

COURSE SYLLABUS UNITED STATES HISTORY SPRING SEMESTER 2008



H164.03
MWF 10:00-10:50AM
AB4, 220 (Olson Auditorium)
(3 credit hours)



Thomas Hart Benton, "City Activities," 1930

Professor: Ty Cashion (Ph.D., TCU, 1993)

Office, AB4 463 HS_RTC@shsu.edu Office phone, 936-294-3835

Office Hours, Spring 2008: M&W 9:00-10:00am; 11:00am-12:00 noon

Please feel free to drop by anytime—I am always happy to meet with students and, as my schedule allows, will try to be available whenever you need to see me. Please know, however, that appointments and other duties may occasionally take me away from the office *even during the posted times*. Therefore, you would be wise to make arrangements to meet with me.

Note regarding e-mail correspondence:

Be assured that I will answer all student correspondence that has a university-issued e-mail address. Use it exclusively for all electronic correspondence between us. Be aware that there will be times when I need to send information to the entire class via Blackboard. Unless you are in the habit of communicating through your university-issued address, you will find yourself out of the loop. It is incumbent upon you to check your e-mail account and make sure that you remain well informed. Please understand that in a normal semester I have over 350 students and will be reluctant to make exceptions.

Note regarding phone messages:

Feel free to call my office at anytime, but do not expect me to respond to any messages—I'm not good at playing phone tag. If you get no response, please e-mail me. If you have an emergency, please call our department office; the phone number is 936-294-1475.

One last note...do not use the "digital drop box!"



As a required course, there is no prerequisite for H164 beyond the university's approval

Text/Reader

Textbook: Goldfield, et. al., American Journey, vol. 2

Please understand that without this book, you will be unable to pass the course. It is incumbent upon each student to obtain course materials at the beginning of the semester. Please notify me immediately if you are unable to obtain them.

SHSU Barnes & Noble campus bookstore: <http://shsu.bkstore.com/>

Course Objectives

- ✓ Students will gain a factual knowledge of American history from Reconstruction through the modern age.
- ✓ Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures.
- ✓ Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.

TIP: If you are interested in cultivating your study skills, the SAM Center has all kinds of resources available as well as a capable staff ready to help you! Check 'em out:

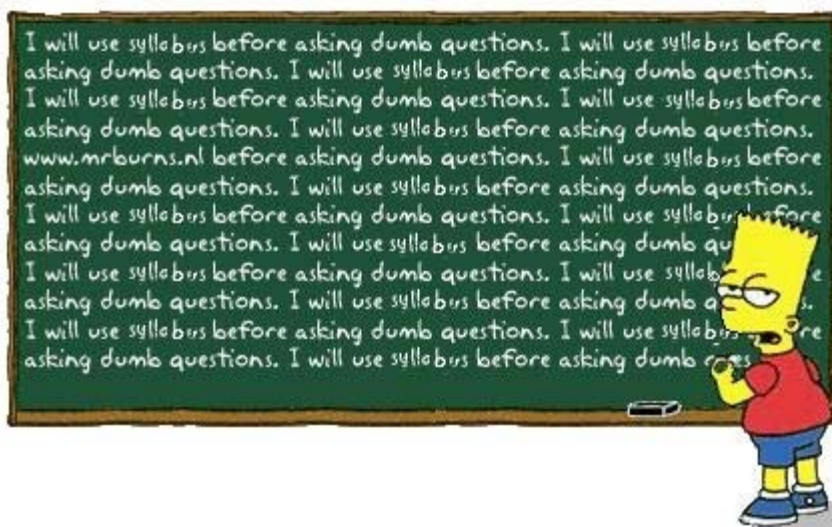
<http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/>

Course Description & and Instructional Method

This course will cover the period of United States history from Reconstruction through the modern age. The sweep of American history is very broad, even when divided into two semesters. Therefore, we will place emphasis on particular themes each week during this “second half” of our nation’s history, rather than try to cover the material comprehensively. These themes will address topics that have transformed the values, institutions, and material fortunes in American life. This also means that you will be responsible for the burden of reading the material not covered in lectures.

The instructional method in class will primarily involve lectures; occasionally the class may view a video or discuss some of the most enduring historical issues (the very size of these classes, however, breeds shyness, so we’ll have to see how you guys respond!). For each chapter in the textbook there is a corresponding set of multiple-choice and true-false questions on which the examinations will be based. You will find the link in Blackboard under the category “Assignments.” *Answers to these questions will not be provided to you.* They are not analytical in nature, and you may readily find the answers in the textbook. Please know these are your “reading checks” to assure that you comprehend what you are reading. Your reward for doing a thorough job will come on exam days, when many of the questions will look familiar!

There will be *six* examinations, each covering one segment of information. All exams will be online, although I reserve the right to ask any student whom I suspect of cheating to make arrangements to re-take a supervised exam. I will allow you to drop your lowest grade among the first five exams. If for any reason you cannot (or simply do not want to) take one of the first five exams, that will be the one you drop. You will have two attempts for each online exam, and I will take your best grade of the two. So, the “wobble room” just mentioned along with forty “attendance & decorum” points will provide the only curve, so I recommend that you prepare yourself to take a “first crack” at the exams at your earliest convenience so that you will have time to brush up before taking the exam the second time. *Note: everyone must take the sixth exam; it will be comprehensive, and it will count.* See links “Grading and Attendance & Decorum” and “Weekly Reading & Exam Schedule” below.



Important Links

- **Grading and Attendance & Decorum policy** [HERE](#)
- **Weekly Reading and Examination Schedule** [HERE](#)
- **Policies regarding student obligations and behavior** [HERE](#)