

Professor: Mr. John Jordan
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Hours: M-F 4-5 p.m.

HIS 164.07, CID 3447
U.S. History, 1877 to the Present
Spring 2008
MWF 1-2 p.m.
AB4, Rm. 307

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a three credit-hour course covering U.S. history from Reconstruction in 1876 to the present. Students will attend lectures, complete primary and secondary source readings, and be tested on this material with examinations that include multiple-choice and short essay questions. Regular attendance is required as per the attendance policy. All course materials, requirements, and policies are outlined in the syllabus.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- To **acquire basic factual information**, including names, events, places, and terms concerning U.S history from Reconstruction to the present.
- To look **critically** at history from an **objective** position, in order better understand past and current trends, as well as the impact of decisions made hundreds of years ago on modern times
- To **learn how to use outside materials** (textbooks, online readings, the library, etc.) for the clarification and expansion of information not covered in class lecture

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Main Textbook:

Divine, Robert A., et. al. *The American Story*. Vol. 2. 3rd Ed. New York: Pearson-Longman Press, 2007.

OFFICE HOURS:

I will typically be available before and after class in order to answer questions and meet with students. When not in class, I can be found at the SAM Center. Please feel free to stop by at any time should you have any questions or concerns. Officially, I will have office hours on MWF from 4-5 p.m. NOTE: The moment you get the impression that you are falling behind, **PLEASE come see me**. The sooner we discuss the problem the sooner you can get back on track, and the better you'll do in the class.

ATTENDANCE:

The University's attendance policy states that you are allowed to miss three hours of class, in your case three history classes, and receive no penalty. However, with each additional absence your grade for the class will be dropped by one half of a letter grade. In other words, your final average will be lowered by 5 points. Absences can be excused, but it is the professor's final decision concerning what is a viable excuse.

GRADES:

EXAMINATIONS:

There will be **five examinations** in this class, each worth 100 points. Tests will be broken down into two sections. Section 1 will consist of multiple-choice, matching, and/or fill in the blank. Section 2 will either be a series of short paragraph-length essays or one long essay, professor's choice. Your lowest test grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: You are allowed to drop your lowest test grade. If you miss a test, you will receive a 0. Therefore that test will be the test that is dropped. The test dates will be known well in advance so there should be no conflicts.

QUIZZES:

You will have a quiz for each chapter of the text, unless the professor decides otherwise. You will be responsible for doing the reading that has been assigned for that week, as well as any other work that may have been assigned by the professor. There will be a minimum of 10 quizzes, of which the 2 lowest grades will be dropped. Since you are allowed to drop your two lowest grades, you will **NOT** have the opportunity to make up these quizzes, so **DO NOT BE ABSENT**.

COURSE GRADING:

GRADES:		GRADING SCALE:	
First Exam:	/100 points	A	90%-100% or 450-500 points
Second Exam:	/100 points	B	80%-89% or 400-449 points
Third Exam:	/100 points	C	70%-79% or 350-399 points
Fourth Exam:	/100 points	D	60%-69% or 300-349 points
Fifth Exam:	/100 points	F	59%-0% or 0-299 points
Quizzes:	/100 points		
Subtract the lowest <i>test</i> grade			
Total Points Possible	/500 points		

ASSISTANCE WITH LEARNING:

If you find yourself confused by the material we read and discuss or if you feel yourself falling behind on your work please contact me and/or the [SAM Center](#) (Student Advising & Mentoring Center). Some of you may wish to work with the [SAM Center](#) even if you're doing well, but wish to do better. They are "a resource dedicated to helping students adjust to academic life at Sam Houston State University. Services available include career testing, aid with time management and/or study skills," and *much* more. These services are available to you as an SHSU student, and I encourage you to take advantage of them. Please understand that this service is free of charge (it's included in your fees) and extremely helpful.

The [SAM Center](#) is located in room 210 in Academic Building IV, which is south of the Lee Drain Building at the corner of Avenue I and Bowers Blvd. You may contact them to make an appointment at SAMCenter@shsu.edu or by telephone (936) 294-4444.

COURSE POLICIES:

Academic Dishonesty

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 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.*

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

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's words or ideas and presenting them as your own with no acknowledgement to the originator. With the advent of the technological age, specifically the internet, plagiarism has been taken to all new levels. As such, any attempt to plagiarize will result in an immediate zero for the grade in question. This will serve as your warning. If a second transgression occurs, then will be reported to the Dean of Students for appropriate action and receive an automatic F for the course.

Classroom Rules of 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.

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. NOTE: It is your responsibility to notify me at the BEGINNING of the semester, not half way through.

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 into 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 Holidays:

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.

Instructor Evaluations:

Students will be required to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Professor's Clause: This syllabus, required materials, and subject matter are due to change per the discretion of the professor.

Electronic Device Policy: The use of electronic devices, unless approved by the professor prior to the class period, is expressly forbidden. Should you be found using an MP3 player, IPOD, Walkman, PDA, Laptop, Blackberry, Cell phone, etc. during class, you will be asked to leave. If this happens a second time in class, you will lose a letter grade. If a third infraction occurs, you will be asked to leave the class and will receive an F for the course.

Tentative Class Schedule:

Date	Reading	Assignment	Important Info
January 16 th , Wednesday			1 st Class day
January 18 th , Friday	Ch. 16	Freebie	
January 21 st , Monday			MLK Day, no Class
January 23 rd , Wednesday			
January 25 th , Friday	Ch. 17	Quiz	
January 28 th , Monday			
January 30 th , Wednesday	Ch 18	Quiz	
February 1 st , Friday			12 th Class Day
February 4 th , Monday	Ch. 19	Quiz	
February 6 th , Wednesday			
February 8 th , Friday		Exam 1: Ch. 16-19	
February 11 th , Monday	Ch. 20	Quiz	
February 13 th , Wednesday			
February, 15 th , Friday	Ch. 21	Quiz	
February 18 th , Monday			
February 20 th , Wednesday	Ch. 22	Quiz	
February 22 nd , Friday			
February 25 th , Monday	Ch. 23	Quiz	
February 27 th , Wednesday			
February 29 th , Friday		Exam 2: Ch. 20-23	
March 3 rd , Monday	Ch. 24	Quiz	
March 5 th , Wednesday			
March 7 th , Friday			
March 10 th , Monday			Spring Break – No Class
March 12 th , Wednesday			Spring Break – No Class
March 14 th , Friday			Spring Break – No Class
March 17 th , Monday	Ch. 25	Quiz	
March 19 th , Wednesday			
March 21 st , Friday		No Class	Good Friday
March 24 th , Monday	Ch. 26	Quiz	
March 26 th , Wednesday			
March 28 th , Friday		Exam 3: Ch. 24-26	
March 31 st , Monday	Ch. 27	Quiz	Advance Registration Begins
April 2 nd , Wednesday			
April 4 th , Friday			
April 7 th , Monday	Ch. 28	Quiz	
April 9 th , Wednesday			
April 11 th , Friday			
April 14 th , Monday	Ch. 29	Quiz	
April 16 th , Wednesday			
April 18 th , Friday		Exam 4: Ch. 27-29	
April 21 st , Monday	Ch. 30	Quiz	
April 23 rd , Wednesday			
April 25 th , Friday			
April 28 th , Monday	Ch. 31	Quiz	
April 30 th , Wednesday			
May 2 nd , Friday			
May 5 th , Monday	Ch. 32	Quiz	
May 7 th , Wednesday			
May 9 th , Friday	Study Day	Study Day	Last day to Q-Drop & Resign
May 14 th , Wednesday		Final 2-4 p.m., Ch. 30-32	

*This schedule is subject to change per the discretion of the professor. If it does change, a new schedule will be posted on BlackBoard and/or a new hardcopy will be given to you. It is your responsibility to keep up with changes.