

HIS 315L 39210-Honors Spring 2013
T Th 2:00-3:30 GAR 2.128
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 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.

Professor

Penne Restad restad@mail.utexas.edu
GAR 2.144 475-7233
Office hours: T 12:30-2:00p. and by appt.

REQUIRED

Johnson, *History of the American People*

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

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

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

OPTIONAL

If you need to reacquaint yourself with the core narrative of U.S. history, consider buying an old, reputable used book from Half-Price, Alibris, or some other source. You will find U.S.

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

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

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.

This class will be participating in a test of a new course management system. Canvas

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses> note: Firefox tends to be more responsive, although Canvas has been working well.

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

ACADEMIC HONESTY. It is also your personal responsibility to be honest and aware of what constitutes dishonesty. Plagiarism or any action that violates the letter and intent of the policies is explained fully here http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/spot_honorcode.php. Any violation will be punished to the fullest extent possible, up to and including failing the course and suspension from UT.



NOT EVEN PAST www.notevenpast.org is the UT History Department blog.

GRADES and ABSENCE.

Grading will be determined on the basis of individual quiz grades (20%), 4 in-class essays (40%), journals (5%), and a final (35%). Additional information about each of these categories is in Course Structure. Grades will be posted on Canvas. <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses>
Plus and minus will be used in assigning a course grade.

You must take all exams and complete in-class essays to pass the course. Permission to take an exam 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 Course Structure. The final is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 13, 2:00–5:00 pm**. 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 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

All assignments will 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

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

READ: Johnson, chapter 7 (to p. 790); Zinn, chapters 15 (pp. 386-end), and 16 (to p. 426)

WEEK VIII Mar 4

T Quizzes: Individual and Team
Th Lecture: Big Changes and New Roles

WEEK IX Mar 11 SPRING BREAK

WEEK X Mar 18

T Part 3.1 FDR: The Socialistic Savior of Capitalism?
Th Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937

WEEK XI Mar 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

READ: Johnson, chapters 7 (begin p. 790), and 8 (to p. 867); Zinn, chapters 16 (begin p. 426), and 17 (to p. 485).

Th Quizzes: Individual and Team

WEEK XII Apr 1

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

WEEK XIII Apr 8

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

WEEK XIV Apr 15

UNIT 5: FROM LBJ THROUGH THE REAGAN ERA

Read: Johnson, chapter 8 (begin p. 867); Zinn, chapter 17, pp. 458-end; and chapters 18-21

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

WEEK XV Apr 22

T Watch *Fog of War*
Th Part 5.1: An Appraisal of Richard M. Nixon

WEEK XVI May 29

T Part 5.2: The End of History

Th Part 5.3: The Bigger Picture

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 13, 2:00–5:00 pm in classroom.

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.