

**CID 3459**  
**HIS 164, section 17**  
**United States History since 1877**  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2008, 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 primarily of **lecture**, with some **class discussion** based on assigned reading. Lectures and assigned readings may overlap, or they may emphasize different themes. Occasionally, we may 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:** After completing this course:

1. Successful students will have gained factual knowledge in the field of American history from the period of Reconstruction to 1980.
2. Successful students will have developed greater skill in expressing themselves in writing.

**Course requirements:**

Class Attendance	10%
Exam #1 or Exam #2	30% (lower of the two grades to be dropped)
Paper #1	30% (required of all students)
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. There will be no make-up exams unless a student has a doctor's note or other evidence of a serious, compelling reason for missing the exam.

**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 Textbook:** In order to pass this course, you must purchase the following book at the start of the semester and do the assigned reading in it throughout the semester. Copies may be purchased at the SHSU campus bookstore in the Lowman Student Center. Copies are also available on amazon.com and other on-line booksellers. The book is:

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

At times, there may also be additional reading assignments based on in-class hand-outs or material available on websites. These additional assignments will be announced during the semester.

**Extra credit options:** The following extra credit assignments are available for points to be added to the assignment (exam or paper) 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 Jan. 28. In order to receive credit for this option, you must complete the Study Skills Workshop during the Spring 2008 semester. (In other words, having completed it during a previous semester will not count for extra credit points.)
2. **Worth 5 extra credit points:** Participate in the Veterans History Project. Go to the following link: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>. Click on "How To Participate." There is a complete kit and instructions on how to do an oral history interview with a veteran that can then be sent to the Library of Congress for inclusion in their collection. In order to submit this project for extra credit, you must submit a completed interview and the supporting paperwork. This is due by the last day of class (May 8). If the work is done poorly, I reserve the right to award zero extra credit points.

## Schedule of Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are listed for each week. Additional, short reading assignments may be announced (and copies distributed) throughout the semester. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule during the semester, as she sees fit.

### Week One

January 17 Introduction

### Week Two

Jan. 22-24 Reconstruction  
Read Henretta, chapter 15, pp. 442-471

### Week Three

Jan. 29-31 The American West  
Read Henretta, chapter 16, pp. 472-504

### Week Four

February 5-7 Capital and Labor in the Age of Enterprise, continued  
Read Henretta, chapter 17, pp. 505-534

**\*\*\* Paper #1 due in class on Thursday, Feb. 7 \*\*\***

### Week Five

Feb. 12 The Rise of the City  
Read Henretta, chapter 18, pp. 535-565

Feb. 14 Politics in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1896

### Week Six

Feb. 19 Politics in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1896, continued  
Read Henretta, chapter 19, pp. 566-596

Feb. 21

**\*\*\* Exam #1 in class on Thursday, Feb. 21 \*\*\***

*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 15-19.*

### Week Seven

Feb. 26-28 The Progressive Era  
Read Henretta, chapter 20, pp. 597-627

### Week Eight

March 4-6 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 Friday, March 7.***

**Week Nine**  
March 11-13

**SPRING BREAK – no classes this week**

**Week Ten**  
March 18-20

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

**Week Eleven**  
March 25-27

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

**Week Twelve**  
April 1

**\*\*\* Exam #2 in class on Tuesday, April 1\*\*\***  
*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 20-23.*

April 3

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

**Week Thirteen**  
April 8-10

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

**Week Fourteen**  
April 15-17

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

**Week Fifteen**  
April 22-24

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

**Week Sixteen**  
April 29-May 1

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

**Week Sixteen**  
May 6-8

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

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**Tuesday, May 13**      **FINAL EXAM, 2-4 pm**  
*This exam will cover material from Henretta, chaps. 24-29.*

**HIS 164**  
**Paper Assignment #1**  
**01-17-08**

**DUE: Thursday, Feb. 7 in class.**

**QUESTION:** Was Reconstruction a success or a failure? Why? Using your textbook, write a paper with a clear argument. (Hint: define your terms – which Reconstruction? A success or a failure by what measure?)

**Directions on paper format, etc.**

Your paper should have a clear argument that is well supported with specific examples. Your paper should not be strictly descriptive or simply a chronological narrative.

Your paper should be 2-3 pp. long, typed, double-spaced, in a 10-12 point font with 1-inch margins on all sides. You must footnote all paraphrased information or direct quotations. For guidance on how to do footnotes properly, go to the Newton Gresham Library's home webpage. On the left side there is a link titled "Citation Guides." Click on this, and follow the links to any standard style guide (I prefer Turabian, but will accept any standard guide).

**No late papers will be accepted without a doctor's note or a compelling excuse.**

**IMPORTANT WARNING: PLAGIARISM = F**

Plagiarism consists of using another person's words or ideas without attribution; this includes using direct quotations without indicating that they are such (missing quotation marks), cutting and pasting from websites without indicating your source, or submitting as your own work a paper that you did not write or that you collaborated on with someone else (in other words, you and your classmate discussed the assignment and came up with the same argument and examples). If you commit academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, you will receive a grade of "F" for the assignment; at the instructor's discretion, you may receive a grade of "F" for the entire class (if, for example, you repeatedly commit academic dishonesty).

If you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, please let me know. I am happy to help.

## **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.

Plagiarism consists of using another person's words or ideas without attribution; this includes using direct quotations without indicating that they are such, cutting and pasting from websites without indicating your source, or submitting as your own work a paper that you did not write or that you collaborated on with someone else (in other words, you and your classmate discussed the assignment and came up with the same argument and examples). If you commit academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, you will receive a grade of "F" for the assignment; at the instructor's discretion, you may receive a grade of "F" for the entire class (if, for example, you repeatedly commit academic dishonesty). 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:** 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.

**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. 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 you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with 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.

**Assignments:** At least two weeks before a written assignment's deadline, you will receive a detailed description of the assignment. A rubric for how written assignments will be graded is available on the course Blackboard site.

***Copyright Statement***

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