

HIS 315L: The United States Since 1865 (39710) – Spring 2014 – MW 3:30-5:00 – UTC 2.112A

H. W. Brands - GAR 3.306 – M 11-12, W 2:30-3:30 and by apt. - hwbrands@austin.utexas.edu

TAs

Dharitri Bhattacharjee

Dolph Briscoe

Holly McCarthy

Cris Metz

Shari Silzell

Andrew Weiss

Subject and themes: The course will cover American history from the end of the Civil War to the present. The basic themes will be (1) the struggle to define the boundary between the public sector and the private sector in American life, or between democracy and capitalism; and (2) the striking fact that a nation that professes to love peace has so often gone to war

Textbook and online access: *American Stories*, 2nd edition, volume 2, with MyHistoryLab access. The book-and-access package can be purchased at the UT Co-op. A digital edition (which includes volumes 1 and 2 together, plus MyHistoryLab) is available at www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/new-myhistorylab-with-pearson-etext-instant-access-0205065600. The course ID is **brands52804**

Exams and assignments

Chapter Exams: There will be one exam for each assigned textbook chapter. The exams will be taken online in MyHistoryLab. The deadline for the exams is Friday at 12 noon. Extensions will be given only for sudden documented illness or grave family emergency. Computer problems are not an acceptable excuse.

Each exam may be taken only once. It is the responsibility of students to monitor the MyHistoryLab gradebook to see that their exam grades are being properly recorded. The exams will total to 40 percent of the semester grade.

Blue Book Tests: Three, in class. Students will write on one essay question per test, given below. Students may bring one note card (3 by 5 inches) to class with notes. 20 percent total.

Papers: Three, on documents provided on Canvas. Writing prompts are on Canvas also. 20 percent. The papers will be submitted in class on the due dates.

Classroom Exercises: Periodically during the semester, students will be given writing exercises in class. These will be graded on a pass/fail basis. They will be unannounced and there will be no makeups without approved excuse (documented illness, family emergency, etc.). 20 percent.

Makeup and late policy: The Chapter Exams and the Papers will not be accepted after the deadlines. You have plenty of lead time on these, so plan ahead and allow for the unforeseen. Makeups for the Blue Book Tests will be given only for approved absences.

Grades: A = 90s; B = 80s; C = 70s; D = 60s; F = below 60. Straight letter grades only; no +/-.

Academic accommodations: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

Schedule

Week of

Jan 13: Ch. 16

Jan 20: Ch. 17 (No class Jan 20)

Jan 27: Ch. 18

Feb 3: Ch. 19. Paper 1 **Feb 5**

Feb 10: Ch. 20

Feb 17: Ch. 21. Blue Book Test 1 **Feb 17**

Feb 24: Ch. 22

Mar 3: Ch. 23. Paper 2 **Mar 5**

Mar 10: Ch. 24 (Spring break)

Mar 17: Ch. 25

Mar 24: Ch. 26. Blue Book Test 2 **Mar 26**

Mar 31: Ch. 27

Apr 7: Ch. 28

Apr 14: Ch. 29. Paper 3 **Apr 16**

Apr 21: Ch. 30-31

Apr 28: Ch. 32. Blue Book Test 3 **Apr 30**

Blue Book Test questions

For each test, write an essay of around 500 words. Be sure to **organize your thoughts** carefully and make **general statements** supported by **evidence**.

Blue Book Test 1. Was industrialization good for the United States, or bad? Who gained? Who lost? How did the emergence of modern capitalism challenge existing democratic ideals and practices?

Blue Book Test 2. How did the reform movements of the Progressive era and the New Deal reflect the evolving relationship between capitalism and democracy?

Blue Book Test 3. Why has the United States gone to war since 1898? Propose a general theory or explanation and apply it to each war.

