

Course Syllabus
HIS 379.01W RECENT AMERICA, 1945 TO PRESENT
3 Credit Hours, Summer II 2008
CID 8438, 10:00 - 11:50, AB4 303

Dr. Tracy Steele

Office: AB4 461

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9: 30 AM to 10:00 AM Also by appointment

Office Phone: (936)294-1480 - Please leave a message on voice mail if I am not available.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: his_tls@shsu.edu

Students should activate their student e-mail accounts. Students will be notified via their student e-mail accounts of any last minute changes or announcements. Students must use their student e-mail address for security purposes, especially when enquiring regarding grades.

Web Address: http://www.shsu.edu/~his_tls/

Text

Major Problems In American History Since 1945 (Major Problems in American History) (Paperback)

by Robert Griffith, Paula Baker, Thomas Paterson

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 3 edition (October 20, 2006)

ISBN-10: 0618550062

ISBN-13: 978-0618550067

Study Tips

I want all students to succeed in reaching their goals in this class. In order to prepare for each class day, students should read the assigned chapter and then re-read the chapter after class in order to reinforce the material learned. Students should review their course notes each day. Before each exam, students should review all notes and assigned chapters.

Students who are having difficulty reading the text (which should be read in a different manner than recreational reading or a math text) should either talk to Dr. Steele or contact the Reading Center at Farrington Building, Suite 109, phone number: 294-3114.

VALUABLE TIP: If you are interested in cultivating study skills that will help with this and all your other courses, the SAM Center has all kinds of resources available as well as a capable staff ready to help you! Click on: <http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/> The Sam Center is located in AB4 Room 210, phone number: 294-4444. In order to help you to reach your goal for this course, any student who fails the first test will automatically be referred to the Sam Center.

Students are encouraged to discuss problems with Dr. Steele!

Examinations

There will be five essay during the semester. Students will be required to bring their own Blue books (exam books) for the exams.

There will be no make-up examinations without documentation. Students may not start the test after the first student has left the classroom! Don't be late! I will not drop an examination grade. Make up tests MUST be completed before the next examination is given.

Test #1: 20%, Monday, July 14
Test #2: 20%, Friday, July 18
Test #3: 20%, Thursday, July 24
Test #4: 20%, Thursday, July 31
Test #5: 20%, Thursday, August 7
Total: 100%

Grading

Grades will be posted at Blackboard as soon as possible after each test.

A: 90-100
B: 80-89.5
C: 70-79.5
D: 60-69.5
F: 59.5 and below

Important Dates from the Academic Calendar

July 8 TUESDAY. First class day.
July 9 WEDNESDAY. Last day to register and to process schedule changes.
July 11 FRIDAY. Fourth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund by 5:00 p.m. Classes Meet.
July 18 FRIDAY. Classes meet.
July 25 FRIDAY. Classes Do Not Meet.
August 1 FRIDAY. Classes Do Not Meet.
August 6 WEDNESDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign receiving a mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to drop a course without the grade of "F", before taking any scheduled exams or the last business day, whichever comes first (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.).
August 7 THURSDAY. Final examinations.
August 11 MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Second Summer Session ends

Course Description

HIS 379 Recent America, 1945 to the Present. This course will examine United States history from the end of World War II to the present and will include discussions of the Cold War; the civil rights and environmental movements; the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the war on global terrorism; the public policy debates surrounding the role of the federal government in the modern economy; and the evolution of American popular

culture.

This is primarily a lecture and discussion course. Students must be present for discussions and participate. Dr. Steele encourages students to engage and ask questions at any time. Essay exam questions will come from class lecture and the text.

Course Goal & Objectives

- This course is recommended as a basic world history course for all liberal arts majors and minors because it provides an overview of major trends in world history since 1500.
- There are no prerequisites required for this course.
- Students will gain a factual knowledge of American history since 1945 including important terms, dates, historical figures, and historical maps. .
- Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures.
- Students will develop a skills for writing history.

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Chapter 1. The Origins of Postwar America

*** ESSAYS**

Thomas G. Paterson, The Origins of the Postwar International System

Alan Brinkley, The Legacies of World War II

Byron E. Shafer, The Puzzle of Postwar Politics

Chapter 2. The Origins of the Cold War

*** DOCUMENTS**

1. President Harry S. Truman Discusses the Atom Bomb at Potsdam, July 1945

2. George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram," 1946

3. Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace Urges a Conciliatory Approach, July 1946

4. Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Novikov Reports on the U.S. Drive for World Supremacy, September 1946

5. The Truman Doctrine, March 1947

6. Senator Joseph McCarthy Charges the Democrats Are "Soft on Communism"

7. The President's Advisors Urge Military Expansion (NSC-68), April 1950

*** ESSAYS**

Arnold A. Offner, President Harry S. Truman and the Origins of the Cold War

John Lewis Gaddis, Two Cold War Empires

Chapter 3. A Consumer's Republic: The 1950s and the Emergence of a New Economy of Mass Consumption

*** DOCUMENTS**

1. U.S. Business Celebrates the "Miracle of America," 1948

2. A Report on the "Baby Boom," 1954

3. Newsweek Decries the Problem of Dangerous Teens, 1955

4. Life Magazine Identifies the New Teen-age Market, 1959

5. U.S. News and World Report Assesses the Perils of Mass Culture and the Evils of Television, 1955

6. Vance Packard warns against the "Hidden Persuaders," 1957

* ESSAYS

Roland Marchand, Visions of Classlessness

Kelly Schrum, Making the American Girl

Chapter 4. John F. Kennedy, the Cuban Revolution, and the Cold War

* DOCUMENTS

1. Fidel Castro Denounces U.S. Policy Toward Cuba, 1960

2. President John F. Kennedy Calls for an Alliance for Progress, 1961

3. A Board of Inquiry Reports on the Bay of Pigs, 1961

4. A Senate Committee Investigates U.S. Plots to Assassinate Castro 1960-1965, (1975)

5. President Kennedy and His Advisers Debate Options in the Missile Crisis, October 16, 1962

6. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev Appeals to President Kennedy, October 26, 1962

7. Soviet Ambassador Anatoly I. Dobrynin Reports on His Meeting with Robert Kennedy, October 28, 1962

* ESSAYS

Thomas G. Paterson, Spinning Out of Control: Kennedy's War Against Cuba and the Missile Crisis

Ernest R. May and Philip D. Zelikow, Aftermath

Chapter 5. The African-American Struggle for Equality

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1. The New York Times Reports a Murder in Georgia, 1946

2. African-American Parents Petition the Clarendon, S.C., School Board, 1949

3. A South African Novelist Examines the Plight of "The Negro in the North," 1954

4. Franklin McCain Remembers the First Sit-in, 1960

5. Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," 1963

6. Stokely Carmichael Explains "Black Power," 1967

7. A Senate Committee Reports on the FBI's Campaign Against Martin Luther King, 1963-1968 (1976)

8. Police and Fire Department Logs Record an Urban Riot, 1967

* ESSAYS

Charles Payne, The View from the Trenches

Thomas J. Sugrue, The Continuing Racial Crisis

Chapter 6. The Great Society and the Politics of Liberal Reform

* DOCUMENTS

1. President Lyndon B. Johnson Declares War on Poverty, 1964

2. Congress Strikes Down Segregation in Public Accommodations: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title II (1964)

3. Ronald Reagan Warns of the Dangers of the Welfare State, 1964

4. Two White House Aides Report the Achievements of the Great Society, 1966
5. A Conservative Strategist Hails an "Emerging Republican Majority," 1969
6. Earth Day, 1970

* ESSAYS

- James T. Patterson, The Rise of "Rights Consciousness"
 Michael D. Lassiter, Suburban Politics and the Limits of the Great Society

Chapter 7. The New Radicalism: Politics and Culture in the 1960s

* DOCUMENTS

1. Students for a Democratic Society Issue the Port Huron Statement, 1962
2. Jerry Rubin Declares Himself a "Child of Amerika," 1970
3. Radicals Proclaim: "You Don't Need a Weatherman to Know Which Way the Wind Blows," 1969
4. The FBI's Secret Campaign Against the New Left, 1968-1971 (1976)
5. Raymond Mungo Searches for a New Age at Total Loss Farm, 1970
6. A Pollster Reports on "The Big Chill," 1974

* ESSAYS

- Maurice Isserman and Michael Kazin, The Contradictory Legacy of the Sixties
 Hugh Hecllo, The Sixties and the Origins of "Postmodern" America

Chapter 8. From the Feminine Mystique to "Second Wave" Feminism

* DOCUMENTS

1. Betty Friedan on "The Problem That Has No Name," 1963
2. NOW Statement of Purpose, 1966
3. Redstockings Manifesto, 1970
4. Welfare is a Women's Issue, 1972
5. A Redbook Magazine Reader Discovers Consciousness-Raising, 1973
6. The Supreme Court Rules on Abortion: Roe v. Wade, 1973
7. The Equal Rights Amendment, 1972
8. Phyllis Schlafly Proclaims the Power of the Positive Woman, 1977

* ESSAYS

- Alice Echols, Women's Liberation and Sixties Radicalism
 Beth Bailey, Women at Work

Chapter 9. Vietnam and the Crisis of American Empire

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1. The Vietnamese Declare Their Independence, 1945
2. President Dwight D. Eisenhower Explains the Domino Theory, 1954
3. Final Declaration of the Geneva Conference on Indochina, 1954
4. A South Vietnamese Peasant Explains Why He Joined the Vietcong, 1961 (1986)
5. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, 1964
6. President Lyndon Johnson's Advisors Debate Expanding the War, 1965
7. A "Tunnel Rat" Testifies About the My Lai Massacre, 1968, 1969
8. The Paris Accords, 1973

* ESSAYS

Michael H. Hunt, *The Wages of War*
Arnold R. Isaacs, *Completing Memories*

Chapter 10. Ronald Reagan and the Transformation of America

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1. President Jimmy Carter and the Crisis of the American Spirit, 1979
2. Presidential Candidate Ronald Reagan Calls for New Economic Policies, 1980
3. A New Right Activist Explains Conservative Success, 1980
4. President Ronald Reagan Proclaims America's "Spiritual Reawakening," 1983
5. A Congressional Committee Reports on "Irangate," 1987
6. An Environmentalist Attacks the Administration's Record, 1988
7. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop Recalls the Administration's Response to the AIDS Crisis, 1981-1988 (2001)

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Benjamin Ginsberg and Martin Shefter, *The Republicans Take Control*
Jules Tygel, *A Disputed Legacy*

Chapter 11. The Promises and Perils of a New Economy

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1. "New Democrats" Hail the "New Economy," 1998
2. A Federal Reserve Report Extols "Mass Customization," 1998
3. Money Magazine Asks of Wal-Mart, "How Big Can it Get?" 1999
4. A Critic Assails the Influence of Wal-Mart, 1999
5. A Columnist Decries "Outsourcing" in the Global New Economy, 2004
6. Americans for Democratic Action Reports Growing Poverty and Inequality, 2004
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*** ESSAYS**

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Working at Wal-Mart*
Michael J. Weiss, *The Fragmenting of America*

Chapter 12. E Pluribus Unum: Race and Ethnicity in a Changing World

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1. *Coming to America, 1900-2002*
2. *Proposition 187: Californians Seek to Close the Door to Undocumented Immigrants, 1994*
3. *Two Reporters Describe Los Angeles's Racial Tensions, 1995*
4. *Social Scientists Report on the "New Americans," 1997*
5. *An African-American Novelist Decries "Race Talk," 1993*
6. *Richard Rodriguez Ponders What It Means to Be "Brown." 2002*
7. *Americans Express Support for Both Unity and Diversity, 2003*

*** ESSAYS**

George J. Sanchez, *Race, Immigration and Nativism*
Thomas C. Holt, *Race, Nation and the Global Economy*

Chapter 13. The Politics and Political Culture in "Postmodern" America

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1. Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton Promises a "New Covenant," 1992
2. "Gays in the Military" Prompts Mobilization of Conservatives, 1993
- 3 The Republican "Contract with America," 1994
4. President Bill Clinton Ends "Welfare as We Know It," 1996
5. Special Prosecutor Kenneth Starr's Indictment of President Clinton, 1998
6. Who Voted for Whom in 2000: A Chart
7. A Columnist Reports on How the Nation's Agenda is Set, 2000

* ESSAYS

- Bruce Miroff, Bill Clinton and the Postmodern Presidency
Matthew A. Crenson and Benjamin Ginsberg, The Imperial Presidency Redivivus

Chapter 14. New World Order

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1. President George H.W. Bush Announces a New World Order, 1990
2. One World: An American Diplomat Hails the Opportunities of a New Era, 1995
3. Osama Bin Laden Declares Jihad Against America, 1998
4. The New York Times Reports Last Words from the World Trade Center, 2001
5. President George W. Bush Announces a New National Security Strategy, 2002
6. Senator Robert C. Byrd Charges "The Emperor Has No Clothes," 2003
7. An Army Officer Ponders How America Is Losing Hearts and Minds in Iraq,

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* ESSAYS

- John Lewis Gaddis, Setting Right a Dangerous World
Michael H. Hunt, In the Wake of September 11

Course Outline

July 8: Introduction

July 9: Chapter 1. The Origins of Postwar America

July 10: Chapter 2. The Origins of the Cold War

July 11: Chapter 3. A Consumer's Republic: The 1950s and the Emergence of a New Economy of Mass Consumption

July 14: Test 1

July 15: Chapter 4. John F. Kennedy, the Cuban Revolution, and the Cold War

July 16: Chapter 5. The African-American Struggle for Equality

July 17: Chapter 6. The Great Society and the Politics of Liberal Reform

July 18: Test 2

July 21: Chapter 7. The New Radicalism: Politics and Culture in the 1960s

July 22: Chapter 8. From the Feminine Mystique to "Second Wave" Feminism

July 23: Chapter 9. Vietnam and the Crisis of American Empire

July 24: Test 3

July 25: FRIDAY Classes Do Not Meet.

July 28 & 29: Chapter 10. Ronald Reagan and the Transformation of America

July 30: Chapter 11. The Promises and Perils of a New Economy

July 31: Test 4

August 1: FRIDAY. Classes Do Not Meet.

August 4: Chapter 12. E Pluribus Unum: Race and Ethnicity in a Changing World
August 5: Chapter 13. The Politics and Political Culture in "Postmodern" America
August 6: Chapter 14. New World Order
August 7: Test 5 (Final Exam)

Attendance

It is the responsibility of each student to attend class, take notes and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken at each class. **Students who miss more than 3 classes will automatically fail this course.** Students who read, text message, sleep, or engage in other activities that are not germane the course will not receive attendance credit for that day. A student who engages in disruptive behavior which includes text messaging, talking, or sleeping may be asked to leave the class and, if this behavior continues, will not be allowed to return and will fail the course. Students who engage in disruptive behavior will be reported to the Dean of Students. Students do not have the right to interfere with another student's educational experience. Remember: you do not have a right to attend university; university is a privilege.

A seating chart will be made on the second day of class. Students who are not in their assigned seats when roll is taken will be counted absent that day; students who leave soon after roll is taken will be counted as absent. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class.

Academic Dishonesty

Based on the Academic Policy Statement 810213 and the Faculty Handbook: 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.

The exams in the course are essays. Students who have a text book, notes, cell phone, or computer on their desk (or have notes and/or a text book open near their desk) during an exam may be assumed to be cheating and will receive an F. Students may not engage in conversation during a test or look at another student's exam book (blue book). Any student caught engaged in such activity may be assumed to be cheating and will receive an F.

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Students who are caught cheating on a test, quiz, or any other assignment will receive an F for that assignment and will not be allowed to make up the assignment. If a student is caught cheating a second time, the student will receive an automatic F for the course. Students caught cheating on any assignment will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please see the following web address from the student guidelines at

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

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, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, text messaging, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class and will not receive credit for attendance that day. Students who are especially disruptive also will be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances and can be found in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at the following link:

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

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not represent 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.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

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 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.

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.

An institution of higher education shall 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. A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor in writing prior to planned absence.

Instructor Evaluations

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