

**CID 4506**  
**HIS 164, section 13**  
**United States History since 1877**  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2007, 3 credit hours

**Classroom:** AB4, room 307

**Class Time:** TTH, 3:30-4:50 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Nancy Baker (Ph.D., Harvard University)

**Instructor's office location:** AB4, room 412

**E-mail:** [neb001@shsu.edu](mailto:neb001@shsu.edu)

**Phone:** 936-294-4467

**Office hours:** TTH 2-3:30 pm, W 2-3 pm, and by appointment.

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to American history since 1877, emphasizing major developments in political, social, economic and gender history. There are no prerequisites for this class.

Classes will consist of a blend of **lecture** and **class discussion** based on assigned reading. Lectures and assigned readings may overlap, or they may emphasize different themes. Occasionally, we will see a movie during class time, with discussion following. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester, as she deems necessary.

**Course Objectives:** In this course, you will:

1. Gain factual knowledge in the field of American history from the period of Reconstruction to 1980.
2. Develop skill in expressing yourself orally and in writing.
3. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. Acquire an interest in learning more about history and understand the importance of knowing history.

**Course requirements:**

Class Attendance	10%
Exam #1 or #2	30% (lower of the two grades to be dropped)
Paper #1	15% or 30% (required)
Paper #2	15% or 0% (optional)
Final exam	30% (required of all students)

**Exams:** If you miss either Exam #1 or Exam #2, that will be the grade that is dropped. Exams will be objective, usually with multiple-choice questions (though the instructor may include true-false or matching questions). The final exam is required of all students. Each exam is NOT cumulative, but is based on the material we have covered since the previous exam. On exam days, please bring a 50-question Scantron answer sheet and a #2 pencil with you. These can be purchased in the bookstore.

**Attendance:** Your grade for attendance involves attending class regularly and being prepared to engage actively with the material we are covering in class. This means that you must be present and attentive – sleeping, reading books unrelated to HIS 164, surfing the net, text messaging or other activities are forbidden during class time. **If you are absent more than three times, your grade will be lowered for the class. Attendance will be graded as follows:**

**0 to 3 absences = A**

**4 to 6 absences = B**

**7 to 9 absences = C**

**10 to 12 absences = D**

**13 or more absences = F**

Absences from class are not excused unless you give me proof of illness (such as a doctor's note) or a death in your family.

**Required Textbooks:** In order to pass this course, you must purchase the following two books at the start of the semester and do the assigned reading in them throughout the semester. Copies may be purchased at the SHSU campus bookstore in the Lowman Student Center; their phone number is 936-294-1862. The books are:

1. James A. Henretta, David Brody, and Lynn Dumenil, *America: A Concise History, Volume 2: Since 1865* (2006).

2. Kevin J. Fernlund, *Documents to Accompany America's History, Volume 2: Since 1865* (2004).

Please bring the Fernlund book with you to class on days we will be discussing documents from it.

**Extra credit options:** The following extra credit assignments are available for points to be added to the exam on which you received the lowest grade. The instructor reserves the right to add additional extra credit options during the semester (or not), as she sees fit.

1. **Worth 5 extra credit points:** Take a 6-session Study Skills Workshop at the SAM Center, located in AB4 room 210. You should sign up for these study skills sessions **AT THE START OF THE SEMESTER**. Please contact the SAM Center for more details at: [samcenter@shsu.edu](mailto:samcenter@shsu.edu) or 294-4444. Sessions begin Sept. 10. In order to receive credit for this option, you must complete the Study Skills Workshop during the Fall 2007 semester. (In other words, having completed it during a previous semester will not count for extra credit points.)
2. **Worth 5 extra credit points:** Write a 3-page, double-spaced paper on the topic of your choice using 3-5 documents from the Fernlund book. This paper must have an argument supported with specific evidence drawn from the documents, and the paper must also have footnotes. If you choose to do this option, you must tell me in advance and clear your topic with me. The paper is due by the last day of class

(Dec. 6). If the paper is done poorly, I reserve the right to award zero extra credit points.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are unsure of how to properly footnote evidence in a paper, please consult the Newton Gresham Library's "Citation Guides" webpage; I prefer that you follow the Turabian guide. Here is the link to the Citation Guides webpage:

<http://library.shsu.edu/research/citationguides.php>

If you have other questions about how to handle evidence, direct quotations, or avoid plagiarism, please let me know. I am happy to help. And please remember, plagiarism on a paper will earn you zero credit for that paper.

## Schedule of Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

The reading listed for each week should be completed BEFORE Thursday's class. (Ex: read Henretta, chapter 15 BEFORE coming to class on Aug. 23.) Additional, short reading assignments from the Fernlund book will be announced throughout the semester. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule during the semester, as she sees fit.

### Week One

August 21 Introduction

August 23 Reconstruction  
Read Henretta, chapter 15, pp. 442-471

### Week Two

August 28 Reconstruction, continued

August 30 The American West  
Read Henretta, chapter 16, pp. 472-504

### Week Three

Sept. 4-6 Capital and Labor in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1900  
Read Henretta, chapter 17, pp. 505-534

### Week Four

Sept. 11-13 **\*\*\* Paper #1 due in class on Sept. 11 \*\*\***

The Rise of the City  
Read Henretta, chapter 18, pp. 535-565

### Week Five

Sept. 18-20 Politics in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1896  
Read Henretta, chapter 19, pp. 566-596

### Week Six

Sept. 25 **\*\*\* Exam #1 in class on Sept. 25 \*\*\***  
*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 15-19.*

Sept. 27 The Progressive Era  
Read Henretta, chapter 20, pp. 597-627

### Week Seven

Oct. 2-4 An Emerging World Power, 1877-1914  
Read Henretta, chapter 21, pp. 628-657

*Please note, the last day to drop this class without a grade of “F” is Wed., October 10.*

**Week Eight**

Oct. 9-11

War and the American State, 1914-1920  
Read Henretta, chapter 22, pp. 658-691

**Week Nine**

Oct. 16-18

Modern Times: The 1920s  
Read Henretta, chapter 23, pp. 692-722

**Week Ten**

Oct. 23

The Great Depression  
Read Henretta, chapter 24, pp. 723-751

Oct. 25

**\*\*\* Exam #2 in class on Oct. 25\*\*\***  
*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 20-24.*

**Week Eleven**

Oct. 30-Nov. 1

The New Deal, 1933-1939  
Read Henretta, chapter 25, pp. 752-779

**Week Twelve**

Nov. 6-8

The World at War, 1939-1945  
Read Henretta, chapter 26, pp. 780-811

**Week Thirteen**

Nov. 13

Cold War America, 1945-1960  
Read Henretta, chapter 27, pp. 812-847

Nov. 15

Film: *Atomic Café* (1982)

*If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining a copy of this documentary and watching it before the next exam. Material from this movie will be on the exam.*

**Week Fourteen**

Nov. 20

Library Day

Nov. 21-25

**Thanksgiving Holiday – no classes**

**Week Fifteen**

Nov. 27-29

**\*\*\* Paper #2 is due in class on Nov. 27 \*\*\***  
*Paper #2 is optional. If you do not turn it in, Paper #1 is worth 30% of your final grade. If you submit Paper #2, then each paper is worth 15% of your final grade.*

The Affluent Society & the Liberal Consensus, 1945-1965  
Read Henretta, chapter 28, pp. 848-879

**Week Sixteen**

Dec. 4-6

War Abroad and at Home: The Vietnam Era, 1961-1975  
Read Henretta, chapter 29, pp. 880-914

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**Tuesday, Dec. 11**

**FINAL EXAM, 11-1 pm**

*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 25 and 29.*

## **COURSE POLICIES**

Student enrollment in this course confirms that you have read and accepted these policies.

**Student Syllabus Guidelines:** The following link provides a more detailed description of the course policies: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain 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. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University 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 should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Toward the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form.

### ***Copyright Statement***

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