

HIS 315L 39145 Fall 2011
T Th 12:30 2:00 UTC 3.102
Dr. Restad

THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865

This class will survey over 150 years of modern American history, keeping a collective mind open about which and why certain facts, stories, events, and people are key to understanding our past. It draws on two popular American history books that offer complementary, sometimes conflicting, interpretations of the American story to illuminate the rich textures of the nation's history as well as the particular challenges faced in its writing. Using these authorities (as well as a basic *Outline of U.S. History*) as a starting point, participants will work collaboratively to expand their understanding of American history and to engage in the type of thinking required to "do" history.

REQUIRED

U.S. Government, *Outline of U.S. History*, chs. 8-15.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/history-outline.html>

Johnson, *History of the American People*

Zinn, *A People's History of the United States* (available online, but without page numbers)

iClicker, available at Coop. Register on Blackboard/ Tools or iClicker.com

Additional readings, available as posted on class website. (password provided in class)

<https://sites.la.utexas.edu/history2point0>

Professor

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Teaching Assistant

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COURSE WEBSITE and READING ASSIGNMENTS

<https://sites.la.utexas.edu/history2point0>

Reading assignments, announcements, course revisions, study guides, and other course related material etc. will be posted on the course website. No hard copy will be distributed. "Course Structure" (a full explanation of the way in which this class is arranged) as well as "Course Syllabus" can be found on the website under the heading Resources.

CIVILITY, EXAMINATIONS, GRADING, ABSENCES, ETC.

You are expected to attend each class, be on time, and stay for the entire class. Late arrival, early departure, ringing cell phones, texting, tweeting, surfing, FB'ing, sleeping, etc. distract and disrupt the entire class. Your courtesy is necessary and appreciated. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>. Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center <http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts>. Medical assistance/counseling services are available at <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/>. If you have concerns about

the behavior or well-being of another member of the campus community, call BCAL at 512-232-5050. www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal

GRADES and ABSENCE.

Grading will be determined on the basis of individual quiz grades (25%), a midterm (25%), and a final exam (35%). The remaining grades will be determined by performance in a number of areas: in-class essays (8%); graded team projects (2%); journal (3%); and survey participation (2%). Additional information about each of these categories is in the Course Structure. Grades will not be posted on Blackboard, however you are welcome to visit either the TA or Instructor to view them during office hours or by appointment as often as you wish. Plus and minus will be used in assigning a course grade.

You must take the midterm and final exam, and complete in-class essays to pass the course. Permission to take the midterm or write an in-class essay other than on the date scheduled is left solely to professor's discretion and convenience, and will be allowed without penalty *only* in the instance of a valid, officially documented medical infirmity or an absence from Austin on official and documented university business, preferably before the missed day. Missing a quiz or other assignments is discussed in the Course Structure. The final is scheduled for **Fri, December 9, 2011, 9am – 12pm**, location to be announced. Make any plans for the upcoming break with this date in mind. Please do not ask for an exception.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

Construct a basic, meaningful, and intellectually honest narrative America's history from late 19th century to the present.

Execute a basic set of moves that constitute historical thinking.

Comprehend, ponder, and write about key ideas, events, and interpretations relating to the history of the period.

Work effectively as a team.

THEMES

Three major themes run though the course material.

1. expansion of personal and civil rights
2. expansion of the role of the federal government
3. expansion of the U.S. role internationally

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

All assignments are be posted on the course website. These are to be completed before coming to class on the date they are listed. Team work will be done only during class time. Lectures, readings, and team assignments complement and inform each other. One is not a substitute for the other. Exams and essays will cover all material: lectures (formal and informal), all readings, discussions, etc. This syllabus is a general guideline; the sequence, topics, and dates are subject to change. Check the course website frequently.

<http://laits.utexas.edu/sites/history2point0>

WEEK I Aug 25

Th Introduction: Philosophy of History

(note: begin preparing for the graded Unit 1 Quiz, to be given next week.)

WEEK II Aug 30

T Introduction: Quiz (ungraded) on Syllabus and Course Structure

UNIT 1. THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY: Gilded Age and Empire

Th Quizzes: Individual and Team

WEEK III Sep 6

T Lecture: The Gilded Age and Empire

Th Part 1.1 The Money Men

WEEK IV Sep 13

T Part 1.2: Visions of Social Structures

Th Part 1.3: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism + Essay

UNIT 2. THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY: Progress, War, and the '20s

WEEK V Sep 20

T Quizzes: Individual and Team

Th Lecture: Progress, War, and the Future of America

WEEK VI Sep 27

T Part 2.1: The Progressives

Th Part 2.2: Immigration and Perfection

WEEK VII Oct 4

T Part 2.3: Kids Today: The New Generation

Th **MIDTERM**

UNIT 3. THE GREAT DEPRESSION, THE NEW DEAL, AND WORLD WAR II

WEEK VIII Oct 11

T Quizzes: Individual and Team

Th Lecture: Big Changes and New Roles

WEEK IX Oct 18

T Part 3.1 FDR: The Socialistic Savior of Capitalism?

Th Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937

WEEK X Oct 25

T Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937 (cont.) + Essay

UNIT 4: MID-CENTURY: THE COLD WAR, THE 1950s, AND JFK

Th Quizzes: Individual and Team

WEEK XI Nov 1

T Lecture: Fears and Realities in Postwar America
Th Part 4.1: The Soviet Threat

WEEK XII Nov 8

T Part 4.2: Keeping up with the Joneses: Consumer Culture in the 1950s
Th Part 4.3: An Emerging Critique

UNIT 5: FROM LBJ THROUGH THE REAGAN ERA

WEEK XIII Nov 15

T Quizzes: Individual and Team
Th Lecture: The Turn from Liberalism to Conservatism

WEEK XIV Nov 22

T Part 5.1: An Appraisal of Richard M. Nixon
Th THANKSGIVING

WEEK XV Nov 29

T Part 5.2: The Culture Wars
Th Part 5.3: The End of History

FINAL EXAM: Fri, December 9, 2011, 9am – 12pm,. Location to be announced.

The syllabus, lectures, and exams that comprise this course are the property of P. Restad and are for the exclusive use of those enrolled in this specific class for use in this specific class. They may not be shared, reproduced or summarized in any form, including electronically, partially or in full, without the professor's express, written permission.