

CID#4494
HIS164: United States History Since 1876
Credit Hours: 3; Fall 2007
Section 01: T/TH 8:00 AM, AB4 303
Dr. Charles Heath
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Office Hours: MWF 3-4 PM, or by appointment

Tentative and subject to revision

Course Description: Continuing survey of the United States from 1865 to the present. The course includes lectures and class discussions, exams, response papers, and primary document analysis.

Course Objectives:

- To provide an understanding of the main themes in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the nation.
- To understand political change on a national level through both mainstream and non-mainstream points of view, with attention paid to non-dominant economic and social classes, races and ethnic groups.
- To develop effective and analytical skills in reading and writing history
- To enjoy the free and open exchange of ideas regarding the individual's interpretation of U.S. history

Required Books:

- Jacqueline Jones, et al., *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States, Volume II (from 1865)* (2nd Edition), (New York: Pearson Longman), 2006.
- C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*, (New York: Oxford University Press), 2001.
- Greil Marcus, *Mystery Train: Images of America in Rock 'n' Roll Music*, (New York: Faber and Faber), 2000.
- Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*, (New York: The Dial Press), 1999.

Further required readings will be placed on reserve. Text should be brought to class each day. Other books should be brought on appropriate discussion days.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at SHSU. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. *A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.* Each absence after the third shall result in the reduction of the final grade by one-letter grade. Tardiness and cell phone and electronic device usage during class may be counted as an absence. For the university Academic Policy Statement 800401 regarding attendance, see http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf/www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf

Two Exams (midterm and final) are not cumulative and include objective and essay questions. There are no make-ups for missed exams.

Grading:

A 90-100	B 80-89	C 70-79	D 60-69
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Assignments:

Participation and Preparedness	10%
Discussion Points, Primary Docs, and Internet Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
3 Response Papers (10% each)	30%

Response Papers: The papers are analytical and critical responses to three books (not the text). Their length should be 2-3-pages each (double-spaced). I will post information on suggested book review techniques. Summaries are not acceptable. Exam essay questions will be taken from these books and/or assigned essays.

Participation, Preparedness, and Documents: You must read each week's assignments thoroughly and carefully, ask relevant questions, and make meaningful contributions based on evidence in the readings. You should maintain a scholarly level of discussion by listening to what's being said and supplying effective responses, again, supported by evidence. Be able to differentiate between ideas based on little evidence or that express opinion and ideas (both your own and those of others) and ideas based on historical or scientific research. Your observations, analysis and questions form a valuable and integral part of learning and that class should be interactive and democratic, not merely didactic.

Discussion Points and Internet Assignments, you should determine the most important points in the readings, design questions that elicit those points from class members. I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if daily points and discussions are not forthcoming. Throughout the course of the semester, you will be asked to visit, describe, discuss, and present a scholarly history website for the appropriate period.

Academic Dishonesty: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. *Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.* The Sam Houston State University Academic Policy Statement 810213 may be accessed at: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of SHSU that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Service for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the class.

Academic and Student Support Services: A full range of services is available through the University to assist you with developing strategies for a successful academic career. They include, but are not limited to reading and writing centers, and services for students with disabilities. These services may be accessed at <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/toc-support.html>. The SAM Center is a resource dedicated to helping students adjust to academic life at Sam Houston State University. Services available include career testing, aid with time management, and study skills. The SAM Center is located in Academic Building 4 (AB4) on the second floor, room 210. AB4 is located on the corner of Bowers Blvd. and Ave. I.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: The code of student conduct is found at the following link: <https://shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

The use of cell phone or other electronic devices including laptops is prohibited in this class. Infractions may result in absent mark. Please refrain from eating and drinking in class.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester.

Week One: CE 15, In the Wake of War

August 20- 24

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

<http://www.freedmensbureau.com/texas/texasstateprison.htm>

Week Two: CE 16, Standardizing the Nation

August 27-31

Emergence of Advertising America 1850-1920

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/ea/>

Geronimo: His Own Story

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/B/geronimo/geroni20.htm>

Week Three: CE 17, Challenges to Government and Corporate Power

September 3 Labor Day

September 5- 7

The Massacre at Wounded Knee

<http://bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/woundedknee/WKIntro.html>

<http://nativevet.uthscsa.edu/archive/nl/9508/0036.html>

Child Labor: <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/index.html>

Week Four: CE 18, Political and Cultural Conflict

September 10-14

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5473/>

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5471/>

The Wreck of the Battleship Maine, Thomas Edison, 1898

<http://memory.loc.gov/mbrs/sawmp/0229.mpg>

Week Five: CE 19, Promise and Perils of Progressive Reform

September 17- 21

Discuss Woodward, Response One due

Week Six: CE 20, War and Revolution

September 24-28

Emma Goldman Interview with the St. Louis Dispatch

<http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/Goldman/Curricula/WomensRights/interview.html>

Presentations: firstworldwar.com

Week Seven: CE 21, The Promise of Consumer Culture

October 1- 5

<http://blog.modernmechanix.com/2007/01/19/prehistoric-monsters-roar-and-hiss-for-sound-film/>

Review for Midterm Exam

Week Eight: CE 21, The Promise of Consumer Culture

October 8-12

Midterm Exam

Week Nine: CE 22, Hardship and Hope in the 1930s

October 15- 19

Film: *Kens Burns' America Collection, Huey Long*, Ken Burns, 1987

Primary Document Analysis: <http://blog.modernmechanix.com/2007/01/19/prehistoric-monsters-roar-and-hiss-for-sound-film/>

Week Ten: CE 23, Global Conflict

October 22-26

Primary Document to be announced

Week Eleven: CE 24, Cold War and Hot War

October 29- November 2

Discuss Vonnegut, Response Two due

Week Twelve: CE 25, Domestic Dreams and Atomic Nightmares

November 5-9

Warning: The Primary Document this week contains language that some may find offensive. Please contact your professor if you wish to be assigned a different document.

Primary Document Analysis: *Howl*, Allen Ginsberg.

You are required to listen and read along:

Listen at: http://www.audioport.org/audioport_files/specials/Howl-Final-128.mp3

Read at: <http://members.tripod.com/~Sprayberry/poems/howl.txt>

Week Thirteen: CE 26, The Nation Divides: Vietnam and Social Conflict

November 12- 16

Primary Document Analysis: "Why I am opposed to the war in Vietnam," Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8056097176965880805>

About My Lai Letter to US Congress from Ron Ridenhour

http://www.fertel.com/causes/ridenhour_award/my_lai_rr_letter.htm

Over the final month, we will do a project called "Songs from Mystery Train" where groups of 3-4 students will present a song from the text for listening and analysis. Songs, performances, and content must be placed in an historical context, and you should draw on at least one source (not including Marcus). Songs must be pre-approved and slots must be scheduled by professor well in advance .

Week Fourteen: CE 27, Reconsidering National Priorities

November 19

November 21, 23 **Thanksgiving**

The Contras, Cocaine, and Covert Operations

Week Fifteen: CE 28, Cold War Returns and Ends

The Oliver North Files

Primary Documents:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB113/index.htm>

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB2/nsaebb2.htm>

Week Sixteen: CE 29, Post-Cold War America

November 26- 30

Response Three due, discuss Marcus

Presentations: "*Songs from Mystery Train*"

Week Seventeen: CE 30, A Global Nation

December 3-5

Presentations "*Songs from Mystery Train*"

Review for Final

Final Exam