

HIS 315L 39175 Fall 12  
Dr. Restad  
T/Th 3:30-5 UTC 4.102

## 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*, chapters 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

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

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

Optional: Foner, *Give Me Liberty*

### 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. A password will be provided in class.

### CIVILITY, EXAMINATIONS, GRADING, ABSENCES, ETC.

It is your personal as well as social responsibility 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](http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal)

#### GRADES and ABSENCE.

Grades will be determined on the basis of individual quiz grades (20%), four in-class essays (30%), team work: journal preparation and templates (23%), survey participation (2%), and a final exam (25%). Additional information about each of these categories is in 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 complete all essays and take the final exam to pass the course. Missed quizzes may *not* be made up and will be recorded as "50." Permission to 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 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00-10:00 PM, 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

- 1--Construct a basic, meaningful, and intellectually honest narrative of America's history from late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
- 2--Execute a basic set of moves that constitute historical thinking.
- 3--Comprehend, ponder, and write about key ideas, events, and interpretations relating to the history of the period.
- 4--Work effectively as a team.

#### THEMES

Three major themes run through 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

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

WEEK I            Aug 30

Th            Introduction: Philosophy of History  
(note: begin preparing for the graded Unit 1 Quiz, to be given next week.)

WEEK II Sep 4

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 11

T Lecture: The Gilded Age and Empire.  
Reminder: Keep up to date on Journal entries. Prompts are posted on each of the unit parts, on the website.

Th Part 1.1 The Money Men

WEEK IV Sep 18

T Part 1.2: Visions of Social Structures

Th Part 1.3: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism + In-class **Essay**.  
**Turn in Journal entries for Unit I.** Follow format details in Course Structure.

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

WEEK V Sep 25

T Quizzes: Individual and Team

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

WEEK VI Oct 2

T Part 2.1: The Progressives

Th Part 2.2: Immigration and Perfection

WEEK VII Oct 9

T Part 2.3: Kids Today: The New Generation

Th In-Class **Essay**  
**Turn in Journal entries for Unit II.**

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

WEEK VIII Oct 16

T Quizzes: Individual and Team

Th Lecture: Big Changes and New Roles

WEEK IX Oct 23

T Part 3.1 FDR: The Socialistic Savior of Capitalism?

Th Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937

WEEK X      Oct 30

T      Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937 (cont.) + In-Class **Essay**  
**Turn in Journal entries for Unit III.**

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

Th      Quizzes: Individual and Team

WEEK XI      Nov 6

T      Lecture: Fears and Realities in Postwar America

Th      Part 4.1: The Soviet Threat

WEEK XII      Nov 13

T      Part 4.2: Keeping up with the Joneses: Consumer Culture in the 1950s

Th      Part 4.3: An Emerging Critique + In-class **Essay**  
**Turn in Journal entries for Unit IV.**

**UNIT 5: FROM LBJ THROUGH THE REAGAN ERA**

WEEK XIII      Nov 20

T      Quizzes: Individual and Team

Th      Thanksgiving—No Class

WEEK XIV      Nov 27

T      Lecture: The Turn from Liberalism to Conservatism

Th      Part 5.1: An Appraisal of Richard M. Nixon

WEEK XV      Dec 4

T      Part 5.2: The Culture Wars

Th      Part 5.3: The End of History

**Turn in Journal entries for Unit V.**

**FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00-10:00 PM. Location to be announced.**

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