

## HIS 164-15: US History Since 1876

CID# 3455

Credit: 3 hours      Spring Semester 2008

Classroom: AB IV, Rm. 303    Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00 - 3:20 PM

Instructor: Dr. Robert B. Bruce

Webpage: <http://www.shsu.edu/~rbruce/>

Phone: 294-1478

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

Office Hours: AB IV Rm. 451, Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 - 1:30 & 3:30 - 4:30, & by appointment

### Introduction:

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.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop an understanding of and appreciation for the history of the United States
- Students will learn how the United States grew as a military power during the time studied
- Students will learn how the United States became a global power during the time frame studied
- Students will learn about the political process in the United States with a special emphasis on presidential elections
- Students will learn about the great people, as well as infamous people, who have impacted the American culture, politics, society, and the international standing of the United States

- Students will learn about the great conflicts (military, political, and cultural) which have shaped the United States

Required Textbooks:

Steven Gillon & Cathy D. Matson, *The American Experiment*, Volume 2 since 1865 (Houghton Mifflin, 2006).

*Rand McNally Atlas of American History*(Rand McNally, 2006).

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is taken at every class meeting. 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. The final decision on whether or not a make-up exam will be allowed is at the discretion of the professor.

Communication:

When I need to make a general announcement regarding a change in schedule, exam date, topic change, etc., I will send an e-mail to your SHSU e-mail account. It is your responsibility to monitor your e-mail account for any such communications from me.

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.
THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE	

Course Schedule & Topical Outline

NOTE: This is a tentative outline and dates for assignments & topics may change at the discretion of the professor.

Any such changes will be announced via e-mail and/or in class at the appropriate time.

CLASS WEEK	GENERAL LECTURE TOPICS	EXAM and READING ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE
Week 1 Jan. 17	Introduction to the Course: Origins and Early history of USA, 1607 - 1875	
Week 2 Jan. 22 - 24	America in 1876 Great Plains Indians & the Wars for the West	Chapter 17
Week 3 Jan. 29 - 31	Women in Victorian America Rise of America to World Power, 1890 - 1901	Chapter 18 & Chapter 22
Week 4 Feb. 5 - 7	Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt	Exam #1: Thursday, February 7th
Week 5 Feb. 12 - 14	The European Great Powers The Great War: Origins & Outbreak	Chapter 23
Week 6 Feb. 19 - 21	America & the Great War	
Week 7 Feb. 26 - 28	The Roaring Twenties Organized Crime in America: 1920 - 1932	Chapter 24
Week 8 March 4 - 6	The Great Depression, 1929 - 1932	Chapter 25 Exam #2: Thursday, March 6th
Week 9 March 11 - 13	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10 March 18 - 20	Origins of the Second World War	Chapter 26
Week 11 March 25 - 27	World War II in Europe	

Week 12 April 1 - 3	World War II in the Pacific	Exam #3
Week 13 April 8 - 10	The Early Cold War & Korean War: 1945 - 1953  America in the 1950s	Chapter 27 & 28
Week 14 April 15 - 17	Presidency of John F. Kennedy  Vietnam War: Advisory Stage	Chapter 29
Week 15 April 22 - 24	Vietnam War: Escalation to Vietnamization  America in Decline: 1974 - 1979	Chapter 30
Week 16 April 29 - May 1	America Resurgent: 1980 - 1989	Chapter 31
Week 17 May 6 - 8	America in the 1990s	Chapter 32  Final Exam, May 8th, 2008

### COURSE POLICIES

(Your enrollment in this course confirms that you have read these policies and have agreed to abide by them).

#### 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. 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. No food of any kind is allowed in the classroom. Cellular telephones must be turned off before class begins, and phones, I-Pods, headphones, and other electronic devices put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from sleeping, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, using tobacco products, 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 and be permanently removed from the course.

Also See: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

### 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 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.

### SHSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

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.

### ADA Accommodations

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 are expected to 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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the 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.**

### 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 enter and remain in the classroom.

**Religious Holiday Policy:**

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 holiday, 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.

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Last Update January 2008