

## HIS 164: U.S. History Since 1876

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Office Hours: AB IV Rm. 451, M-W-F, 11:00 - 2:30 & by appointment

### Introduction & Course Objectives:

Welcome to HIS 164: United States History Since 1876. This course is designed to provide you with a survey of American history from the development, growth, and expansion of the United States as it developed from a regional power focused on affairs at home and in the western hemisphere, into a global military, economic, and political super power whose influence extends around the globe. The course will provide students with a broad international context to the development of the United States by exploring not only traditional American history, but also the history of the European and Asian powers with which the United States interacted with, fought against, or allied with, and how these relationships impacted the development of the United States into the nation it is today. The course will introduce students to the major issues, important people, and significant events that occurred in America during this time period and will enlighten them as to how these individuals, issues and events influenced, and continue to impact, the United States today. Throughout the course, the major theme will be the growth of American military might and political influence and how the United States became the most powerful nation in world history.

### Required Textbook:

James A. Henretta (et al), *America: A Concise History*, Volume 2 (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).

Terry Bilhartz, *Currents in American History*, Volume 2 (Available for purchase in the SHSU History Dept. Office, AB IV Rm. 441)

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will acquire a general knowledge of the military history of the United States from 1876 to 1992
- Students will acquire a general knowledge of the political history of the United States from 1876 to 1992
- Students will acquire a general knowledge of the major social movements of the era including such topics as Women's Suffrage, Prohibition, and Children's Rights
- Students will acquire a general knowledge of significant individuals who impacted American political, cultural, and military history during this era
- Students will acquire a general understanding of the modern American presidency and the individuals who have held the office
- Students will be able to relate historical events and personages to current events and understand how

historical forces have shaped  
the world they live in today

General Course Policies:

It is your responsibility to attend class and keep up with your assigned readings. Consequently you will need to make an extra effort to not miss class and maintain a strict reading schedule or else you will rather quickly fall behind. You are expected to attend every class but attendance is your responsibility. Therefore you are responsible for all material presented in the classroom whether you were in attendance or not. If you cannot be present for an examination, you must inform me within 24 hours of the scheduled time for the exam that you will not be present AND be able to produce a written excuse from an acceptable outside authority indicating the reasons for your absence. In the event that the excuse is acceptable, then a make-up examination will be scheduled and administered on the assigned day.

Course Requirements:

There will be a total of four examinations administered by the instructor based upon material covered in classroom lectures, assigned readings in the required textbooks, and audio-visual materials viewed in the classroom.

<u>Grading</u>	<u>Grade Scale:</u>
Exam #1      100 pts.	A: 100 - 90%    400 - 360 pts.
Exam #2      100 pts.	B: 89 - 80%    359 - 320 pts.
Exam #3      100 pts.	C: 79 - 70%    319 - 280 pts.
Exam #4      100 pts.	D: 69 - 60%    279 - 240 pts.
Total Points Possible: 400 pts.	F: 59% or less. 239 or less pts.

Course Schedule & Topical Outline

NOTE: This is a general outline and dates for assignments may change at the discretion of the professor. Any such changes will be announced in class at the appropriate time.

CLASS WEEK	GENERAL LECTURE TOPICS	EXAM and READING ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
Week 1  Jan. 11	Introduction to the Course	
Week 2  Jan. 16 & 18	America in 1876  Conquering the West, 1876 - 1890	<i>America: A Concise History</i> , Chapter 16  <i>Currents in American History</i> , Chapter 8

HIS 164: US History Since 1876 Syllabus

<p>Week 3 Jan. 23 &amp; 25</p>	<p>Women in Victorian America Labor &amp; Industrialization: 1877 - 1898</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapters 17 &amp; 18</p>
<p>Week 4 Jan. 30 &amp; Feb. 1</p>	<p>Politics in America Rise of America to World Power</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapters 19 &amp; 21 <i>Currents in American History</i>, Chapter 9</p>
<p>Week 5 Feb. 6 &amp; 8</p>	<p>Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt</p>	<p><b>Exam #1: Feb. 8th</b></p>
<p>Week 6 Feb. 13 &amp; 15</p>	<p>The Great War</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapter 22 <i>Currents in American History</i>, Chapter 10</p>
<p>Week 7 Feb. 20 &amp; 22</p>	<p>The Roaring Twenties</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapter 23</p>
<p>Week 8 Feb. 27 &amp; Mar. 1</p>	<p>The Great Depression</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapters 24 &amp; 25 <b>*Last Day to Drop March 2*</b></p>
<p>Week 9 Mar. 6 &amp; 8</p>	<p>FDR &amp; The New Deal</p>	<p><b>Exam #2: March 8th</b></p>
<p>Week 10 Mar. 13 &amp; 15</p>	<p>Spring Break</p>	<p>Spring Break</p>
<p>Week 11 Mar. 20 &amp; 22</p>	<p>Origins &amp; Outbreak of the Second World War</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapter 26</p>
<p>Week 12 Mar. 27 &amp; 29</p>	<p>World War II in Europe</p>	<p><i>Currents in American History</i>, Chapter 11</p>

<p>Week 13 Apr. 3 &amp; 5</p>	<p>World War II in the Pacific</p>	<p><b>Exam #3: April 5th</b></p>
<p>Week 14 Apr. 10 &amp; 12</p>	<p>The Cold War: 1945 - 1964</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapter 27 <i>Currents in American History</i>, Chapter 12</p>
<p>Week 15 Apr. 17 &amp; 19</p>	<p>The Vietnam War, 1965 - 1973</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapters 29 &amp; 30</p>
<p>Week 16 Apr. 24 &amp; 26</p>	<p>America in Decline: 1974 - 1979 America Resurgent: 1980 - 1989</p>	<p><i>America: A Concise History</i> Chapter 31 <i>Currents in American History</i>, Chapter 13</p>
<p>Week 17 May 1</p>		<p><b>Exam #4: Tuesday, May 1</b></p>

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session, arrive on time for class, and only leave when the class is concluded. I understand that on occasion emergencies will arise, however repeated tardiness, leaving class early, or failure to attend will be considered disruptive behavior and will be dealt with accordingly. See UNIVERSITY POLICY ON STUDENT CONDUCT (below) for policies regarding disruptive behavior. If you miss class, you are still responsible for all of the material covered in class that day.

University Policy on Student Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Recording of Lectures

It is the policy of this instructor that students may **NOT** record lectures given in class, nor any multi-media

material presented in class, in any way, shape or form. Students are welcome to take notes on their own personal computer, provided that in doing so they do not disturb other students or the instructor.

### Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university. The SHSU Student Guidelines academic honesty policy states:

All students are expected 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. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against 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.

See <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide.html>

Please read Jules Benjamin's([A Student's Guide to History](#)) [discussion of plagiarism](#) as well.

### SHSU Policy on 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. Disciplinary action includes any and all of the following: failure on the assignment, failure of the course, and/c expulsion from the university.

### ADA Accommodations

Any student who may require an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the instructor on this matter as soon as possible to ensure a positive learning environment.

### Classroom Visitors:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in 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 classroom.

### Religious Holiday Policy:

An institution of higher education shall 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. A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor in writing prior to planned absence.

Also refer to: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

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