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Sections: 001 & 002
Classroom: SCEN 403
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History Dept: 416 Old Main
University of Arkansas

HIST 2013 History of the American People 1877 to Present Fall 2009

Course Description:

This course explores key events, people, and cultural developments in the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era up to present. The subject matter will be the transformation of the nation after the Civil War, its political development, foreign policy, as well as interactions of its people. The emphasis will be on looking at historical evidence critically.

The course is a combination of lectures, during which students are responsible for taking notes, and discussion sections, in which students are expected to finish their weekly assigned reading and be able to participate to class discussions. Lectures and reading will complement one another. They will not necessarily cover the same ground.

Overview of Core Courses in History:

History is the study of the past. As an academic discipline, History embraces every aspect of the human experience, including warfare, political institutions, the economy, religious practice, technology, and artistic endeavor. History asks students to analyze empire and revolution, genocide and humanism, enslavement and liberation, sexuality and gender and to do so from the perspectives of social scientific and humanistic inquiry. There is no field more diverse than History and none more individualistic. History can be as long ago as the excavated texts and artifacts of ancient China or as recent as a mid twentieth-century newspaper produced in the American West.

Objectives of Core Courses in History:

By the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the following issues:

- The role played by diversity in shaping human experience
- The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, technology, and religion
- The challenges mounted by an increasing reliance on technology
- The changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world

Required Texts:

Both are available at the Union Bookstore:

- James Henretta et al., *America: A Concise History*. Third Edition, Vol. II Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2006.

- Wheeler/Becker, *Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence*. Vol. II 6th Edition. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Attendance policy:

Students are expected to attend every class session and attendance will be noted. Punctuality is essential. Tardiness disrupts the course and disturbs the classroom environment. It will not be tolerated. During inclement weather, if the University buses are running, class will be held.

Academic Honesty:

Dishonesty of any kind, including plagiarism, and cheating during both exams and quizzes, will not be tolerated and will be severely sanctioned. Students are responsible for their understanding and enforcing the University of Arkansas academic honesty policies. Ignorance can NOT be an excuse. To review the official University policies regarding academic honesty, consult http://catalogofstudies.uark.edu/documents/07_COS.pdf (See pages 35-36). Instances of academic dishonesty will be registered in the student's academic records and will result in an "F" grade for the course.

Course assignments:

Students will take ten in-class assignments, including quizzes and activities, over the lectures and weekly readings. Expect, nearly, one graded assignment per a week. Students will NOT be able to make-up the in-class activities, while students will be allowed to make-up ONLY one missed quiz and one exam. Because of that, regular attendance will benefit of the students' final grad.

Students will also take three exams. The exams will have multiple-choice questions and short essays, so make sure to bring scantrons and blue books.

Exam One will cover both lectures and assigned reading from Wheeler/Becker (Chapters 1 & 2) and Part Four of Henretta's *America*.

Exam Two will cover both lectures and the assigned reading since exam one and Part Five of Henretta's *America*.

Final exam will cover both lectures and the assigned reading since exam two and Part Six of Henretta's *America*.

If a student missed ONE quiz and ONE exam, there will be a general **make-up** exam hour the last day of classes.

Grading policy:

The course will offer 600 points distributed as follow:

❖ 10 Quizzes & In-class activities	250
❖ Exam one	100
❖ Exam two	100
❖ Final exam	150

Total: 600

540-600 =A; 480-539=B; 420-479=C; 360-419=D; Below 360= F

Discipline:

Students should be respectful to the instructor and classmates. Please avoid any disrespectful behavior. (1) Do NOT talk when the instructor or a classmate talks. (2) Turn your cell phones off or put on silence during class. Students who break these rules will HAVE to leave the class for the day. No exceptions.

Center for Educational Access:

University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the Center for Educational Access (contact 479-575-3104 or visit <http://cea.uark.edu> for more information on registration procedures).

Course Weekly Schedule

- W/B = Wheeler/Becker, *Discovering the American Past, Vol II*
- H *et al.* = James Henretta *et al.*, *America: A Concise History, Vol II*

Week One: August 25

Introduction to history;
What happened at Sal’s Pizzeria?

Week Two: September 1 ****Labor Day****

Reconstruction Era

Read H *et al* Chap. 15
W/B Chap. 1

Week Three: September 8

The American West

Read H *et al* Chap. 16

Map Quiz

Week Four: September 15

The Second Industrial Revolution

Read H *et al* Chap. 17/18

<u>Week Five:</u> <i>September 22</i> The 1890s: Political, Social, and Internal Conflict		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chapter 19 W/B Chap. 2
<u>Week Six:</u> <i>September 29</i> The New Century: Populism, Progressivism & Imperialism		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 20/21
<u>Week Seven:</u> <i>October 6</i> The United States & WWI 1914-1920		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 22 W/B Chap. 5
<u>Week Eight:</u> <i>October 13</i> The 1920s: Mass Production, Mass Culture, Black Culture First Examination: Thursday, October 15		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 23
<u>Week Nine:</u> <i>October 20</i> The Great Depression		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 24 W/B Chap. 7
<u>Week Ten:</u> <i>October 27</i> The New Deal		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 25
<u>Week Eleven:</u> <i>November 3</i> The United States & WWII 1939-1945		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 26 W/B Chap. 8
<u>Week Twelve:</u> <i>November 10</i> The Cold War Second Examination, Thursday, November 12		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chap. 27
<u>Week Thirteen:</u> <i>November 17</i> Postwar America		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chapter 28 W/B Chap. 9
<u>Week Fourteen:</u> <i>November 24</i> Vietnam & the Wars at Home	<i>**Thanksgiving**</i>	Read <i>H et al.</i> Chapter 29 W/B Chap. 10
<u>Week Fifteen:</u> <i>November 26</i> The Triumph of Conservatism		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chapter 30
<u>Week Sixteen:</u> <i>December 1</i> Post-Cold War & Globalization		Read <i>H et al.</i> Chapter 31
<u>Week Seventeen:</u> <i>December 8</i> No Class	Make Up Day	

Final Exam

Section 001: Tuesday, December 15th from 7:30 to 9:30 in SCEN 403

Section 002: Monday, December 14th from 10:00 to 12:00 in SCEN 403

N.B The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes the syllabus and course policy during the semester, after informing the class.