

U. S. History from Civil War

HIST 1302.0U1

Instructor & TA Information

Instructor:

Dr. Shawn Varghese

Shawn.Varghese@utdallas.edu

Teaching Assistant

Alyssa Simmons

Alyssa.Simmons@UTDallas.edu

Course Description

There are no course pre-requisites. Come ready to read, think, speak, and write.

This course serves as an introduction to the methods of historical inquiry; our investigations will focus on the study of American history from the Civil War. The course will be a mix of video lectures, readings, and hands-on practice in analyzing a variety of historical documents, including maps, newspapers, political cartoons, popular literature, songs, etc. Besides readings from the textbook (listed in the syllabus below), additional sources /readings will be posted to the class eLearning page from time to time. By considering these texts together, we will be able to examine some of the broad currents of continuity and change in American history from the Civil War.

General Education Core Objectives: Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objectives:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.
- **Personal responsibility** – Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

HIST 1302 Course Objectives

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will learn to analyze and think critically about some of the major political, economic, and cultural themes that characterize post-1865 American history.
- **Communication skills** – Students will learn to write/speak about their understanding of some of the major events, ideas, and cultural currents shaping American history from the Civil War.

- **Social responsibility** – Students will become aware of how relations among and between socially and culturally diverse groups shaped and were shaped by larger currents in American history since
- **Personal responsibility** – Students will learn to consider how the relationship between economic/social conditions/circumstances and free will can shape ethical decision making

Required Textbook

This course will be using a free, online textbook.

The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook, edited by Joseph Locke and Ben Wright (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2019). [LICENSE: CC BY-SA 4.0; LINK: <http://www.americanyawp.com> ISBN: 978-1503606883.]

The American Yawp Reader: A Documentary Companion to the American Yawp, edited by Joseph Locke and Ben Wright (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2019). [LICENSE: CC BY-SA 4.0; LINK: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader.html> ISBN: N/A.]

Grading

- 3 Exams (15% each) – 45%
- 2 Essays (15% each) – 30%
- 5 Response Papers (5% each) – 25%

Exams

The course will evaluate students with three non-cumulative exams over the course of the semester. Each will include material from the lectures and readings leading up to a particular exam. The format will be short answer questions. Instructions on how to study will follow during the course.

Exam links will be available on elearning. See schedule below for due dates.

Essays

The course will also require students to write two argument-driven essays. Each student will select two primary-source documents at the bottom of a chapter of interest from the assigned readings. The student will then write a 4-page argument paper discussing how the documents support, expand, and/or contradicts the main arguments of its chapter. Each chapter has a number of arguments, typically condensed in the introduction and elaborated at length below. You may choose one or more arguments of a given chapter.

The objective is to interact with the very sources historians are using to construct descriptions and narratives of a certain period. Not all characterizations are accurate and you are especially welcome use your scholarly judgement and reasoning to show how certain documents are unaccounted or misrepresented.

Submission links will be available on elearning. See schedule below for due dates.

Response Papers

The course will also assign students to write five short response papers. The instructor will publish a list of prompts for each chapter. The student will select one prompt and write a 2-page paper responding to the prompt. The objective is to evaluate basic comprehension of a given chapter.

Submission links will be available on elearning. See schedule below for due dates.

Please contact your TA first for all questions related to graded assignments and exams. Most of the concerns will be addressed then. However, if you wish to make an appeal, you are welcome to contact me.

eLearning

As an online course, all interaction will take place through our course shell at elearning (<http://elearning.utdallas.edu>) and your UTD email. Elearning will include course documents, videos, exams, assignment submissions, announcements, and discussion.

Course Schedule

Week 1 *Monday May 25 - Sunday May 31*

- Introduction – See Course Announcement and Video
- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “Capital & Labor” - Chapter 16

Week 2 *Monday June 1 – Sunday June 7*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “Conquering the West” – Chapter 17
- Read “Life in Industrial America” – Chapter 18
- Due Sunday June 7 at 11:59 pm: **Response Paper #1**

Week 3 *Monday June 8 – Sunday June 14*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “American Empire” – Chapter 19
- Due Sunday June 14 at 11:59 pm: **Essay #1**

Week 4 *Monday June 15 – Sunday June 21*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Progressive Era” – Chapter 20
- Due Sunday June 21 at 11:59 pm: **Exam #1**

Week 5 *Monday June 22 – Sunday June 28*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “World War I & Its Aftermath” – Chapter 21
- Read “The New Era” – Chapter 22

- Due Sunday June 28 at 11:59 pm: **Response Paper #2**

Week 6 *Monday June 29 – Sunday July 5*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Great Depression” – Chapter 23
- Due Sunday July 5 at 11:59 pm: **Response Paper #3**

Week 7 *Monday July 6 – Sunday July 12*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “World War II” – Chapter 24
- Due Sunday July 12 at 11:59 pm: **Essay #2**

Week 8 *Monday July 13 – Sunday July 19*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Cold War” – Chapter 25
- Due Sunday July 19 at 11:59 pm: **Exam #2**

Week 9 *Monday July 20 – Sunday July 26*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Affluent Society” – Chapter 26
- Due Sunday July 26 at 11:59 pm: **Response Paper #4**

Week 10 *Monday July 27 – Sunday August 2*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Sixties” – Chapter 27
- Read “The Unraveling” – Chapter 28
- Due Sunday August 2 at 11:59 pm: **Response Paper #5**

Week 11 *Monday August 3 – Sunday August 9*

- Watch Video Lecture
- Read “The Triumph of the Right” – Chapter 29
- Due Sunday August 9 at 11:59 pm: **Exam #3**

Course Policies

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted due to the condensed nature of the course. Extensions will only be allowed for medical- or family-related emergencies.

Academic Integrity

Students at UT Dallas are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Students suspected of cheating on exams or plagiarizing writing assignments will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

University Policies

Please review the university policies at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), a clergy person (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”