THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AFTER 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 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.

Professor
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Office hours: See Canvas/Syllabus, Office, Etc.

Teaching Assistant
See Canvas/Syllabus, Office, Etc.

REQUIRED
Johnson, History of the American People
Zinn, A People’s History of the United States, any edition (available free online, but without page numbers)
Outline of U.S. History is a free, brief text/pdf.
Additional readings, available as posted on History 2.0
One ream of office paper and a reliable printer (no devices allowed in class.)

COURSE WEBSITE
Reading and research assignments, the course syllabus, and other course-related material will be posted on the course website, History2.0. (The password will be provided in class. Grades, announcements, and course revisions will be posted on Canvas. Check Canvas frequently for messages.

CIVILITY, EXAMINATIONS, GRADING, ABSENCES, ETC.
You are expected 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.

NO LAPTOPS, SMARTPHONES, ETC. You will not be allowed to use any device in class to take notes, read posted materials, or for any other purpose unless specifically noted. The advantage for you is explained here. Arrive in class with a hardcopy of your reading and any associated assignment. Do not ask for an exception.

ACADEMIC HONESTY. It is your personal responsibility to be honest and aware of what constitutes dishonesty. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person or your own previous work without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Plagiarism or any action that violates the letter and intent of the policy
of academic integrity is explained fully here. Any violation will be punished to the fullest extent possible, up to and including failing the course and suspension from UT.

IF YOU NEED ____. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259. Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact The Undergraduate Writing Center. Medical assistance/counseling services are available at the Student Center. If you have concerns about the behavior or well-being of another member of the campus community, call BCAL at 512-232-5050.

RELIgIOUS HOLIDAYS. “By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.”

TITLE IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here.

SAFETY. If a fire alarm sounds or an alarm announcement is made, everyone must evacuate the building and assemble at a safe distance outside. The Office of Campus Safety and Security at 512-471-6767 prescribes the following: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance exiting should inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instructor’s directions. Do not re-enter a building unless given permission by the Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. See the website for more Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures.

Campus Concealed Carry. All guns must be concealed at all times as per CCC legislation. If the instructor or a student sees a gun in class, the UT police will be called immediately as per the UT implementation of CCC policy. My office is excluded from CCC and you have received the legally required oral notification of that. If you are a CCL and wish to see me in office hours, you must either store your gun in your car or at home as required by UT policy when it is not on your person or arrange a Skype meeting during office hours. For responsibilities of CCL on campus, see UT’s information page.

NOT EVEN PAST is the UT History Department blog. Consider submitting a brief article or book review for the editors’ consideration.

GRADES, ABSENCE, and CREDIT.

Grades will be determined on the basis of individual quiz grades (17%); team quiz grades (3%); three essay exams (40%); participation, homework, and teamwork (5%); and a final exam (35%). Plus and minus will be used in assigning a course grade. Grading scales and grades will be posted on Canvas.

Attendance is mandatory. You must complete all essays and take the final exam to pass the course. All other missed quizzes will be scored 0. Absence from a team quiz will be scored 0. Permission to write an in-class essay / exam 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 condition or an absence from Austin on official and documented university business, preferably before the missed day. Daily work may not be made up or turned in late. All work relating to preparation for team work (i.e. assignments given for each part of a unit) is due as noted and will only be accepted if that person attends the entire class on that date.

The final is scheduled for TTH 3:30–5:00 pm is Thursday, May 12, 9:00-12:00. The university website makes this note: “Faculty and students should not plan to travel until after the last university final exam day.” Make any plans for the upcoming break with this date in mind. Do not ask for an exception.

This course may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to

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

Execute a basic set of moves that constitute historical thinking.

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

Work effectively in a team.

**THEMES**

Three major themes run through the course material. An ability to trace key elements of each and evaluate the dimensions of each as they occur in various time periods and for various groups will be tested in the final exam.

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

**ASSIGNMENTS and SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS**

Assignment readings will be posted on the course website ([History 2.0](#)). They are to be completed before coming to class on the date they are listed. No late work will be accepted. Handwritten work will not be accepted, nor will late work. This syllabus is a general guideline; the sequence, topics, and dates are subject to change.

**INTRODUCTION**

**WEEK 1  Jan 17**

T  Introduction: Philosophy of History

(note: Begin preparing for the graded Unit 1 Quiz, to be given next week.)
Th Introduction: Quiz (ungraded) on CANVAS

WEEK II  Jan 24

UNIT 1. THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY: Gilded Age and Empire

Read: Outline; Johnson, part 5 (to p. 615); Zinn, chapters 11, 12.
It is strongly suggested you have a good grasp of the basic historical narrative before reading Zinn and Johnson. Begin each Unit by organizing your reading in response to the Study Guide on History2.0.

T QUIZ 1 on Canvas, due by 10 a.m. (before class)
Check Canvas for details about quiz grading.

Th Lecture: The Gilded Age and Empire

WEEK III  Jan 31

T Part 1.1 The Money Men

Th Part 1.2: Visions of Social Structures

WEEK IV  Feb 7

T Part 1.3: Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism + ESSAY EXAM

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

Read: Outline; Johnson, part 5 (pp. 614-22) and part 6; Zinn, chapters 13 and 14. Read Zinn, 13 before Johnson, as he deals with Progressive era. Johnson concentrates more on Wilson and looks at the enhanced role of the government.

Th QUIZ 2 on Canvas, due by 10 a.m.
Team Quiz and Discussion

WEEK V  Feb 14

T Lecture: Progress, War, and the Future of America

Th Part 2.1: The Progressives

WEEK VI  Feb 21

T Part 2.2: Immigration and Perfection

Th TBD

WEEK VII  Feb 28

T Part 2.3: Kids Today: The New Generation

Th ESSAY EXAM –MIDTERM

WEEK VIII  Mar 7

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

Read: Outline; Johnson, chapter 7 (to p. 790); Zinn, chapters 15 (pp. 386-end), and 16 (to p. 426)

T QUIZ 3 on Canvas, due by 10 a.m.
Team Quiz and Discussion

Th Lecture: Big Changes and New Roles

WEEK IX  Mar 14 SPRING BREAK
WEEK X  Mar 21
T  Part 3.1: FDR in Cartoons and 3.2 The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937
Th  Part 3.2: cont.

WEEK XI  Mar 28
T  Part 3.3: Truman and the Bomb

Read: Outline; Johnson, chapters 7 (begin p. 790), and 8 (to p. 867); Zinn, chapters 16 (begin p. 426), and 17 (to p. 485).
Th  QUIZ 4 on Canvas, due by 10 a.m.
Team Quiz and Discussion

WEEK XII  Apr 4
T  Lecture:  Fears and Realities in Postwar America
Th  Part 4.1: The Soviet Threat

WEEK XIII  Apr 11
T  Part 4.2: Keeping up with the Joneses: Consumer Culture in the 1950s
Th  Part 4.3: An Emerging Critique  + ESSAY EXAM

WEEK XIV  Apr 18

UNIT 5: FROM LBJ THROUGH THE REAGAN ERA
Read: Outline; Johnson, chapter 8 (begin p. 867); Zinn, chapter 17, pp. 458-end; and chapters 18-21
T  QUIZ 5 on Canvas, due by 10 a.m.
Team Quiz and Discussion
Th  Lecture:  The Turn from Liberalism to Conservatism

WEEK XV  Apr 25
T  Part 5.1: An Appraisal of Richard M. Nixon
Th  Part 5.2: The 70s Slide

WEEK XVI  May 2
T  Part 5.3: The Bigger Picture
Th  Review

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 12, 9:00-12:00

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.