History of the United States from 1877 Syllabus

Mountain View College

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: History of the United States to 1877

Course Number: HIST 1302

Section Number: 62400

Semester/Year: Winter/2019-2020

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time/Location: Online

Certification Date: Dec. 18, 2019

Last Day to Withdraw: Jan. 4, 2020

Course Prerequisites

Developmental Reading 0305 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

Course Description:

This course surveys United States history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Our focus will be economic and social development, political conflict, and the cultural responses of Americans to the enormous changes over the past 130 years.

Major topics and themes in U.S. history from 1876 to the present include political development, social change, women's history, race and ethnicity.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of History 1302 students should be able to:
1. Analyze and explain the economic developments which led to the transformation of the United States from an agrarian to an industrial and post-industrial urban society.

2. Describe and assess the expansion of the government and the ramifications that expansion had on the political, social, and economic lives of the American people.

3. Identify and explain the developments that led to America’s becoming a world power from 1898 to the present.

4. Recognize and evaluate the pursuit of equality and freedom by various minority groups within American society since 1877.

5. Apply historical perspective to contemporary issues in the United States.

**Texas Core Objectives**

The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Required Course Materials**


Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Discuss. Forums</td>
<td>5 @ 3 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>6 @ 3 points</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Quiz 6 is optional, extra credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>2 @ 10 points</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>1 Midterm @ 25 points</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Final @ 25 points</td>
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Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92-100</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-91</td>
<td>80-91%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
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Description of Graded Work

1. Participation (15 points) is an important part of this course. Each week students will be asked to participate in one (1) discussion forums. There are a total of fifteen (15) forums for the semester. These forums will pose a question and ask students to weigh in on it. The question will involve a topic under examination for that week. Students are to respond in detail to the question but it is also important to engage classmates’ opinions, observations, and/or perspectives in these discussions. A detailed overview of each forum can be found in the DISCUSSION section of Blackboard.

Participation in these forums is **MANDATORY**. If students do not respond to the discussion questions by the specified due date, their grade will suffer as a consequence. Also the content and quality of students’ participation will be taken into account. Generally speaking, discussion posts that fully engage the central question and respond to classmates/professor’s perspectives will receive full credit for this portion of the course.

2. Take-Home Quizzes – There will be five take-home quizzes that will be assigned throughout the course of the semester. These quizzes will ask you to address a specific issue within the assigned readings. The point of these quizzes is to ensure that students engage the readings and connect the themes and insights to the general historical narrative. You may work on these individually or in groups. If you choose to work in a group, however, you MAY NOT turn in word-for-word replicas. In other words, each student should have a relatively unique response to the questions posed in the quizzes. **Please note well: late quizzes will NOT be accepted.** If you fail to submit the quiz by the specified due date, it will result in a zero.

3. Papers – You will be asked to write **two** short papers, each approximately 2-3 pages in length and valued each at 10% of your overall grade. These papers will ask you to put an assigned novel into
“conversation” with the rest of the course materials – assigned readings out of TAN as well as lecture materials. These papers are to be no shorter than two full pages and no longer than three.

All papers must be typed, in 12-point font, with one inch margins on all sides. For each day a paper is 

**late 2.5 points will be deducted** from the final grade.

The theme around which these papers will be organized will be distributed at a later date, approximately one week prior to when the papers are due.

4. Midterm – There will be one midterm in this course. It will consist of a series of identification/short answer questions and longer essay questions. Students will be given a study guide one week prior to the exam. There will be no make-up exams for the midterm.

5. Final Exam – The final exam format will be similar to the midterm. It will cover the second half of the course with one exception. One of the essay questions will demand that you draw together major themes over the entire course. In other words, one of the required essays is cumulative. Students will be given a study guide one week prior to the exam. There will be no make-up exams for the final.

**Attendance and Your Final Grade**

Repeated tardiness and frequent absence will negatively affect your participation grade. You cannot fully participate in the course if you frequently miss all or part of class sessions, and you are disrupting the flow of the class as a whole when you come in late. Therefore, even if you actively participate in class discussions when you are in class, your participation grade will suffer if you are chronically late and/or absent. Each student will be granted two (2) unexcused absences throughout the semester and thereafter, each additional absence will have an adverse effect on her/his grade.

**Late Work Policy**

Late discussion forums and quizzes will NOT be accepted.

For every day an assigned PAPER is late, 2.5 points will be deducted from the final score.

If a student is unable to take an exam in the specified date, the responsibility falls on the student to find a date/time to complete that exam.

**Institutional Policies**

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed using the link below. These policies include information about tutoring, Disabilities Services, class drop and repeat options, Title IX, and more.

[Mountain View Institutional Policies](http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/syllabipolicies)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number/Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Dec. 16-21</td>
<td>Worlds Collide</td>
<td><em>Sources for America’s History (SFA)</em>, Ch. 1-5; Watch Video Lectures 16-19; Watch <em>Transforming America</em>, Lessons 1-8; read Sinclair</td>
<td>Complete Discussion Forums 1 &amp; 2 by Dec. 20, 11:59 p.m. Complete Quiz 1 by Dec. 17 Complete Quiz 2 by Dec. 19 Submit Paper 1 in Blackboard by Dec. 21, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>4: Jan. 6-9</td>
<td>Crisis in the Union and the Reconstruction of a Nation</td>
<td><em>SFA</em>, Ch. 29-31; Watch Video Lectures 31-41; Watch <em>Transforming America</em>, Lesson 19-26</td>
<td>Complete Quiz 5 by Jan. 7, 11:59 p.m. Complete Quiz 6 (optional) by Jan. 9, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>5: Jan. 9</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Complete the Final Exam in Blackboard by Jan. 9, 11:59 p.m.</td>
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