

HISTORY 378.02 SYLLABUS
EMERGANCE OF MODERN AMERICA 1877-1945
Summer Session II 2008

Instructor: Mr. Blake Whitaker
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Course Description:

This course examines the chief cultural, political, economic, and diplomatic developments in America from 1877 to 1945. Students in the course will explore several key eras in American history: including the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, the First World War, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and the Second World War.

Course Objectives:

Students will gain more in depth knowledge and understanding of the topics and periods covered in this course: including the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, the First World War, the Roaring Twenties, The Great Depression and the Second World War. Students will analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view, using both primary documents and secondary sources. Students will combine the use of factual knowledge and critical thinking in both written assignments and examinations.

Required Books:

Les Standiford, *Meet You in Hell: Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Transformed America* (Crown, 2005).

Ronald Takaki, *Double Victory: A Multicultural History of America in World War II* (Back Bay Books, 2001).

Moss, George Donelson. *The Rise of Modern America: A History of the American People, 1890-1945* (Pearson Longman, 1995).

Assignments and Grading:

In this course students will complete three exams and two book reviews. A small portion of the students' grades will come from class participation, which will be based on class discussions.

- Each exam will be worth 100 points
- Each book review will be worth 50 Points
- Class participation will be worth 50 Points

The following grading scale will be used to determine final grades:

A = 450-403 | B = 402-358 | C = 357-313 | D = 312-268 | F = 267-0 Points

Exams:

There will be three exams over the course of the semester, including the final. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. The final exam will not be cumulative.

Book Reviews:

Over the course of the session, students will be required to write two book reviews, one over *Meet You in Hell* and the other on *Double Victory*. These book reviews will be worth 100 points each. Each book review will be between 700 and 900 words. A book review is not a book report. We will talk more in class about how to write a book, and you may also consult this website:

http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/book_reviews.shtml

Participation:

Students should complete reading assignments, attend class, and participate in discussions. Periodically, a short pop-quiz, writing assignment, or movie review may be given to determine how well each member of the class has prepared. These participation assignments should be easy, but they will require that you be in class and be prepared.

Attendance and Religious Holy Days:

Attendance for this course does not factor into your grade. However, for administrative purposes attendance records will be kept, and you will be required to sign in at the beginning of each class. If a student misses an exam and wishes to make it up, the student will be required to have a university excused absence and all the proper documentation.

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.

SHSU policy 861001 provides the procedure to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

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 their 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.

Any violation of the University's Academic Honesty standard will result in a failing grade for the course and a recommendation for University discipline.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

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 the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located next to the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with the instructor in order that accommodations can be made to assure 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 adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading
July 8	Introduction	None
July 9	Westward Migration	“Migration and Settlement” Handout
July 10	Indian Conflict	“The ‘Indian Question’” Handout
July 11	Gilded Age/ Urbanization	Handout
July 14	Gilded Age/Industrialization	Handout
July 15	Populism/ Intro to US Imperialism	Handout
July 16	Reading Day	
July 17	Guest Lecturer	
July 18	Exam 1	
July 21	Reading Day	
July 22	US Imperialism	Moss, Chapter 1&Philippine Handout
July 23	Progressive Era	Moss, Chapter 2 &3
July 24	The First World War	Moss, Chapter 4
	<i>Meet You in Hell</i> Review due July 24 th	
July 25	No Class	
July 28	Peace and Prosperity: 1920s	Moss, Chapter 5&6
July 29	Economic Disasters the Crash	
July 30	Exam 2	

July 31	The Depression	Moss, Chapter 7&8
Aug 1	No Class	
Aug 4	The Depression/The Clouds of War	Moss, Chapter 9
Aug 5	Second World War	Moss, Chapter 10&11
Aug 6	Second World War	Moss, Chapter 12&13
	<i>Double Victory</i> Review due August 6 th	
Aug 7	Final	