A SYLLABUS FOR

UNITED STATES HISTORY 1865-PRESENT
HIST 1302

Through the support of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the American Yawp has produced a reference syllabus for college-level instructors who wish to offer an entirely open-source survey course in United States history.
HIST 1302: U.S. History II (1865-Present)

From the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Academic Course Guide Manual: “A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, Cold War and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include: American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy.”

Course Objectives

From the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Academic Course Guide Manual: “Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.”
Required Texts


Additional Readings


Grading

3 Exams: 45% (15% each)
2 Essays: 30% (15% each)
5 Short Responses Papers: 15% (3% each)
Attendance & Participation: 10%
Assignments

Exams
There will be three non-cumulative exams given over the course of the semester. Each exam will cover all prior material discussed in class since the last exam. Each exam will be worth 15% of the student’s final grade and will require critical reflection of course material.

Essays
There will be two assigned essays in this class. Each will address a major work and require your own scholarly interpretation. Guidelines, prompts, readings, and rubrics will be available on [Learning Management System]. Note that no instances of plagiarism will be tolerated at any time.

Response Papers
All students are required to complete five short response papers. Students must use primary sources to make historical arguments. Prompts and guidelines are available on [Learning Management System].

Attendance & Participation
Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and observe proper classroom etiquette. Course material includes several primary source readings. Discussion of this material and other subjects will constitute a portion of the class period as well as a portion of the student’s grade—active, courteous, and intelligent participation is required.

Course Schedule

Note: course schedule subject to change

Week 1 (DATES): Course Introduction; Reconstruction
Textbook Reading: American Yawp, Chapter 15
Primary Source Discussion: General Reynolds Describes Lawlessness in Texas, 1868
Primary Source Discussion: Mississippi Black Code, 1865
Primary Source Discussion: Jourdon Anderson Writes His Former Master, 1865
Primary Source Discussion: Frederick Douglass on Remembering the Civil War, 1877

Week 2 (DATES): Industrial America
Textbook Reading: American Yawp, Chapter 16
Primary Source Discussion: William Graham Sumner on Social Darwinism (ca.1880s)
Primary Source Discussion: Grover Cleveland’s Veto of the Texas Seed Bill (1887)
Primary Source Discussion: Andrew Carnegie on “The Triumph of America” (1885)
Primary Source Discussion: Henry Adams, The Education of Henry Adams (1918)

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**RESPONSE #1 DUE [DATE]**

Week 3 (DATES): Industrial America, II
Textbook Reading: American Yawp, Chapters 18
Primary Source Discussion: Henry George, Progress and Poverty, Selections (1879)
Primary Source Discussion: The “Omaha Platform” of the People’s Party (1892)
Primary Source Discussion: Henry Grady on the New South (1886)
Primary Source Discussion: Ida B. Wells-Barnett, “Lynch Law in America” (1900)
Primary Source Discussion: Charlotte Perkins, “Why I Wrote The Yellow Wallpaper” (1913)

** RESPONSE #2 DUE [DATE]**
Week 4 (DATES): Imperialism at Home and Abroad
Textbook Reading: *American Yawp*, Chapters 17, 19
Primary Source Discussion: Chief Joseph on Indian Affairs (1877, 1879)
Primary Source Discussion: Frederick Jackson Turner, “Significance of the Frontier” (1893)
Primary Source Discussion: William McKinley on American Expansionism (1903)
Primary Source Discussion: William James on “The Philippine Question” (1903)


** RESPONSE #3 DUE [DATE]**

Week 5 (DATES): The Progressive Era
Textbook Reading: *American Yawp*, Chapter 20
Primary Source Discussion: Jane Addams, “Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements” (1892)
Primary Source Discussion: Eugene Debs, “How I Became a Socialist” (April, 1902)
Primary Source Discussion: Alice Stone Blackwell, Answering Objections to Suffrage (1917)
Primary Source Discussion: Woodrow Wilson on the “New Freedom,” 1912

*** EXAM #1 ON [DATE]***

Week 6 (DATES): World War I & Its Aftermath
Textbook Reading: *American Yawp*, Chapter 21
Primary Source Discussion: Woodrow Wilson Requests War (April 2, 1917)
Primary Source Discussion: Alan Seeger on World War I (1914; 1916)
Primary Source Discussion: Emma Goldman on Patriotism (July 9, 1917)
Primary Source Discussion: W.E.B DuBois, “Returning Soldiers” (May, 1919)

Week 7 (DATES): The New Era
Textbook Reading: *American Yawp*, Chapter 22
Primary Source Discussion: Warren G. Harding and the “Return to Normalcy” (1920)
Primary Source Discussion: Hiram Evans on the “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism” (1926)
Primary Source Discussion: Crystal Eastman, “Now We Can Begin” (1920)
Primary Source Discussion: Objects of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (1921)

** RESPONSE #4 DUE [DATE]**

Week 8 (DATES): The Great Depression
Textbook Reading: *American Yawp*, Chapter 23
Primary Source Discussion: Herbert Hoover on the New Deal (1932)
Primary Source Discussion: Huey P. Long, “Every Man a King” and “Share our Wealth” (1934)
Primary Source Discussion: Franklin Roosevelt’s Re-Nomination Acceptance Speech (1936)
Primary Source Discussion: Second Inaugural Address of Franklin D. Roosevelt (1937)


Week 9 (DATES): World War II
**ESSAY #1 DUE [DATE]**

**EXAM #2 ON [DATE]**

**RESPONSE #5 DUE [DATE]**

**EXAM #3 ON [DATE]**

**ESSAY #2 DUE [DATE]**

**EXAM #4 ON [DATE]**

**ESSAY #3 DUE [DATE]**

**EXAM #5 ON [DATE]**

**ESSAY #4 DUE [DATE]**

**EXAM #6 ON [DATE]**
Primary Source Discussion: Statements from The Parents Music Resource Center (1985)
Primary Source Discussion: Pat Buchanan on the Culture War (1992)
Primary Source Discussion: First Inaugural Address of Ronald Reagan (1981)

***ESSAY #2 DUE [DATE]***

Week 15 (DATES): Recent History; The Next America
Textbook Reading: American Yawp, Chapter 30
Primary Source Discussion: Bill Clinton on Free Trade and Financial Deregulation (1993-2000)
Primary Source Discussion: Barack Obama, Howard University Commencement Address (2016)

*** EXAM #3 ON [DATE]***

FINALS WEEK (DATES): ***OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM ON [DATE] AT [TIME]***

[COURSE- AND SCHOOL-SPECIFIC POLICIES]