

University of North Texas
Department of History
Fall 2015
HIST 2620.04: History of the United States From 1865
MWF, 11:00 to 11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Alex Mendoza

Office: WH 233

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50 a.m., 1:00 to 1:30 p.m., or by appointment

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History 2620, the second half of the American history sequence, covers the period of American history 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:

- **James Henretta, et al, *America: A Concise History, volume 2, (concise edition)***

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 | 30% |
| ▪ Quizzes (avg.) | 20% |

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 Henretta textbook. **Each midterm exam comprises 25% of overall grade and the final is weighed at 30% as it is comprehensive.**

QUIZZES:

In addition to the scheduled tests, students are required to take 5-10 in-class quizzes this semester from the course textbook and/or course lectures. The format for the quizzes will be multiple-choice, short-answer, or brief essay. Specific instructions for each quiz will be distributed later this semester. **Some quiz dates are scheduled (see syllabus) and others will be unannounced (pop quiz format).** The student's overall grade will come from the top five (5) quiz grades and the lowest grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to acquire the book and be prepared in time for each quiz. As there is a dropped grade policy, there are no makeups for absences or tardies.

MAKEUP POLICY:

Exams or 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 must provide a 1/2 to 1-page, single-spaced letter explaining the reason why they require a makeup test along with documentation (medical or otherwise) in order to receive consideration for a makeup. **Students will take a different format of the exam/quiz than the original.**

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.

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. However, grade penalties for non-attendance will not be applied.

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.

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.

NOTE TAKING:

You are expected to take notes during lectures, discussions, and, if applicable, videos. Lecture outlines and exam study guides 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, 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 complies with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The University of North Texas provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides a reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please see the instructor and/or contact the Office of Disability Accommodation at (940) 565-4323 during the first week of class.

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 been successful with 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. On average, students who attend supplemental instruction once a week, earn a significantly higher course grade than those who do not attend. 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>

ADDITIONAL 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. Please do not come to class late. If there is a reason why you must be late, try to be quiet as you come in.
3. 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:

Please keep in mind that there are no assignments or extra credit opportunities to substitute for poor grades or non-attendance. This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion. All changes will be provided verbally in class.

Date	Lecture	Subject	Reading
Week One:			
Aug. 24	00	Syllabus	James Henretta, <i>America's History</i> (H)
Aug. 26	01	America in 1865	H , Chapter 15
Aug. 28	02	The End of Reconstruction	H , Chapter 15
Week Two:			
Aug. 31	03	The West	H , Chapter 16
Sep. 02	04	Railroads and Big Business	H , Chapter 17
Sep. 04	05	Workers and Labor in America	H , Chapter 17
Week Three:			
Sep. 07		Labor Day—No Class Scheduled	
Sep. 09	06	Immigration	
Sep. 11		Quiz	
Week Four:			
Sep. 14	07	Populism & Politics	H , Chapter 20
Sep. 16	08	American Imperialism	H , Chapter 21
Sep. 18	09	Progressivism	H , Chapter 20
Week Five:			
Sep. 21	10	Progressivism, cont	H , Chapter 20
Sep. 23		<i>Review</i>	
Sep. 25		Test I: Reconstruction to Progressivism	
Week Six:			
Sep. 28	11	World War I: Entry	H , Chapter 21
Sep. 30	12	World War I: Homefront	H , Chapter 21
Oct. 02	13	The Roaring Twenties	H , Chapter 22
Week Seven:			
Oct. 05	14	1920s cont.	
Oct. 07	15	The Great Crash: Causes	H , Chapter 23
Oct. 09		Quiz	
Week Eight:			
Oct. 12	16	The 1930s Depression	H , Chapter 23
Oct. 14		The Depression, cont.	
Oct. 16	17	The New Deal	H , Chapter 23
Week Nine:			
Oct. 19	18	The Road to World War II	H , Chapter 24
Oct. 21	19	The Second World War: Military	H , Chapter 24
Oct. 23	20	The Second World War: Homefront	H , Chapter 24

Week Ten:

Oct. 26	21	The Cold War World	H, Chapter 25
Oct. 28		<i>Review</i>	
Oct. 30		Test II: World War I to Cold War	

Week Eleven:

Nov. 02	22	The 1950s	H, Chapter 26
Nov. 04	23	The 1950s, cont.	
Nov. 06	24	The Boob Tube and its Impact: Television	H, Chapter 26-27

Week Twelve:

Nov. 09	25	Civil Rights: Education	H, Chapter 27
Nov. 11	26	Civil Rights: Segregation	H, Chapter 27
Nov. 13		Quiz	

Week Thirteen:

Nov. 16	27	Vietnam: America's Longest War	H, Chapter 25
Nov. 18	28	Vietnam: The Homefront	H, Chapter 27
Nov. 20	29	Watergate and Other Nightmares	H, Chapter 28

Week Fourteen:

Nov. 23		Quiz	
Nov. 25		Thanksgiving Holiday: No Classes at UNT	
Nov. 27		Thanksgiving Holiday: No Classes at UNT	

Week Fifteen:

Nov. 30	30	The Age of Reagan	H, Chapter 30
Dec. 02		Summary/Quiz	
Dec. 04		Reading Day—No Classes Scheduled at UNT	

Final Exam

Monday December 7, 2015 (10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

(Check the UNT website for any updates)