

HISTORY 150 (U.S. HISTORY: 1865-PRESENT)

Spring 2012

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TEXT: AMERICA: A NARRATIVE HISTORY Volume 2, Eighth Edition, by George Brown
Tindall and David E. Shi.

The purpose of this course is to present a significant sampling of the key questions, people, and events in the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the America in which we now live. Much of our understanding of the earliest events of this period is aided by the consideration of the processes of urbanization, industrialization, and in general, modernization, and the social, political, and intellectual reactions to those forces. But history is, foremost, a story of people, and how they reacted to each other, as well as the dynamics produced by all of these “forces,” some invisible, many visibly apparent. Also of prime significance is the evolution of American foreign policy and the transformation of the U.S. into the dominant world power of the Twentieth century. A deeper understanding of how we came into the present day is the ultimate goal of this course. Our lives are greatly affected by the decisions and actions of those who have preceded us. We are our past! Without knowledge of that past, we are incomplete.

As a part of the General Studies Program at MWSU, this course is designed to educate Students in a traditional liberal arts manner so that they will demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and characteristics of an educated person. Students will be provided an opportunity to acquire and reinforce knowledge and skills to:

Think critically and reason analytically.

Write and speak effectively.

Understand common phenomena in social environments as well as the methods by which they are studied.

Gain a greater awareness of the present through an understanding of other cultures and times.

Understand and appreciate moral values and ethical choices.

Understand and appreciate technological concepts and their influence on society.

NOTE: For those students intending to teach History and the Social Sciences at the secondary level, please be aware that the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) requires the promotion of ten thematic standards that are designed especially to assist students who are preparing for such a teaching career. These ten thematic standards are:

1. Culture and cultural diversity.
2. Time, continuity, and change.
3. People, places, and environments.
4. Individual development and identity.
5. Individuals, groups, and institutions.
6. Power, authority, and governance.
7. Production, distribution, and consumption.
8. Science, technology, and society.
9. Global connections.
10. Civic ideals and practices.

Each of these thematic standards will be integrated into this course. In particular standards 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 will be emphasized. Note the sections in the syllabus to which each of the standards is linked. Students in secondary education are responsible for keeping all papers and examinations as artifacts for their electronic portfolios.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS: (Theme Links listed for Ed. Majors)

Reconstruction -Theme Links: 2,3,5,6, and 10.

The New South and The “Last Frontier” –. Theme Links 2,3,5,6,7, and 8.

Big Business and Organized Labor -Theme Links 2,3,6,7, and 8.

Urban America- Theme Links 2,3,5,6,8, and 10.

Gilded Age Politics- Theme Links 2,3,5,6,8,9, and 10.

America’s Empire-Theme Links: 2, 3, 5,6, 8, 9, and 10.

The Progressive Era- Theme Links: 2,3, 5, 6, 8, and 10.

America and The Great War- Theme Links: 2,3,6, 8, 9, and 10.

The Twenties-. Theme Links 1, 2,3,5, 6, 7, 8, and 10.

Republican Resurgence- Theme Links: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10.

New Deal America- Theme Links: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

Moving to Global War- Theme Links: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

The Second World War. Theme Links: 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10.

Truman and the Cold War- Theme Links: 2,3,5, 6,8,9, and 10.

The Fifties- Theme Links: 1, 2, 5,6, 7, and 8.

The Eisenhower Years-. Theme Links: 2,3,5,6,8,9,and 10.

The. Theme Links: 2,3,5,6,8,9, and 10.

The Nixon Years- Theme Links: 2,3,5,6,9, and 10.

The Reagan Years- Theme Links: 2,3,5,6,8,9, and 10.

Cultural Politics- Theme Links: 1, 2,3,5,6,8,9, and 10.

GRADING CRITERIA: There will be four major examinations over the course of the semester.

GRADE SCALE: The four semester grades will be averaged with equal weight given to each.

Grades awarded on this basis: 90% or above = A; 80% -89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and below = F.

CLASS FORMAT: This is a lecture and discussion class. Come to class prepared to listen, take notes, and discuss each day’s assignment when called upon. Pertinent questions are always welcome. Students should engage in behaviors of mutual courtesy and respect. Cell phones should

be turned off. Chronic lateness to class, rude behavior (e.g. talking during class) leaving class early without an explanation, and showing disrespect for your classmates will not be tolerated.

DUE DATES: MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

First Exam: Feb. 7th

Second Exam: March 1

Mid Term Grades Due: March 21

Third Exam: April 3

Final Exam: Tues, May 8, 2-3:50pm.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:

1. Two days for make-up exams will be provided each semester. The first day will occur prior to mid-term grades. The second day will occur prior to final exams.
2. Make-up exams for daytime students and evening students will be provided on the same day (one session during the afternoon and one session during the evening.) One or two classrooms will be reserved for specific times. Each of the classrooms will be proctored by department faculty on a rotating basis.
3. At the discretion of the respective professors, each student will be allowed to take only one make-up per class per semester. This includes major exams, quizzes, book reviews, or any other in-class assignments. All other missed assignments will receive a failing grade. Professors still have the prerogative to deny make-ups if the students do not provide valid reasons for missing the exams, quizzes, or assignments. A make-up is not a right. It is a privilege.
4. If a student misses a final exam, he/she will receive a "0" for that exam or a course grade of "Incomplete," depending on the discretion of the professor.
5. All disputes concerning this policy will be brought directly to the chairman of the department for a decision.

DISABLED STUDENT INFORMATION: If you have been diagnosed with a disability or you suspect that you have a disability that has never been diagnosed and would like to find out what services may be available, please visit the Office of Disability services (ODS) in Eder Hall, room 203N or visit the ODS website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ds/> as soon as possible. This syllabus, as well as all other printed or electronic materials, can be made available in

alternative/accessible formats if requested with sufficient prior notice. Missouri Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance in this class is extremely important. The lectures are planned to enhance your understanding of the material, which contributes to your performance on the exams. Thus, attendance will be taken and noted. If you miss a class you will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. Serious illness, childbirth, funeral attendance for an immediate family member, and military service may be excused provided documentation is given to support it. Your grade in this class is based on your understanding of the historical material presented and is accumulative with each class. Plan to come, take notes, ask questions, and find enjoyment in the lives of those who preceded us in this mystic life!

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY AND DUE PROCESS

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the university. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook//index.pdf>

Any student who is caught cheating or plagiarizing in this class will receive a zero for that assignment.