History 2620.401
American History Since 1865
Asynchronous Online
8-Week 2 Fall 2026

Instructor
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Please email me using Canvas email
Zoom Room:https://unt.zoom.us/j/7778155406
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30pm-3:30pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistants
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Course Description
In this course, we will learn American history since the Civil War. More specifically, we will follow the political, economic, social, and cultural developments of the United States from the Reconstruction period to the end of World War II. While learning this history, you will also learn how to think historically and pursue historical inquiry. You will learn how to contextualize and interpret primary sources; understand historical periods from multiple perspectives; assess what historical documents may or may not be able to tell you about the past; and consider the significance of the people, events, and ideas they detail. Our goal, then, is to think more critically about history, how it is made, and its significance to us today.

Course Prerequisites and Other Restrictions
There are no prerequisites or other restrictions for this course.

Syllabus Change Policy
This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. However, any changes I make will not be substantial, and I will communicate fully with you and give you ample time to prepare.

Course Structure
This course is delivered 100% online. The class is also asynchronous. I will make weekly modules available to you at least two weeks in advance, so that you may pace yourself through the course in a manner that suits your schedule and needs. Because we do not have set meeting times, you have a degree of flexibility that is unavailable in the traditional, in-person classroom. You choose when you watch the lecture videos and study for the course as long as your assignments are completed by the due date. The class is also on an accelerated schedule. We will be learning 16 weeks worth of material in half the time. Over the 8-week session, it is important that you remain consistent and up-to-date with the course so that you do not fall behind. Successful students in this course, then, must be self-directed and

self-motivated. What you take away from the course will be determined by how much time and effort you put into it.

Objectives and Outcomes

American History State Course Objectives

Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States. Courses involve the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. Successful students in this course will develop:

- *Critical Thinking Skills*, including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- *Communication Skills*, including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- *Personal Responsibility*, including the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making;
- *Social Responsibility*, including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

History 2620 Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- Identify major events, people, ideas, and developments in American History
- Explain the significance of major ideas and developments
- Recognize that historical developments unfold over time
- Contextualize and interpret primary sources
- Use historical evidence to create and support a main idea about the past

Materials

This course uses open educational resources that are accessed electronically through Canvas. I will link reading assignments in each module. Readings linked in the UNT Library will require you to log in using your student credentials. I may provide other readings and resources such as handouts, short articles, links to websites and webpages, and other files via Canvas. You are responsible for accessing these materials. If you need assistance, please contact me or a teaching assistant immediately. Additionally, students will need access to a computer, speakers, reliable internet access, and a word processor, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.

Technical Assistance
Part of working in online environments like Canvas involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130
Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

Course Requirements and Grading
Assignments
Student Responsibility Quiz - 10%
Students will be assigned a quiz over the syllabus. The quiz is meant to encourage students to become aware of the course policies and acknowledge their understanding of them. Students will have until the end of week two to complete this quiz.

Guided Lecture Notes - 40%
Each week, I will deliver the course content through video lectures. In each video lecture, I will provide guidance and prompts to help you take effective notes that will prepare you for the exams. My guidance will offer emphasis on key points and definitions for key terms that may appear on exams as well as prompts to practice historical thinking with primary sources. Students are required to take notes and respond to the prompts in each of the video lectures and submit them at the end of the week. The submission of guided lecture notes will be used to assess participation and engagement and will be graded on a Complete (100)/Incomplete (0) basis.

Exams - 30%
Students will complete three exams that cover the content delivered in the video lectures. The exams may contain a mix of multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer style questions.

Signature Assignment - 20%
Students will complete the core assessment which evaluates what students have learned about primary source analysis and contextualization. Students will write an argumentative essay, and they must incorporate evidence from primary sources.

Grading Breakdown and Grading Scale

Student Responsibility Quiz - 10%	**A**=90%-100%
Guided Lecture Notes - 40%	**B**=80%-89%
Exams - 30%	**C**=70%-79%
Signature Assignment - 20%	**D**=60%-69%
Total Percentage Possible: 100%	**F**=59% or less

Course Policies

Communication Expectations and Etiquette

During office hours, mine and the teaching assistants' priority is answering your questions and responding to your emails. If you email us during our office hours, we will respond right away. **Outside of office hours, you may still contact us, but we will respond to emails within a 24-hour period. We may not respond to emails during the weekend.** If you contact us during the weekend, please be aware that we will receive your message, and we will contact you as soon as possible on the following Monday.

When you contact me, the instructor, please email me via Canvas email. Canvas email assists me by sorting my email by class. This helps me to identify which course section students belong to, and I am able to assist you in a timely manner. Please only email me via Canvas email. Students who do not use Canvas email to contact me may not receive a response from me. An exception to this policy are official university notices from the Dean of Students, UNT's CARE Team, the office of Disability Access, UNT Athletics, and other departments who may be writing on your behalf.

Finally, please note that all communication between students, the instructor, and teaching assistants are considered exchanges between professionals and should be written accordingly. I will expect all students to communicate in a manner consistent with a professional setting. Professional communication includes using an appropriate greeting, clear and thoughtful language, complete sentences, and a courteous tone. Your emails should clearly state the purpose of the communication and avoid slang, excessive informality, demands, or language that could be interpreted as disrespectful.

Unprofessional communication may result in a request to revise and resend the message and, in repeated or serious cases, may be addressed in accordance with university conduct policies. This policy is intended to help students develop professional communication skills that are essential both in college and beyond.

You may use the example below as a template or guide for composing your own emails.

Example of a Professional Email:

> Hi Professor Lopez,
>
> I am writing to you about my grade on the midterm exam. I did not score as high as I hoped, and I wanted to talk with you so that I may understand why I received the score that I did. I have class during your office hours. May you be available some time in the afternoon on Monday or Wednesday? I look forward to your reply.
>
> Best,
>
> Student name

Late Work

Assignments are due on the date and time listed in the course schedule. Each week, guided lecture notes will be due on Sundays by 11:59pm. Major assignments will also be due on their scheduled due dates by 11:59pm.

I expect students to adhere to the course schedule and submit their assignments on time. However, I understand that life happens and changing circumstances may compromise our ability to submit assignments on time. Therefore, I will offer a 48-hour grace period for each assignment.

Assignments will remain open for every student for 48-hours past the due date on Canvas. This means that assignments due Sunday by midnight will remain open until the following Tuesday, for example. Students who missed the due date may still submit their work up until 48-hours past the due date. **They do not need to contact me nor ask for permission.** Once submitted, their assignment will be marked as late for recordkeeping, but it will not incur any point penalties.

Students who miss the 48-hour grace period may have an opportunity to still submit late work, but they may incur a point penalty. In this scenario, students must first contact me. I will grant extensions past the grace period on a case-by-case basis, usually if students experience **extenuating circumstances**. Extenuating circumstances are serious, unavoidable situations that are beyond a student's control, such as medical emergencies, family emergencies, or university-approved obligations. When students are faced with such circumstances, they must notify me as soon as possible. **Technical issues, workload from other courses, work schedules, travel, or forgetting a due date do not qualify as extenuating circumstances. Approval for late submission past the grace period is not guaranteed.**

Academic Dishonesty and AI-Usage

Academic dishonesty, according to UNT's "Student Academic Integrity" policy, includes the intentional and unintentional engagement in cheating, plagiarism, and the facilitation of academic misconduct, to name a few. Students who are suspected to be engaging in such activities may face receiving a failing grade on an assignment, failing the course, or being reported to the dean of students. Cheating and plagiarism include submitting a completely AI-generated response.

According to UNT policy, the unauthorized use of any technology that assists in a student's assignment, project, or paper is considered cheating under the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003). Unless a professor or instructor gives ***explicit authorization***, AI cannot be used to complete assignments, projects, or papers. Doing so will result in a cheating violation.

Students are not authorized to use generative AI on their assignments in this class. Students whose work is flagged for AI-generated content will result in an automatic 0 for academic dishonesty.

Course Calendar

This calendar is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. However, any changes I make will not be substantial, and I will communicate fully with you and give you ample time to prepare.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments Due - Sundays before midnight
1	October 12 - October 18	Reconstruction	**Guided Lecture Notes**
2	October 19 - October 25	Geographies of Empire	**Guided Lecture Notes & Student Responsibility Quiz**
3	October 26 - November 1	New Lives and The Progressive Era	**Guided Lecture Notes & Exam I**
4	November 2 - November 8	Signature Assignment and Writing Workshop	**Signature Assignment**
5	November 9 - November 15	World War I	**Guided Lecture Notes**
6	November 16 - November 22	The New Era	**Guided Lecture Notes & Exam II**
	November 23 - November 29	**Thanksgiving Holiday Week No Classes**	**No Assignments Due Enjoy your break!**
7	November 30 - December 6	The Great Depression	**Guided Lecture Notes**
8	December 7 - December 11	World War II and Its Aftermath	**Guided Lecture Notes & Exam III**