

## **HIST 2020: Survey of US History II, 1865—Present**

Section 001

Lecture schedule: MWF 12:40-1:35, Peck Hall 214

Instructor: Josh Howard (Joshua.Howard@mtsu.edu)

Office: Jones Hall 138

Office hours: W 11:30am-12:30pm, or by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to provide an introductory survey of the past 150 years of U.S. history. Lectures and readings will give attention to major narratives, interpretations, and themes, which will in turn be supported by class discussion. The class will begin with the challenges of Reconstruction, the entrenchment of Jim Crow, the growth of American industry, and the early development of American imperialism. The middle sections of the course focus on the world wars, Depression-era America, and the growth of the federal government. We will finish by exploring America during the Cold War, protest movements of the 1960s and 1970s, the rise of the new left and new right, the growth of globalization, and end with the post-9/11 world.

Note that I am always available immediately before or after class on MWF. I will do my best to respond to email in a timely manner, but any email sent after 5pm will likely not be responded to until the next working day.

### **ASSIGNED READING MATERIAL**

- 1) David von Drehle, *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America*
- 2) Huey Perry, *They'll Cut Off Your Project: A Mingo County Chronicle*
- 3) Nevil Shute, *On the Beach*
- 4) Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Each book corresponds to an exam in order. You are expected to read the entire book by the class before the exam for discussion purposes.

### **GRADING**

- Highest three exams (60% total)
- Paper 1 (15%)
- Paper 2 (15%)
- Participation (10%)

*In order to pass this class you must have a 60% average on your top three exams. An average of 59% or less on your three highest exams will result in an F for the class overall.*

### **EXAMS**

There will be four exams in this class and exams are not cumulative. The lowest exam score of the first three exams will be dropped. Note that all students *must* take the fourth exam

and the fourth exam will *not* be dropped in the calculation of the final grade.

Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, identification terms, and essay. All exams will have an essay. These essays will be based on the assigned reading material.

### **MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY**

If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an exam, you must contact me beforehand and have my consent to take a make-up exam. You may need to bring documentation proving the reason for your absence. If you do not contact me before missing a test, penalties, which may include a failing grade on the test, will be assessed as are deemed appropriate. Remember, your lowest score from the first three exams will be dropped in final grade calculations.

### **PAPER WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be two writing assignments throughout this course. Specific instructions will be supplied about two weeks before each assignment is due. Both assignments should be no less than five pages, double-spaced, with standard margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Students must turn in a digital submissions on D2L. Late assignments will be accepted, but the assignment will be penalized one letter grade for every class date the assignment is late.

### **HIST 2020 TBR and MTSU General Studies Student Learning Outcomes**

The Tennessee Board of Regents and Middle Tennessee State University General Studies Program have mandated the following learning outcomes for this part of your General Education curriculum. Student will demonstrate the ability to:

- Analyze historical facts and interpretations;
- Analyze and compare political, geographic, economic, social, cultural, religious and intellectual institutions, structures, and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures;
- Recognize and articulate the diversity of human experience across a range of historical periods and the complexities of a global culture and society;
- Draw on historical perspective to evaluate contemporary problems/issues;
- Analyze the contributions of past cultures/societies to the contemporary world.

### **ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takes, readers etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (898-2783) with questions about such services.

### **CHEATING POLICY**

It is easy to cheat; it is easier to get caught. If I catch you cheating on a quiz or exam, I will ask you to put down your pen, turn over your quiz or exam, and ask you to leave the room. You will receive an F on that assignment. Further offenses will result in an F for the course or potential expulsion.

The term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: (1) giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition or use, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff; or (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

(NOTE: Schedule may be modified at the instructor’s discretion)

#### **Week 1: Syllabus Day**

1/17: Syllabus, introductions

#### **Week 2: Civil War and Reconstruction**

1/20: NO CLASS (MLK JR. DAY)

1/22: Civil War

1/24: Reconstruction

#### **Week 3: The Emergence of Industrialization**

1/27: The South

1/29: Imperialism

1/31: Labor

#### **Week 4: Progressivism**

2/3: Becoming a World Power

2/5: Consumerism, Urban Change, & Progressivism

2/7: Review & Discussion Day

#### **Week 5: Wilson and War**

2/10: Exam 1

2/12: Woodrow Wilson’s America

2/14: America and The Great War

#### **Week 6: The Twenties**

2/17: Who is an American?

2/19: Those Roaring Twenties

2/20: The Flaws of the Era

#### **Week 7: The New Deal**

2/24: The Depression

2/26: The New Deal

2/28: The New Deal II

#### **Week 8: New Deal Impact**

3/3: Why is the New Deal Important?  
3/5: International Responses; Review & Discussion Day  
3/7: Exam 2

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK**

3/10, 3/12, & 3/14: NO CLASS

**Week 10: WWII Introduction**

3/17: World War II  
3/19: NO CLASS  
3/21: NO CLASS

**Week 11: WWII & Cold War**

3/24: America in WWII  
3/26: End of the War, Cold War Origins  
3/28: Anticommunism

**Week 12: The Long 1950s**

3/31: Rumbblings of Rights  
4/2: A Permissive Society & Eisenhower  
4/4: LBJ's Great Society

**Week 13: Society Changing**

4/7: Review & Discussion Day  
4/9: Exam 3  
4/11: Civil Rights

**Week 14: Civil Rights & Vietnam**

4/14: Civil Rights & Anticommunism Abroad  
4/16: The Vietnam War  
4/18: Rights Movements

**Week 15: The Right Returns**

4/21: The 1970s & Jimmy Carter  
4/23: Rising Conservatism & Reagan  
4/25: The End of the Cold War

**Week 16: The 1990s and Today**

4/28: Review & Discussion Day  
4/30: Exam 4

**\*\*THE FINAL EXAM DAY WILL OFFER A SECOND TIME PERIOD TO TAKE EXAM 4\*\***