University of North Texas
Department of History
Spring 2013
HIST 2620.008: History of the United States From 1865
Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9:30 to 10:50 a.m.
WH 222

Dr. Alexander Mendoza
Office: WH 233
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Thursdays, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., or by appointment
Office Phone: (940) 369-7241
Email: amendoza@unt.edu

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

- **Nate Jarrett** **WH 333** **nathanieljarrett@my.unt.edu**
- **Jennifer Bridges** **WH 335** **txrose05@gmail.com**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History 2620, the second half of the American history sequence, covers the period of the history of the United States since 1865. The course is designed to acquaint students with the basic concepts, events, and interpretations of the American historical experience since the end of the Civil War.

TEXTS:

- **David Goldfield, et al,** ***The American Journey: A History of the United States,*** Vol. 2 **(Concise 2nd Edition)**
- **Richard Lowe, ed.,** ***American Legacies: Readings in United States History*****, volume II**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will be able to describe the impact of industrialization and technology on the American people.
- Students will be able describe the changing role of government in domestic and world affairs
- Students will be able to describe the impact of civil rights on the national stage.

GRADING:

The grade breakdown is as follows:

- **Exam I** **25%**
- **Exam II** **25%**
- **Final Exam** **25%**
- **Quizzes (2)** **25% (12.5% each)**

Generally speaking, a grade of 90.00% corresponds to a borderline A- and 89.99% to a B+; 80% is the line between a B- and a C+ and so on. Grades will not be curved in this course. No extra credit will be accepted to substitute for poor test grades. It is the professor's policy not to grant incompletes.

EXAMS:

Three exams will be given during the semester. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, short identification/fill-in-the blank, and an essay component. Each exam will focus on lectures and assigned readings from the Goldfield textbook. **Each exam comprises 25% of overall grade**.

QUIZZES:

In addition to the scheduled tests, students are required to take 3 quizzes based on the Lowe, ed., *Reader in American History*, a collection of essays. The format for the quizzes will be multiple-choice. Specific instructions for each quiz will be distributed later this semester via Blackboard. **Each quiz is worth 12.5% of student's overall grade and the lowest grade of the three will be dropped at the end of the semester (thus, top 2 quiz grades for a 25% total).**

MAKEUP POLICY:

Exams/Quizzes may **NOT** be taken early. Students must arrange work schedules and last-minute travel plans in order to take the tests & quizzes on the scheduled dates. There are no make-ups unless you have some kind of documented medical emergency or university sponsored activity. No excuses will be accepted more than 48 hours after the scheduled test date. Make-up exams will be given only to students who in my opinion have a legitimate excuse, such as a severe illness, or absence due to a University-sponsored activity. The burden of supplying sufficient documentary proof rests upon the student. **Students will take a different format of the exam/quiz than the original**.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Attendance in class is an individual student responsibility. Because class lectures do not merely repeat material in the reading assignments, regular attendance and note-taking in class is highly recommended. For the purposes of helping the professor monitor examinations and get a general idea of class attendance trends, attendance may be checked via sign-sheets.

USE OF BLACKBOARD:

The instructor will use the University of North Texas' Blackboard platform to distribute information throughout the semester. Lecture outlines, exam reviews, as well as any additional announcements will all be found on the course Blackboard page. Students must learn the process of accessing course information and test/quiz review materials on specific dates. The burden of responsibility lies with the students.

STUDENT ABSENCE DUE TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE:

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR UNIVERSITY SPONSORED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION:

A Supplemental Instruction (SI) component is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of the material taught in this course. SI sessions are led by a student who has already mastered the course material and has been trained to facilitate group sessions where students can meet to compare class notes, review and discuss important concepts, develop strategies for studying, and prepare for exams. Attendance at SI sessions is free and voluntary. Students may attend as many times as they choose. SI sessions begin the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program, and session schedule/updates, visit: http://learningcenter.unt.edu/si

NOTE TAKING:

You are expected to take notes during lectures, discussions, and, if applicable, videos. Lecture outlines and exam study guides that are available via Blackboard will assist you in this process. However, it is not enough simply to copy the lecture outline—you must take notes in order to do well on exams. Please do not try to follow along with me in your textbook—I do not lecture directly from your book and you will end up missing key points in the lecture and the point(s) I am trying to make. If you miss a class, please check with your fellow students to see if someone will lend you their notes. The professor does not provide lecture notes.

DISABILITIES ACCOMODATION:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

USE OF EMAIL:

Feel free to e-mail me in regard to anything related to the class, the topic, or professional requests. Please do not e-mail me or the Teaching Assistants in regard to specific grades. We will not respond to grade queries for reasons of student privacy, and anything we deem inappropriate or unprofessional.

ADDITONAL POLICIES:

- Cell Phones: Please remember to turn off phones prior to class.
- If you are having trouble with this class, please come by my office during office hours or set up an appointment.

WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU:

1. Keep up with the readings. If you fall behind, you will be lost in class & have difficulty catching up for exams.
2. Take all exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ME:

1. My lectures will be well-prepared and organized.
2. I will see that your exams are graded as promptly and accurately as possible.

NOTE:

This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion. All changes will be provided verbally in class.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings (subject to change)

Date	Lecture	Subject	Reading
Jan. 15	01	Introduction/America in 1865	**Goldfield (G)**, et al., chapter 16
Jan. 17	02	A New South	**G,** chapter 17
Jan. 22	03	Big Business and Labor: A New Commodity	**G,** chapter18
Jan. 24	04	Immigration & Urban America	**G,** chapter 18
Jan. 29	05	The West	**G,** chapter 19
Jan. 31		**Quiz 1: Lowe Reader**	**Lowe, chapters, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6**
Feb. 05	06	Gilded Age Politics and Farmer Discontent	**G**, chapter 20
Feb. 07	07	Progressivism in America	**G**, chapter 21
Feb. 12	08	America and the World: The Spanish-American War	**G,** chapter 22
Feb. 14		**Exam I**	
Feb. 19	09	World War I: Over There	**G,** chapter 23
Feb. 21	10	World War I: Over Here	**G,** chapter 23
Feb. 26	11	The Roaring Twenties	**G**, chapter 24
Feb. 28	12	The Great Crash	**G**, chapter 25
Mar. 05	13	The New Deal	**G**, chapter 25
Mar. 07		**Quiz 2: Lowe Reader**	**Lowe, chapters, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14**
Mar. 11-15		**UNT Spring Break—No Classes Scheduled**	
Mar. 19	14	World War II: Military	**G**, chapter 26
Mar. 21	15	World War II: Homefront	**G**, chapter 26
Mar. 26	16	Cold War America	**G**, chapter 27
Mar. 28		**Exam II**	
Apr. 02	17	1950s America	**G**, chapter 28
Apr. 04	18	The Boob Tube: Television and its Impact	**G**, chapter 28
Apr. 09	19	Civil Rights: Education	**G,** chapter 28
Apr. 11	20	Civil Rights: Segregation, Voting, and Decline	**G**, chapter 28
Apr. 16	21	A Tumultuous Decade: The 1960s	**G**, chapter 29
Apr. 18		**Quiz 3: Lowe Reader**	**Lowe, chapters, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20**
Apr. 22	21	America's Longest War: Vietnam	**G**, chapter 29
Apr. 25	22	Watergate and other Political Nightmares	**G**, chapter 29
Apr. 30	23	Reagan's America	**G**, chapter 30
May 02	24	Summary Day	

Final Exam

Tuesday May 07, 2013 (8:00 AM to 10:00 AM)

***Instructor did not determine the time for final exams. Sorry. ⊗**