they relate to recent American history topics.

**Program Outcomes**

**1: Chronology and Context**

Analyze the connections between the past and present with the ability to locate both self and others in time and space by surveying the histories of various cultures in the modern and pre-modern worlds.

**2: Writing and Citation**

Apply the fundamentals of historical writing and citation.



### **3: Critical Thinking**

Think critically about historical issues through analysis of primary and secondary texts, synthesis and analysis of arguments in multiple texts, and through developing their own arguments about historical texts.

### **4: Historiography**

Define historiography (history of history) and identify the different historiographical schools of thought as well as philosophical and ethical issues relating to the historical profession.

### **5: Research**

Conduct historical research using both primary and secondary sources by composing and presenting grammatically correct, well-argued research papers.

### **Course Materials (Text, calculator, etc.)**

H. W. Brands, et. al., *American Stories: A History of the United States, Volume II, Since 1865* (3rd Edition). print ISBN: 9780133793932, 0133793931

### Primary Source Documents:

In addition to your weekly reading from the textbook, you are also required to read one primary source document each week (you will read a total of 3 primary sources this term). Primary sources are materials that provide us with an individual's personal perspective of history. These are first-hand accounts that contain crucial information about the past to help historians achieve a developed understanding of historical events and ideas. However, you must complete written assignments related to these materials each week. (See Requirements: Writing Assignments)

### **Grading Scale**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>90% - 100%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80% - 89%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70% - 79%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60% - 69%</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>59% - 0%</b>

### **Course Grading Policies**

Your final grade of this course will be a weighted average on the scale listed above. The Weighted Average will be calculated as follows:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Percent</b>
First Paper	10
Second Paper	10
Third Paper	10
Midterm Exam	30

Final Exam	30
Attendance	10
Total Possible Points	100

**Attendance/Class Participation: 10 percent**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Ten percent of your final grade will be based on your attendance, your preparation, and the quality of your participation. You may miss up to two (2) classes without penalty to your grade. A student who is absent from class 10 percent of the scheduled class time [4 days or more] is subject to getting a grade of “F” without warning by the instructor.” Any violation of class-conduct policies (outlined above) will count as an absence from class. It is the responsibility of each student to notify the instructor in the event she/he is tardy.

**Writing Assignments: 30 percent**

You are required to read brief primary source documents. Primary sources are materials that provide us with an individual’s personal perspective of history. These are first-hand accounts that contain crucial information about the past to help historians achieve a developed understanding of historical events. Each assigned document will include a series of “Questions to Consider” to help you evaluate the primary source.

After reading the assigned primary sources and studying the “Questions to Consider,” you will be write a brief essay in response to a question I provided. Your goal is to develop a well-supported response to the questions based on the facts you have learned about the topic. The writing assignments will on be due on the first, second, and fourth Friday of the semester. There will be a total of three (3) writing assignments throughout the semester. Each writing assignment is worth a maximum of 10 points.

**Midterm and Final Exams: 60 percent**

You will take a midterm exam on the second Friday of the semester and a final exam on the fifth Thursday of the semester. The midterm is worth 30% of your final grade and the (non-comprehensive) final is worth 30% of your final grade. These exams will include both multiple choice and short answer questions that examine the extent to which you have mastered all class material. A list of all potential short answer questions will be available at the beginning of the term.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

This is a tentative course schedule, the instructor reserve the right to make changes on it to make it better for the student’s development. Notice will be given should any changes take place.

Date	Required Readings
June 29	Introduction to Course and Reconstruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 16, The Agony of Reconstruction, 1865-1877</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture: Reconstructing Southern Society, Reconstructing the Nation, Retreat from Reconstruction, Reunion and the New South.</li> </ul>

June 30	<p>Industrialization and Western Expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 17, The West: Exploiting an Empire, 1849-1902 and Chapter 18, pages 405-417, Industrial Development and An Industrial Empire</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture: Industrial Development in the East, Innovations and Inventions, Modern Business, the Rise of Oil and Steel, Railroads and the linking of East and West, Natives Americans in the West, White Settlement in the American West, the Bonanza West</li> </ul>
July 1	<p>Gilded Age Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 18, pages 417 -425, The Sellers, the Wage Earners, and the Culture of Work</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture: Social Classes in Industrial America, the Robber Barons, the Growing Middle Class, the Laboring Poor, the Rise of Industrial Labor Unions, Labor Unrest</li> </ul>
July 2	<p>Immigration and the Industrial City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 19, Toward an Urban Society, 1877-1900</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture: Immigration in the Industrial Age, the Nativist Reaction to Immigration, the Problems and Promises of the Industrial City</li> </ul>
July 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First Primary Source Analysis Due</li> <li>● Video: The American Experience, 1900: Part I, Spirit of the Age</li> </ul>
July 6	<p>Gilded Age Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 20, Political Realignment, 1876-1901</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture: The Politics of Stalemate, Democrats and Republicans, Gilded Age Presidents, the Populist Movement, Economic Depression and Labor Unrest, the Election of 1896</li> </ul>
July 7	<p>American Imperialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 21, Toward Empire, 1865-1902</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Reasons for Expansion, the New Navy, Yellow Journalism, the Spanish American War, Acquisition of Empire, Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists, War in the Philippines, the Panama Canal, the Big Stick, the Open Door, Gunboat Diplomacy in the Western Hemisphere</li> <li>● Video: The Strange Career of Jim Crow: Part I, Promises Betrayed</li> </ul>
July 8	<p>The Progressive Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 22, The Progressive Era, 1895-1917</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Class Conflict in the Industrial Age, the Progressives, Regulating Big Business, Reimagining Government, Reform in the Cities, Policing Morals, the Niagara Movement and the NAACP, Segregation in the South, Women' s Suffrage, Prohibition and Social Control</li> </ul>

July 9	<p>The Progressive Presidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 23, From Roosevelt to Wilson in the Age of Progressivism, 1900-1920</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Theodore Roosevelt: Busting Trusts, Square Deal in the Coal Fields, Regulating Railroads, Cleaning Up Food and Drugs, Conservation, William Howard Taft, the Progressives Split, the Election of 1912, Woodrow Wilson, President as Prime Minister, New Freedom, a New Nationalism</li> <li>● Review for Midterm Exam</li> </ul>
July 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Midterm Exam</li> <li>● Video: The Road to War: The End of an Empire</li> </ul>
July 13	<p>World War I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 24, The Nation at War, 1901-1920</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Neutrality Policy, Freedom of the Seas, the U-Boat Threat, the Zimmerman Telegram, Mobilization, the Committee on Public Information, Trench Warfare, New Weapons, Industrial Warfare, a Bureaucratic War, the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations</li> </ul>
July 14	<p>The 1920s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 25, The Transition to Modern America, 1919-1928</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: The Elements of a Modern Economy, the Elements of a Modern Society, City Life, Women and the Family, Popular Culture in the Jazz Age, the Fear of Radicalism, Prohibition, the Ku Klux Klan, Republican Politics, the Stock Market Crash, the Start of the Great Depression, the Bonus Army</li> </ul>
July 15	<p>The New Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 26, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1929-1939</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: The Great Depression Deepens, the Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt, the First One Hundred Days, Challenges to FDR, Social Security, the Election of 1936, the New Deal Coalition, the Rise of Organized Labor, the New Deal and Minorities, the Supreme Court Fight, the Decline of the New Deal</li> </ul>

July 16	<p>World War II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 27, America and the World, 1921-1945</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Isolationism and the lure of Neutrality, War in Europe, the Road to War, the Attack on Pearl Harbor, the Alliances, Halting the German Blitz, Island Hopping in the Pacific, the Arsenal of Democracy, the Expansion of the Federal Government, African-Americans and the War, Women, Labor Unions, Race Relations, the Beginning of the American Century.”</li> </ul>
July 17	<p>Exam and discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Second Primary Source Analysis Due</li> <li>● Video: The Cold War: Iron Curtain</li> </ul>
July 20	<p>The Origins of the Cold War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 28, The Onset of the Cold War, 1945-1960</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: The Division of Europe, the Atomic Dilemma, the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, NATO, the Korean War, the Cold War in Asia, Sputnik, NASA, and the start of the “Space Race.”</li> </ul>
July 21	<p>Post War America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 29, Affluence and Anxiety, 1945-1960</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Unequal Economic Prosperity, Consumerism, Consensus and Conformity, Suburbanization, the Automobile transforms the American landscape, the Baby Boom, Popular Culture, Religion, Social Critics, Eisenhower’ s America, the Paranoid Style, Anxiety and Anticommunism at Home, McCarthyism s</li> </ul>
July 22	<p>Video and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Video: The Strange Career of Jim Crow: Part IV, Terror and Triumph</li> </ul>
July 23	<p>The Modern Civil Rights Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al., pages 681-688, 698-700, 711-712</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: The NAACP, Brown v. Board of Education, Desegregation, the Southern Manifesto, Little Rock, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nonviolent Civil Disobedience, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Sit Ins, the Freedom Rides, Clashes in Birmingham, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Selma March, Black Power, the Nation of Islam, the Decline of the Civil Rights Movement</li> </ul>
July 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Third Primary Source Analysis Due</li> <li>● Video: The American Experience: Summer of Love</li> </ul>

July 27	<p>The High Tide of Liberalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 30, The Turbulent Sixties, 1960-1968</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: John F. Kennedy and the New Frontier, the Start of the Space Program, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, Kennedy's Assassination at Home, Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Great Society, Civil Rights, Escalation in Vietnam, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the Tet Offensive</li> </ul>
July 28	<p>The New Conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 31, To a New Conservatism, 1968-1988</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: Richard Nixon, the election of 1968 and the Silent Majority, Détente, Vietnamization, the End of the Vietnam War, Watergate, the Oil Embargo, Relative Economic Decline, Stagflation, the Ford and Carter Administrations, the Iranian Hostage Crisis, the Reagan Revolution, the Moral Majority, Reaganomics, Reagan and the Soviet Union, Iran Contra</li> </ul>
July 29	<p>Post-Cold War America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read: Brands, et al. Chapter 32, Into the Twenty-First Century, 1989-2013</li> <li>● Topics covered in lecture include: The Collapse of the Soviet Union, Globalization, the Information Age, the New Economy, Multiculturalism, Polarized Politics, the Revival of Immigration, Impeachment of Bill Clinton, the Election of 2000, the Attacks of September 11, 2001, International Terrorism, the War on Terror, the Afghan and Iraq Wars, the Great Recession, the Obama administration, and the Presidential election of 2016</li> <li>● Review for final Exam</li> </ul>
July 30	Final Exam
July 31	Grades Due

### Academic Integrity

All work must be completed individually unless otherwise stated. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the exam is given in any subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. For more information, see the Code of Student Life.

### Acceptable Student Behavior

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 (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior



will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University's Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Attendance Policy**

For the purposes of learning assessment and strategic planning, all students enrolled in Core Curriculum or developmental courses at West Texas A&M University must attend each class/lab meeting. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

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