

History 164-Section 5: United States Since 1876 (3445)

3 Credit Hours, Spring Semester, 2008

Professor Jeff Crane

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Office Hours: Monday: 10:30-11:30; 2-3

Wednesday: 10:30-11:30, 2-3; Friday: 10:30-11:30

Note-these are only official office hours, I will frequently be in my office and you can arrange appointments. Students are welcome to drop by with questions or to visit

Readings: The books assigned for the course are *America: A Concise History* and *Wartime*.
*I reserve the right to hand out additional readings such as essays, reviews, and original documents.

Course Description: This course is a survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction into the contemporary period. Themes to be examined through the semester include race, conflict, the expansion of government, and environmental change, among others. We will explore these topics through various media including film, novels, and poetry. The success of this class will depend partially upon your participation and class will be conducted in a discussion format. Readings must be finished for the beginning of each week.

Objectives: You should leave this class with a strong understanding of the course of American history from Reconstruction into the late 20th century and the important events and concepts of that era. Students will gain strong factual knowledge of this era in American history. In addition to factual knowledge, students will further develop their skills in expressing themselves orally and in writing. Finally, students who take this course should leave with a stronger ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Evaluation:

Participation-20%

Review-15%

Quizzes-25%

Tests-40%

Participation: This class will be run on a discussion format with the expectation that you will read the material before class and be prepared to discuss it. Lack of preparation, failure to participate in discussion, and inattention in class will result in a significantly lower participation grade.

Review: Each student will write a three-page review of *Wartime*. These reviews should discuss the book and explore its relevance to the study of history and to American culture. You should use your reviews to describe and analyze the book.

Finally, spend a couple of paragraphs evaluating the book. Was it an enjoyable read? Challenging? Would you use it in a classroom? These are examples

of questions you might use to analyze this reading. You will be given further instructions on this assignment in class.

Quizzes: You will be given eight pop quizzes over the course of the semester. The best six grades will be kept for your final grade. Quizzes will be based on questions that are assigned for that week.

Tests: There will be two tests in this course. The tests will be non-cumulative and composed of two sections each. The first half of each test will be an identification section where the student identifies historical figures, events and concepts, describes them, and explains their significance. The second half of the test will be composed of one essay question. The first test will be worth 15% and the final test worth 25% of your final grade.

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 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.

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 eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, 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 referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Disability Accommodation: 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 Service 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.

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.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.

Instructor Evaluations: Students will evaluate the professor and course near the end of the semester.

Late Policy: You may not turn in anything late without prior permission or without a strong excuse such as illness or family emergencies. If you miss a test without prior permission and without a major crisis you will not be allowed to retake the test.

Schedule

January 16: Syllabus and Course Introduction

January 18, 23, 25: “Cowboys and Indians: The Myths and Realities of the American West.” Read Chapter 16 from *America: A Concise History*

January 28, 30, February 1: “America Enters the Modern Era: An Era of Wealth and Protest.” Read Chapters 17 and 18 from *America: A Concise History*

February 4, 6, 8: “Urban America and the Progressives.” Read Chapters 19 and 20 from *America: A Concise History*

February 11, 13, 15: “America as Young Colossus: Imperialism and World War I.” Read Chapters 21 and 22 from *America: A Concise History*

February 18, 20, 22: “Jazz, Scopes, and Cars: A Modern and Reactionary Decade.” Read Chapter 23 from *America: A Concise History*

February 25: Test Review

February 27: **First Test**

February 29, March 3, 5, 7: “Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself: The Great Depression and the New Deal.” Read Chapter 24 from *America: A Concise History*.

March 10-14: Spring Break

March 17, 19: Continue with the Great Depression and the New Deal. Read Chapter 25 from *America: A Concise History*. Begin reading *Wartime*

March 21: Good Friday Holiday

March 24, 26, 28: "A World Torn Apart: World War II." Read Chapter 26 from *America: A Concise History*. Continue reading *Wartime*

March 31, April 2, 4: The Conclusion of World War II. **Review of Wartime due on April 4**

April 7, 9, 11: "A Time of Comfort, Conformity, and Change: Prosperity, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement." Read Chapter 27 from *America: A Concise History*

April 14, 16, 18: "Popular Culture and Seeds of Dissent." Continue reading Chapter 28 from *America: A Concise History*

April 21, 23, 25: "Well You Know, We All Want to Change the World: Vietnam and the 1960s." Read Chapter 29 from *America: A Concise History*

April 28, 30, May 2: "America's Nadir, the Seventies: Watergate, Oil, and Iran (Don't Forget Disco)." Read Chapter 30 from *America: A Concise History*

May 5, 7: "The Reagan Revolution?: The Cold War Revived, the "The Moral Majority," and Iran-Contra." Read Chapter 31 from *America: A Concise History*

The professor reserves the right to change the schedule as needed