

Course Syllabus  
HIS 315L TTh 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
**HIS 315L: United States History  
Since 1865**  
Fall 2012

**Instructor: Kathleen Barr**

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**Office Hours: TTh 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. or by appointment**

**Teaching Assistants**

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**Office Hours and Office Numbers for TAs will be posted on Blackboard.**

**Course Description**

American History 315L is a survey of United States History since the end of the Civil War. The course covers the industrial, social, and political problems of the nineteenth century as well as the emergence of the United States as a world power in the twentieth century.

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes**

After successfully completing History 106, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- The rise of big business and labor unions
- Major reforms instituted in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Causes, events, and results of wars fought during this period
- Major changes in foreign policy
- Major social issues that confronted U. S. society

**Required Readings:**

Kramer, Paul A., “Empires, Exceptions, and Anglo-Saxons” (available on *Journal of American History* website)

“Our Country” (available on Blackboard)

“An Anti-Imperialist Perspective” (available on Blackboard)

“Aguinaldo’s Call for Philippine Independence” (available on Blackboard)

Salyer, Lucy E., “Baptism by Fire” (available on *Journal of American History* website)

“Memories of the Internment Camp” (available on Blackboard)

“Call to Negro America to March on Washington” (available on Blackboard)

Hixson, Walter, *Parting the Curtain: Propaganda, Culture, and the Cold War, 1945 – 1961*,  
New York: VHPS, 1998.

There is no assigned textbook for this course. If you feel the need, you may purchase any recent college-level textbook to give you an understanding of the core narrative of U.S. history during the time period under study.

### **Blackboard**

You should check Blackboard for announcements on a regular basis. You can access Blackboard through UT Direct, using your UT EID.

### **Evaluation**

There will be two examinations during the course of the semester and a final examination. Exams will consist of an objective section and an essay section. Questions will come from lecture notes, classroom discussions, and any assigned readings. Each examination will be worth 25% of the final grade.

There will be no make-up examinations without documentation. Students have two (2) class days to arrange makeup exams. **Make-up examinations will be all-essay.**

### **Writing Assignment:**

Students will write a **four (4)** page paper based on Walter Hixson’s *Parting the Curtain*. The paper will constitute 25% of the total grade. There will be a 10-point deduction per day for each day a paper is turned in late.

**The specifics of the assignment will be forthcoming.**

### **Grading Scale**

100% – 90%	A
89% – 80%	B
79% – 70%	C
69% – 60%	D
Below 60%	F

### **Attendance**

It is the responsibility of each student to attend class, take notes, and participate in class discussions. Your class attendance will not affect your grade unless you miss an examination; **however**, missing lectures will have a definite impact on your performance on examinations.

### **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

Students need to consult the University's information regarding plagiarism. This information can be found at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses materials taken in whole or in part from someone else's research or writing including that which **may** be found on web sites, books, magazines, journals, newspapers, or other students' papers. If you are unsure of the meaning of plagiarism, please see the professor. The academic community takes plagiarism very seriously. Committing plagiarism will result in receiving an F for the assignment, **may** lead to an F in the course, and **may** result in expulsion from the university.

### **Disabilities**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodation for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, or the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6441.

### **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 making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, 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 reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

## Course Outline

All readings should be completed at the beginning of the week in which they will be discussed.

### Week of Aug. 27

**Topic:** Introduction; New Frontiers: the South

### Week of Sept. 3

**Monday – September 3 – Labor Day**

**Topic:** New Frontiers: the West; Politics in the Gilded Age

### Week of Sept. 10

**Topic:** The Emergence of Urban America

Video: *Triangle Fire*

### Week of Sept. 17

**Topic:** American Expansionism

**Read:** “Our Country”

“Aguinaldo’s Call for Philippine Independence”

“An Anti-Imperialist Perspective”

“Empires, Exceptions, and Anglo-Saxons”

### Week of Sept. 24

**Topic:** Populism and the Progressive Era

### Week of Oct. 1

**Topic:** America and the Great War

**Exam 1 – Tuesday, Oct. 2**

### Week of Oct. 8

**Topic:** Politics and Society in the Interwar Period

### Week of Oct. 15

**Topic:** New Deal America

### Week of Oct. 22

**Topic:** From Isolation to Global War

### Week of Oct. 29

**Topic:** The Second World War

**Read:** “Memories of the Internment Camp”

“Call to Negro America to March on Washington”

“Baptism by Fire”

### Week of Nov. 5

**Topic:** The Fair Deal and Containment

**Exam 2 – Tuesday, Nov. 6**

### Week of Nov. 12

**Topic:** Postwar America

**Week of Nov. 19**

**Topic:** Conflict and Deadlock

**Thanksgiving Holiday: No class Thursday – Friday**

**Week of Nov. 26**

**Topic:** Rebellion and Reaction in the 1970s

**Paper Due** – Tuesday, Nov. 27

Video: *We Shall Remain*

**Week of Dec. 3**

**Topic:** Conservative Resurgence in the 1980s

**Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 14            9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**