

U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1875
PETTY 306
T-Th 2:00-3:15

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TEXTS:

Tindall & Shi, *America: Brief Sixth Edition, Volume Two* (**REQUIRED**)

Lawrence Goodwyn, *The Populist Moment* (**OPTIONAL**)

Aileen S. Kraditor, *The Ideas of the Woman Suffrage Movement* (**OPTIONAL**)

Norman H. Clark, *Deliver Us From Evil* (**OPTIONAL**)

Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War* (**OPTIONAL**)

Harvard Sitkoff, *The Struggle For Black Equality* (**OPTIONAL**)

Patrick J. Hearden, *The Tragedy of Vietnam* (**OPTIONAL**)

Fred Emery, *Watergate* (**OPTIONAL**)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

U.S. History Since 1875 is a survey of the social, political and economic developments in the United States over the one hundred and twenty-five years. Topics to be covered include the women's rights movement, imperialism, progressivism, civil rights, the Great Depression, and the Cold War.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to attend all classes. There will be 3 in-class exams, a written book critique, and class participation.

Examinations: Each written examination will be worth 30 (thirty) points. The exams will be made up of two parts. The first part will be the identification of 3 (three) terms which have been covered in class and can be persons, events, legislation, etc. A proper answer for each term will include the factual identification of the term, an example with a complete explanation, and a conclusion which shows the historical significance of the term. In order to do a good job on these answers, typically 8 to 10 sentences (each) of pertinent information is required. Each term will be worth 5 points.

The second part of each exam will be a major essay. It will cover one of the themes discussed in class and will be made up of three inter-related questions. A complete answer to each of these questions including explanations will be required to complete the essay. Typically an essay will cover approximately three to four pages in an examination book. The major essay will be worth 15 points.

Each exam will cover approximately one-third of the course material. There is no cumulative final exam.

EXAMINATION BOOKS (blue books) will be required for each exam.

Book Critique: Each student will select ONE book from the list of OPTIONAL titles at the top of this page and write a 3 to 5 page critique. A critique requires an examination of the author's thesis (why he or she is writing the book and what they are trying to prove),

a discussion of the sources used in writing the book (both primary and secondary sources), a BRIEF overview of the subject matter of the book (what it is the book is about), and an analysis of the effectiveness of the author's presentation (has the author proved his or her point to your satisfaction). The book critique will be worth 10 (ten) points and is due on TUESDAY, APRIL 19.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, although this is not required. Answering questions posed by the professor, asking questions, and making comments on the topic at hand can gain up to 3 POINTS EXTRA CREDIT. WARNING: Irrelevant questions or comments will NOT receive any credit.

Students who find it difficult to speak in class should see the professor and discuss the possibility of writing a second 3 to 5 page critique for extra credit. Any student who writes a second critique will receive 1 point. Whether the student receives 2 or 3 points will depend on the quality of the critique.

WARNING: 3 POINTS extra credit is the MAXIMUM that can be gained, so if you participate in class, it is useless to also do a paper.

ATTENDANCE:

I do not take daily attendance, but be warned: All exams will be based on material covered in class. There will be a daily outline on the board from which the terms which appear on the exams will be taken. Students who do not attend classes will not have access to those outlines or terms. THERE WILL BE NO STUDY GUIDES handed out.

There will be, however, a review session in class prior to each exam, so that students who have questions on any particular term or topic can ask them and have things cleared up before the exam.

PLAGIARISM:

Any student found turning in a paper or an examination that has been copied from another student or another source will receive a grade of zero. In writing the critiques, any quotes or portions of the book that are used in the paper MUST be cited.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1/11: INTRODUCTION
- 1/13: INDIAN WARS AND U.S./NATIVE AMERICAN POLICY: Tindall, 648-683.
- 1/18-1/20: THE GILDED AGE/THE POPULIST MOVEMENT: Tindall, 760-794.
- 1/25-1/27: SOCIAL DARWINISM AND IMPERIALISM: Tindall, 795-822.
- 2/1-2/3: PROGRESSIVISM: THE AGE OF REFORM. Tindall, 823-855.
- 2/8-2/10: THE UNITED STATES & WORLD WAR I. Tindall, 856-893.
- 2/15: EXAM #1. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.
- 2/17: NINETEENTH & EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY SEGREGATION.
- 2/22-3/2: CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.
- 3/8-3/10: SPRING BREAK.
- 3/15-3/17: WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Tindall, 905-906, 1098-1100, 1199-1201.
- 3/22-3/24: THE RISE & FALL OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, 1896-1929.
- 3/29: EXAM #2. REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS.
- 3/31-4/5: THE GREAT DEPRESSION & THE NEW DEAL. Tindall, 934-987.
- 4/7: BACKGROUND TO WORLD WAR II. Tindall, 988-1000.
- 4/12-4/14: WORLD WAR II. Tindall, 1001-1054.
- 4/19: BOOK CRITIQUES DUE.
LATE PAPERS WILL BE MARKED DOWN.
- 4/19-4/21: THE COLD WAR. Tindall, 1069-1077, 1084-1094, 1130-1139, 1144-1147, 1164-1166.
- 4/26-4/28: VIETNAM. Tindall & Shi, 1166-1169, 1181-1191, 1206-1211.
- 5/3: REVIEW.
- FINAL EXAM DATE TBA.