

United States History II HIST 121.3

San Francisco State University, Fall 2007
M,W,F 12:10–1:00pm
Classroom: HSS 310
Instructor: Anthony Swanson

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm
& Tuesday 2:00-3:00pm, in SCI 224
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Course Description:

This course is a broad survey of U.S. History which deals the end of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, the close of the Western Frontier, the emergence of the U.S. as a world power, the Great Depression, World Wars I and II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and proceeds to contemporary U.S. issues. Our readings of these subjects will include both primary and secondary historical sources.

Texts:

1. The American Promise: A Concise History, 3rd Ed., Vol. II James Roark, et al.
2. Reading the American Past, 3rd Edition, Vol. II Michael Johnson
3. A Pocket Guide to Writing in History Mary Rampola (optional)

Tentative Syllabus:

Learning Skills & Objectives:

The below-mentioned workload is not only about assigning work and expecting students to complete it; its objective is also about having the student apply various educational skills. The study of history involves more than simply using the skill of **memory retention** for important dates, events, and people. Although that is important for the multiple choice/true-false work done in this class, students will also utilize **critical writing** for their examinations. **Research & analysis** are also important skills used in the study of history, and that is the essence of the research paper assignment. Finally, **communication** will be used, whether in writing exams and the research paper, or in **critical speaking** in group activities.

(1) Course workload:

Exams: 55% = 550 points. There will be 1 midterm and 1 final examination. The midterm is worth 250 points and will consist of a blue book essay to be written in class. The final exam will be worth 300 points and will include a bluebook as well multiple choice/true-false questions.

Final exam date: Friday, December 21st 10:45am – 12:45pm.

Research Paper: 30% = 300 points. Your culminating experience will be to work with primary and secondary sources in order to write a research paper. This paper must be 6 pages in length. You may chose from any number of topics in U.S. history from 1865 to the year 1995. **Due date: November 2nd 12:10pm.**

Quizzes: 10% = 100 points. There will be 4 quizzes totaling 100 points in multiple choice/true-false format which will deal with information from the textbook and lectures. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions, but the point values will vary.

Participation: 5% = 50 points. Participating in class discussions, group activities, and group discussions will account for the remainder of your grade.

Tentative total points = 1,000. THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

(2) Grading Criteria:

All grading is based on a point system-

Class participation- I usually evaluate the level of participation as the sole criteria. Contribution to group work is what I look for, and I grade you on an individual -not a group- basis.

Exam essays- The ability to use your class textbooks, primary sources, discussions, or lecture material is essential. Students get a choice of essay questions in advance for both examinations and write on one essay in class. You must be thorough, and use evidence and as much detail as possible to support your argument. All exams are closed-book; no notes or books are allowed; the same applies to quizzes. For exam essays, you do not have to use footnotes/endnotes, page numbers, or even quotations when citing material from the textbooks or lectures. Exams will not be cumulative. Students arriving late during an exam will have the remaining time allowed to complete it. Students leaving the classroom during an exam will have it confiscated and graded on the work completed to that point.

Homework- You essentially have two assignments: Read the textbook, and conduct research for your paper. It is essential to complete assigned readings in a timely manner. There are also some homework deadlines related to the research paper, and occasionally I may also assign some reading from the sources book. All homework assignments are due by the given deadline unless otherwise stated. You may email me homework (but not the research paper) if you are going to be late or absent, but please don't make it a habit of emailing me all your work.

Quizzes- It is essential to read the textbook and attend class lectures as you will be quizzed on either material. Quizzes will be given at the beginning or end of class after you have completed reading a chapter. Quizzes may be announced or also "pop" quizzes, but like examinations, they will not be cumulative. Students arriving late during a quiz will have the remaining time allowed to complete it. Students leaving the classroom during a quiz will have it confiscated and graded on the work completed to that point.

Research paper- (again, due date: 11/2) You must use details and evidence to support your paper like in your exam essays. There will be a series of deadlines- informing me of which topic you intend to research, giving me an anticipated bibliography of the books you intend to use, etc...- which is intended to help you keep pace as you develop your paper. I will be checking in with students periodically to see how they are progressing and some class time -including at least one workshop- will be devoted towards assisting them. A supplemental handout on writing research papers will soon be distributed and you are encouraged to purchase A Pocket Guide to Writing in History. Also, the class textbook contains internet links to research websites. Don't let this paper assignment intimidate you and don't hesitate to ask me for assistance!

At the end of the semester, the points you have accumulated will be divided by the number of points possible for the class. This will determine your percentage and hence your letter grade for

the class. You are strongly encouraged to keep track of your point accumulation as the fall semester progresses, but you may check in with me to see what you have accumulated.

Grading scale:

A= 895-1,000 points:	89.5-100%
B= 795-894 points:	79.5-89.4%
C= 695-794 points:	69.5-79.4%
D= 595-694 points:	59.5-69.4%
F= 594 points and below:	59.4%

(3) Cheating and Plagiarizing:

Students caught cheating- whether in class during exams, writing the same research paper, or plagiarizing their research- will be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is submitting work that you claim to be your own but is not. Copying essays or other work from friends, copying paragraphs out of books, cutting and pasting paragraphs, sentences, or entire essays from the Internet, and downloading or purchasing essays from the Internet are all examples of cheating. If **any portion** of your research paper contains material copied from the Internet, a book, another student's work, etc... you will receive a zero on your research paper and your grade will be affected accordingly. The same will apply to students caught cheating during examinations: You or however many of you caught cheating will fail the exam automatically and receive zero points. If you cheat and/or plagiarize I will also report you to the history department. Other potential consequences may be removal from the class and possibly the university.

(4) Class Attendance:

It is strongly encouraged that you attend all class meetings, as absences may cause you to miss vital information which could affect your grade. In the event of an absence, it is your responsibility to learn what occurred in class during your absence. It is also strongly recommended that you complete all assigned readings in a timely manner during your absence(s). You are expected to arrive to class on time and not leave early; if you must arrive late or need to leave early, please do so in a quiet manner so as not to be disruptive to other students. **Do not expect any extra help from me if you have excessive absences.**

(5) Deadlines:

All homework assignments, and any extra credit work are **due at the beginning of class at 12:10pm.** I do not accept late work.

(6) Make up work:

You may make up 1 missed quiz **or** 1 participation activity. **Please note you only get one, single make up.** This does not apply to homework, exams, or your research paper. It is the responsibility of the student to make up the work (**and do so within a two-week period**): Make up points WILL NOT automatically be awarded.

Being absent for an exam is discouraged and only allowed in the event of a serious situation. You will get a different exam if you do miss and will have to coordinate a make-up time. This may cause you to fall behind with your workload. I will also give a lower priority towards grading your make-up exam.

(7) Dropping or Withdrawing:

If you need to drop or withdraw from the class, the responsibility to do so is entirely yours. Classes dropped before **9/24/2007** will not affect your record. The last day to withdraw from class

with the assurance of getting a “W” is 11/16/2007. After this date you will receive credit/no credit or a letter grade. Do not assume that I will automatically withdraw you if you stop showing up. Also, I cannot withdraw you after 11/16/2007.

(8) Student conduct in class:

- Use of cell phones will not be allowed! Please either turn them off or on silent mode while in class.
- You are expected to arrive in class on time and not leave early; if you must arrive late or need to leave early, please do so in a quiet manner so as not to be disruptive to students or myself. **Leaving early or arriving late may also affect your grade for missed participation or quizzes.** I realize that college students live complex lives. If you have work, health, family, or other concerns which are making it difficult to meet deadlines and attend class, please let me know so that we can work together to help you succeed in the class.
- Students engaging in disruptive behavior -fidgeting with cell phones, having private conversations, passing personal notes, or exhibiting other behavior which disrupts my lectures or announcements- **WILL BE SUBJECT TO ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE!** Disciplinary actions taken by the instructor begin with verbal warnings being issued, followed by written warnings being issued to BOTH the student AND the appropriate college personnel. Repeated disruptive behavior may result in suspension or even withdrawal from class by the instructor.
- **It is the responsibility of the student to bring the appropriate materials to class: Class textbooks, #2 pencils, the appropriate scantron sheets, bluebooks, etc... Failure to do so will likely result in the loss of points.**
- **Please observe proper spelling and grammar rules when emailing me. I WILL IGNORE, DELETE, OR ASK YOU TO RESEND IMPROPERLY FORMATTED EMAILS.**
- Finally, this is your class for personal and professional development and growth. **Please be courteous and respectful of others in class.** This class will study a great deal of cultural diversity; please also be respectful of cultural diversity among your fellow students.