

US History 1302: UNITED STATES HISTORY 1877 to PRESENT
Spring 2010
Blinn College – Bryan Campus

Instructor: Chris Thomas

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Instructor Website: <http://www.blinn.edu/brazos/socialscience/Hist/cthomas/>

Textbook Website: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/america7/>

Office: A216 Office
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Office Hours: MW 12-1pm, OBA

Course Description:

History 1302 is a survey of United States History from Reconstruction to 1990. The course covers the industrial, social, cultural and political issues of the late nineteenth century as well as the emergence of the United States as a world power in the twentieth century.

Prerequisites:

See Blinn catalog for prerequisites.

Core Curriculum Course:

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Blinn College Core Curriculum web site is:

www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing History 1302, students should have a working knowledge of the following:

- EXPLAIN the rise of big business and labor unions;
- ANALYZE the main reform movements of the 19th and 20th centuries;
- SUMMARIZE the causes and consequences of the major foreign wars of the 19th and 20th centuries;
- EVALUATE the principal changes in US foreign policy during this period;
- and
- EXAMINE the major social, cultural, and economic issues of the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Determine the cause and effects of the Cold War on the latter half of the 20th century.

Required Texts:

-George Brown Tindall & David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History, Vol. II*

-Ron Wright, Larry Watson and Blanche Brick, *Readings in United States History, Vol. II*

-Jules Tygiel, *Ronald Reagan and the Triumph of American Conservatism.*

ADA Statement: Reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities will be made. Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the

Counseling Office. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

Civility Statement:

Members of the Blinn Community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

Attendance:

Blinn requires students to regularly attend class and instructors will keep a record of attendance from the first day of class and/or the first day the student's name appears on the roster through final examinations. If a student has one week's worth of unexcused absences during the semester, he/she will be sent an e-mail by the College requiring the student to contact his/her instructor and schedule a conference immediately to discuss his/her attendance issues. Should the student accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences, he/she will be administratively withdrawn from class.

Other Policies:

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Food and drinks in the classroom are NOT permitted. Appropriate dress is required. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off.

Supplies: Five 100-question scantrons

Exams:

All exams, including the final, will be multiple choice. Exams will cover lecture material as well as the readings from the reader and the textbook. The final exam will be cumulative. Make-up exams will only be given in case of a valid absence and with permission of the instructor. Make-up exams will not be the same format/questions as the regular exam.

Papers:

Students must submit 3 TYPED papers over the assigned readings (250-500 words in 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, double spaced). Points will be deducted for incorrect format as well as for not being stapled. Papers should ANSWER the question posed by the assignment, SUMMARIZE the MAIN POINTS of the readings and give the student's REACTION to it. Papers will be due on respective due dates (as listed on the schedule below). See my website for grammar help. Use the following format:

Intro: 1 paragraph - introduce the topic, state the thesis (the answer to the question)
Body: 1-2 paragraphs - summarizing the main points that support the thesis
Conclusion: 1 paragraph - reactions, opinions, thoughts, arguments, etc.

Extra Credit:

Students may choose one or two films (if two, they must be about the same general thing; both Vietnam, both WWII, Civil Rights, etc.) from the provided list, view them and write a 2-3 pg. paper (12pt. Times New Roman, 1-inch margins) analyzing how that particular historical event or time period is portrayed in the film(s). Questions to help guide your paper are found beneath the movie list. If you want to do a movie that is not on the list you must get my permission first. Papers are worth up to 20 pts extra credit. **ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED IN ALL PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS MAY TURN IN EXTRA CREDIT.**

COURSE SCHEDULE: *Subject to change as needed*

Week 1 – Introduction, Pre-test, Reconstruction (18),

Week 2 – New Frontiers (19), Big Business (20)

Week 3 – Urban America (21), Gilded Age (22),

Week 4 – **Exam 1 (Chapters 18 – 22)**, American Empire (23) ***Begin Reagan Book***

Week 5 – Progressive Era (24), World War I (25) ***Bailey Paper Due***

Week 6 – World War I contd., Modernity (26)

Week 7 – Modernity contd., Decline and Depression (27) ***Allen Paper Due***

Week 8 – **Exam 2 (Text: 23 – 27, Reagan: Intro - 3)** New Deal (28), Road to WWII (29)

Week 9 – **Spring Break, No Class**

Week 10 – Road to WWII contd., WWII (30), ***Maddox Paper Due***

Week 11 –Emergence of the Cold War (31)

Week 12 –Cold War Culture (32), **Exam 3 (Text: Chapters 28 – 32, Reagan: 4-7)**

Week 13 – The Eisenhower Years (33), JFK and LBJ (34)

Week 14 – JFK and LBJ contd., The Seventies (35) ***Extra Credit Due***

Week 15 – The Seventies contd., Reagan and the Eighties (36)

<u>Class Start Time</u>	<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Exam Time</u>	<u>Exam Room</u>
11:00	Mon., May 10th	10:15-12:15	CPC 105
1:25	Mon., May 10th	12:45-2:45	A 125
2:50	Weds. May 12th	3:15-5:15	A 276

Grades:

Exam 1	50 pts.	293 – 325 pts. = A
Exam 2	65 pts.	260 – 292 pts. = B
Exam 3	65 pts.	228 – 259 pts. = C
Final	85 pts.	195 – 227 pts. = D
<u>Papers (3)</u>	<u>60 pts.</u>	000 – 194 pts. = F
	325 pts.	

Last Day to Drop with a “W” is April 16th