HIS 315L: The United States Since 1865
Texas Common Number: HIST 1302

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Aragorn Miller, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Skills and Experience Flag: Cultural Diversity

How This Course Works
This course is online and is self-paced. Exams must be taken in-person at an approved testing center. More information about taking exams is available on the University Extension website.

Students have five months from their date of enrollment in which to complete all coursework. While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading will be ignored, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

If all other coursework is complete and you have requested the final exam through the course exam manager by your designated completion date, an additional 30 days will be provided for you to study for and take that exam. If the final exam has not been requested by your completion date, you will be dropped from the course.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.
Course Overview
This course follows the narrative of United States’ history from the end of the Civil War to the turn of the twenty-first century. We’ll follow the events of Reconstruction after the Civil War and, then examine the impact of industrialization, immigration, and urbanization on the country over the decades of the Gilded Age. By 1900, on the heels of the War of 1898 (the Spanish-American War), the United States had emerged from three-and-a-half decades of turmoil and become a world power. The nation played an important role in the world wars that marked the next fifty years. After 1945, the Cold War with the Soviet Union dominated foreign affairs until the early 1990s. Meanwhile, the nation also experienced the New Deal, the Civil Rights upheavals of the 1960s, and the interplay between liberalism and conservatism, among other important themes and debates we will explore.

Required Materials

Additional required readings are available directly in the course.

Course Organization
The course is divided into fourteen lessons that cover United States’ history from the end of the Civil War to the turn of the twenty-first century. Each lesson begins with a list of learning objectives that you are expected to achieve by the end of the lesson. The instructor’s commentaries and the assignments are all designed to help you learn the lesson objectives. Each lesson covers a chapter or more in the textbook as well as additional required readings. Each lesson also includes recommended readings that complement topics discussed in that lesson.

The instructor’s commentary is the course author’s remarks on the lesson. Here, you will be introduced to the lesson, its major themes and significant issues. Relevant information that is not in your textbook may also be presented here.

Instructor-Graded Assignments
Each lesson contains an assignment that will be graded by your instructor. Each assignment requires you to answer two essay questions and five identification questions of your choosing. For each of the identification terms you choose to answer, you will identify and briefly discuss its historical context and significance. Usually, it takes two or three sentences for the identification and context, and another sentence or two for the historical significance. For the essay questions, be sure to answer all parts of the questions. Perhaps a good guideline is the conventional 3–5 paragraph argumentative essay many of us learned in high school, or about 500–750 words. Support general statements with specific examples from the reading. These examples do not have to be long; often a sentence or two will be sufficient to demonstrate to your instructor how the evidence supports your answer.
Exams
This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. Both exams must be taken in a proctored testing center. The midterm will cover lessons 1–7. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which will consist of identification and essay questions like those in your assignments. You will be asked to answer 5 of 10 identification questions (50%) and to choose from one of two essay questions (50%). The midterm exam is worth 30% of the course grade.

The final is comprehensive and will cover lessons 1–14. You will have three hours to complete the exam, which will consist of identification and essay questions like those in your assignments. You will be asked to answer 10 of 20 identification questions (50%). In the essay section you will answer 1 cumulative question and 1 of 2 essay questions from the second half of the course for a total of two essays (50%). The final exam is worth 40% of the course grade. You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

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Grade Calculation
Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:
14 Instructor-Graded Assignments 30%
Midterm Exam 30%
Final Exam 40%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A 100-93%  B+ 89-87%  C+ 79-77%  D+ 69-67%  F 59-0%
A- 92-90%  B 86-83%  C 76-73%  D 66-63%
     B- 82-80%  C- 72-70%  D- 62-60%

Getting Help
• Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
• For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
• For other questions (registration, exam proctoring, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies
Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty
Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of F on the exam and an F in the course.

University Extension Contact Information
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