THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865

This class will survey over 150 years of modern American history, keeping a collective mind open about which and why certain facts, stories, events, and people are key to understanding our past. It draws on two popular American history books that offer complementary, sometimes conflicting, interpretations of the American story to illuminate the rich textures of the nation’s history as well as the particular challenges faced in its writing. Using these authorities (as well as a basic *Outline of U.S. History*) as a starting point, participants will work collaboratively to expand their understanding of American history and to engage in the type of thinking required to “do” history.

**REQUIRED**

http://www.america.gov/publications/books/history-outline.html

Johnson, *History of the American People*,

Zinn, *A People’s History of the United States* (available online, but without page numbers)

iClicker, available at Coop. Register on Blackboard/Tools

Additional readings, available as posted on class website. (password provided in class)
https://sites.la.utexas.edu/history2point0

Optional: Foner, *Give Me Liberty*

**Professor**

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**Teaching Assistant**

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**COURSE WEBSITE and READING ASSIGNMENTS**
https://sites.la.utexas.edu/history2point0

Reading assignments, announcements, course revisions, study guides, and other course related material etc. will be posted on the course website. No hard copy will be distributed. “Course Structure” (a full explanation of the way in which this class is arranged) as well as “Course Syllabus” can be found on the website under the heading Resources. A password will be provided in class.

**CIVILITY, EXAMINATIONS, GRADING, ABSENCES, ETC.**

It is your personal as well as social responsibility to attend each class, be on time, and stay for the entire class. Late arrival, early departure, ringing cell phones, texting, tweeting, surfing, FB’ing, sleeping, etc. distract and disrupt the entire class. Your courtesy is necessary and appreciated. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259 http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/. Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center http://uwc.utexas.edu/handouts. Medical
assistance/ counseling services are available at http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/. If you have concerns about the behavior or well-being of another member of the campus community, call BCAL at 512-232-5050. www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal

GRADES and ABSENCE.

Grades will be determined on the basis of individual quiz grades (20%), four in-class essays (30%), team work: journal preparation and templates (23%), survey participation (2%), and a final exam (25%). Additional information about each of these categories is in Course Structure. Grades will not be posted on Blackboard. However you are welcome to visit either the TA or Instructor to view them during office hours or by appointment as often as you wish. Plus and minus will be used in assigning a course grade.

You must complete all essays and take the final exam to pass the course. Missed quizzes may not be made up and will be recorded as “50.” Permission to write an in-class essay other than on the date scheduled is left solely to professor’s discretion and convenience, and will be allowed without penalty only in the instance of a valid, officially documented medical infirmity or an absence from Austin on official and documented university business, preferably before the missed day. Missing a quiz or other assignments is discussed in the Course Structure. The final is scheduled for SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00-10:00 PM, location to be announced. Make any plans for the upcoming break with this date in mind. Please do not ask for an exception.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

1--Construct a basic, meaningful, and intellectually honest narrative of America's history from late 19th century to the present.

2--Execute a basic set of moves that constitute historical thinking.

3--Comprehend, ponder, and write about key ideas, events, and interpretations relating to the history of the period.

4--Work effectively as a team.

THEMES

Three major themes run throughout the course material.

1. expansion of personal and civil rights
2. expansion of the role of the federal government
3. expansion of the U.S. role internationally

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

All assignments are posted on the course website. These are to be completed before coming to class on the date they are listed. This includes journal entries. Team work will be done only during class time. Lectures, readings, journal and team assignments complement and inform each other. One is not a substitute for the other. Essays and quizzes will cover lectures (formal and informal), all readings, discussions, etc. concerning material for a particular unit. The final essay will be cumulative. This syllabus is a general guideline; the sequence, topics, and dates are subject to change. Check the course website frequently.

WEEK 1 Aug 30

Th Introduction: Philosophy of History
(note: begin preparing for the graded Unit 1 Quiz, to be given next week.)
UNIT 1. THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY: Gilded Age and Empire

Th  Quizzes: Individual and Team

UNIT 2. THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY: Progress, War, and the ’20s

WEEK V    Sep 25
T  Quizzes: Individual and Team
Th  Lecture: Progress, War, and the Future of America

UNIT 3. THE GREAT DEPRESSION, THE NEW DEAL, AND WORLD WAR II

WEEK VIII    Oct 16
T  Quizzes: Individual and Team
Th  Lecture: Big Changes and New Roles

WEEK IX    Oct 23
T  Part 3.1  FDR: The Socialistic Savior of Capitalism?
Th  Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937
WEEK X   Oct 30
T  Part 3.2: The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937 (cont.) + In-Class Essay
    Turn in Journal entries for Unit III.


Th  Quizzes: Individual and Team

WEEK XI   Nov 6
T  Lecture: Fears and Realities in Postwar America
Th  Part 4.1: The Soviet Threat

WEEK XII   Nov 13
T  Part 4.2: Keeping up with the Joneses: Consumer Culture in the 1950s
Th  Part 4.3: An Emerging Critique + In-class Essay
    Turn in Journal entries for Unit IV.

UNIT 5: FROM LBJ THROUGH THE REAGAN ERA

WEEK XIII   Nov 20
T  Quizzes: Individual and Team
Th  Thanksgiving—No Class

WEEK XIV   Nov 27
T  Lecture: The Turn from Liberalism to Conservatism
Th  Part 5.1: An Appraisal of Richard M. Nixon

WEEK XV   Dec 4
T  Part 5.2: The Culture Wars
Th  Part 5.3: The End of History
    Turn in Journal entries for Unit V.

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00-10:00 PM. Location to be announced.

The syllabus, lectures, and exams that comprise this course are the property of P. Restad and are for the exclusive use of those enrolled in this specific class for use in this specific class. They may not be shared, reproduced or summarized in any form, including electronically, partially or in full, without the professor’s express, written permission.