HIST 1302 (Honors): US History Since 1877

Dr. Josh Howard

Section 60

Lecture schedule: MWF 11:30-12:25, Archer 205

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Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1pm to 3pm; Wednesdays, 2pm to 4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to provide an introductory survey of U.S. history from since 1877. Lectures and readings will give attention to major narratives, interpretations, and themes, which will in turn be supported by class discussion. Students will understand interpretations of early American society, culture, and politics. Students will also learn how to read and interpret primary source documents and will demonstrate an ability to analyze evidence, craft oral and written argument, and write clearly and concisely about the American past. Finally, students will draw on historical perspectives to evaluate contemporary problems and analyze the contributions of past cultures and societies to present-day.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Learning Outcomes:

1. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.

2. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.

3. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.

REQUIRED TEXT

* *The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook*. Chapters 16 through 30. <<http://www.americanyawp.com>>
* Sarah Trembanis, *The Set-Up Men: Race, Culture, and Resistance in Black Baseball* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2014)
* Edward Linenthal, *Preserving Memory: The Struggle to Create America’s Holocaust Museum* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001)
* Huey Perry, *They’ll Cut Off Your Project* (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, 2011 [1972])

COURSE REQUIREMENTS / GRADING

Discussion/Participation (10%): I do not have a late policy, monitor excused absences, or penalize students for missing class. However, students are expected to attend every class and there will be an attendance sheet. Students who miss three or fewer classes will receive the full 10% for participation. Those who miss more than three risk the chance of losing these points. Note this means that missing three classes likely means losing an entire letter grade. This portion of the grade will be highly dependent upon your level of participation when we discuss readings in class, so be sure to speak up.

Public History Essays (3 x 10%): During the semester, you will complete three essays on three different topics. The first two essays must be approximately 1000 words in length, while the third essay must be at least 1500 words.

1. You will visit a historic site or museum related to post-1877 US History and write a reflective essay about your experience. Each visit must be thorough, such as participating in a tour or a lengthy visit to an exhibit space. You must discuss the museum, the experience, what you learned, what you *didn’t* learn, and any other things worth mentioning. Be creative. Go with a friend or family member. Have fun.
2. You will play a video game with a historical theme and write a review that focuses on the historical aspect of the game. This review must go deeper than pointing out obvious accuracies and inaccuracies. The review must discuss how the game portrays the past, what the creator’s motivation was in creating a historical game (beyond making money), and what can be learned about the past through this type of presentation.
3. You will “adopt” a single national, state, or local politician or other public figure for the semester and track how they use (or abuse) history in the politics. Keep track of their quotes, comments, speeches, legislation, blog posts, Twitter accounts, etc. You will also need to research how this person used history in the past. At the end of the semester, you will write an essay that discusses how this individual uses or misuses history to advance their political goals.

Exams (3 x 20%):Three 100-point exams will be given throughout the semester (including the Final Exam). These exams are *not* cumulative. Tests will consist of equal parts multiple choice, short answer/free response, and essays. Possible essay questions will be provided at least one class period before the exam. I intend to give **no make-up exams or quizzes** during this course. Make-ups may be administered *only in cases of* *dire emergency* (*vacations don’t count*). Student involvement in extracurricular activities also merits special consideration. In order to take a make-up for full credit, however, you must follow two steps: 1) alert the professor *in advance* of your absence; and 2) submit appropriate documentation.

Grading: This course is graded on a standard 100-point scale with the following categories:

A: >= 90

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: <= 59

An incomplete will be granted only in cases of extreme medical emergency or other dire circumstance, at the discretion of the professor. The “I” grade shall not be used as camouflage for a student who has performed unsatisfactorily, is failing or will fail the course, or forgot to drop. The history department recognizes no “U” grade, and absolutely no student will receive one.

According to the Privacy Act of 1974, the professor is legally prohibited from discussing grades by phone or via e-mail. Please meet with the instructor face-to-face in the office if you need to discuss your grade at any time *during* the course. Discussing your grade *after* the course is too late. Barring a mathematical error, your grade will not be changed. Any student who stalks the professor will be reported to the Vice President for Student Affairs and/or campus police.

**Location of Class Resources:**

Replacement syllabi, reading guides, exam study guides, and any special announcements pertinent to the course will be posted on Blackboard. *Please do not send the professor e-mail via Blackboard*.

***To access material from Blackboard (Bb), follow these steps:***

1. Log onto the internet

2. Go to [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu)

3. Click “myLamar” in the upper left-hand corner

4. Click “Students”

5. Click “LU Connect (Blackboard)”

6. Click “Logon Using Your Lamar Electronic Account”

7. Type in your lea username and password (the same as you use to log in to your LU e-mail)

8. Click “Login”

9. Click the “Courses” tab

10. In the “Course List” column in the middle of the page, click on the link for this course

11. In the far left-hand column, click on “Syllabus and Info” for the syllabus or “Content” for PowerPoints, reading guides, and exam study guides

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

The Lamar University history department considers academic dishonesty, including cheating, collusion, and plagiarism, as defined in the student handbook, a serious academic offense. Students guilty of such misbehavior will be subject to the following penalties:

First Offense: Student will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment (zero), with no possibility for make-up. If the offense is flagrant, the student may receive an F in the course. The student's name and documented offense will be placed on file in the history department.

Second Offense: Student will receive an F in the course with no possibility for make-up. The student's name and documented offense will be forwarded to the proper university officials.

All accused students shall be entitled to a written notice of the offense and the penalty assessed, and notified of his or her right to appeal to the department chair/advisory committee.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities or special needs. These students must identify themselves at the beginning of the term. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SFSWD) offers a variety of services designed to provide students with disabilities (SWD) equal access to academic services. Some of the services include academic adjustments, physical access, assistive technology, priority registration, sign language interpreters, and note-takers. Documentation of disability is required to receive accommodations/academic adjustments/services. Persons with disabilities should notify the coordinator of SFSWD prior to registration in any university program. A meeting with the person and Coordinator will be arranged in order to assign appropriate accommodations, academic adjustments or services. The office of SFSWD is located in Comm 105, e-mail: callie.trahan@lamar.edu, 880-8347, PO box 10087.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at: <http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>.

**Severe Weather:** Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel. Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many

walls as possible between you and the outside. If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building. Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

**Violence/Active Shooter (CADD):**

* **CALL -**  8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
* **AVOID-** If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
* **DENY-** Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
* **DEFEND-** Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

**Concealed Carry Statement:** Effective August 1, 2016, a license holder may carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while on Lamar University's campus, except in areas specifically restricted by this Lamar University's Concealed Handgun Policy and law.  The "open carry" of handguns on Lamar University's campus or premises is against the law. If you see a gun on campus, then it is not concealed and should be reported to an authority figure.

**Academic Continuity Statement:** In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar University's website's homepage ([www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu)) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

CLASS SCHEDULE

(Schedule may be modified at instructor's discretion. Readings must be completed ***before*** class meetings that week)

#### Week 1 (Jan. 18, 20): Capital and Labor

#### Week 2 (Jan. 23, 25, 27): Conquering the West

#### Week 3 (Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3): Life in Industrial America

Note: Feb. 1 is last day for full refund for dropped courses

#### Week 4 (Feb. 6, 8, 10): American Empire

Friday, Feb. 10: Essay #1 Due

#### Week 5 (Feb. 13, 15, 17): The Progressive Era

Discuss: Trembanis

#### Week 6 (Feb. 20, 22, 24): WWI & Its Aftermath

Wednesday, Feb. 22: Exam #1

Note: Feb. 20 is last day to drop without academic penalty

#### Week 7 (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3): The New Era

#### Week 8 (Mar. 6, 8, 10): The Great Depression

Friday, Mar. 10: Essay #2 Due

#### Week 9 (Mar. 13, 15, 17):

NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

#### Week 10 (Mar. 20, 22, 24): World War II

Discuss: Linenthal

#### Week 11 (Mar. 27, 29, 31): The Cold War

Friday, Mar. 31: Exam #2

#### Week 12 (Apr. 3, 5, 7): The Affluent Society

Note: Apr. 3 is last day to drop with academic penalty

#### Week 13 (Apr. 10, 12, 14): The Sixties

Friday, Apr. 14: NO CLASS — GOOD FRIDAY

Discuss: Perry

#### Week 14 (Apr. 17, 19, 21): The Unraveling

Discuss: Perry

#### Week 15 (Apr. 24, 26, 28): The Triumph of the Right

Friday, Apr. 28: Essay #3 Due

#### Week 16 (May 1): The Recent Past

Note: May 1 is last class day of semester

**\*\*FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 9, 8:00am – 10:30am\*\***