

History 108: The United States since 1877

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The Course:

History 108 is a survey of the dynamic forces that shaped the development of the United States from the Industrial Revolution to a new global age. It will address the changes in technology, politics, economics and social structure that posed new challenges to the nation.

The primary objective is to provide students with the tools that will help them to understand the new, dynamic forces that have shaped the United States in the 21st century.

Student learning objectives:

1. Identify the role played by progressive politics in shaping industrialization from 1900 to 1948.
2. Explain why reconstruction failed and how current issues in civil rights face similar obstacles.

Texts:

Primary text:

American Pageant by Kennedy, Cohen and Bailey, 14th edition, Wadsworth, 2010.

Secondary Texts:

United States History by Newman and Schmalbach, Amsco Publishing, 2015

Additional readings provided by the instructor

Text Readings:

Unit 6 (!865-1898)--- Industrialization and the Gilded Age (Chapters 23-26)

Unit 7(1898-1920)--- Spanish-American War to the League of Nations (Chapters 27-30)

Unit 8 (1920-1945)---The Modern Era to World War II (Chapters 31-36)

Unit 9 (1945-1980)---The Cold War to the election of Reagan (Chapters 37-39)

Unit 10 (!980-the Present)---The end of the Cold War to the War on Terror (Chapters 37-39)

In each of the units listed the major themes of politics, economics and social change will be addressed. Not all of the pages will be assigned but will be supplemented by primary or secondary sources provided by the instructor.

Assessment will be based on the following:

- Reading assignments in the text
- Essays, usually based on the reading of a primary or secondary source.
- Chapter quizzes
- Vocabulary
- Unit exams. There will be one for each of the first four units and the fifth will be the final
- Group presentations

My expectations:

I believe that education requires active participation and as such I have designed my course to give students every opportunity to do just that. There are Socratic Seminars, Jigsaws and simulations that require active student involvement. Students who fail to take advantage of these opportunities are missing a great chance to enrich their education.

Homework policy:

Homework is due on the assigned date. If a student is absent, they will get one additional day for each day they were absent. Late homework will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day until reaching a score that represents 50% of the original value. Late homework can be turned in until one week before the end of the semester.

Exams:

Exam dates are posted in the classroom and on the school web site. Being absent on the day before an exam is not an excuse to avoid taking the exam the day it is administered. If a student is absent on the day of an exam, they will make it up at the earliest opportunity.

Grading scale:

Grading will follow the traditional 90%A-80%B-70%C-60%D-50%E-40%F

