HIST 1493-History of the U.S. since 1877

CRN 26687
University of Central Oklahoma, Spring Term 2012
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10-10:50 am, Room LAR 225

Instructor: Oscar de la Torre
E-mail: odelatorre@uco.edu
History Department Telephone Number: (405) 974-5416
Office 204 A, Geography and History Department, LA Building, 2nd floor
Office Hours: MW 2 to 4pm, T 11am – 1pm, and by appointment

Course Description:
Undergraduate catalog: This course is a survey of American history from the conclusion of the Civil War to the present. Prerequisite: None.

Following a chronological narrative, this course studies the social, political, economic, and cultural history of the United States of America from Reconstruction to the present. Special attention will be devoted to how different social, racial, ethnic, and gender groups experienced and shaped the history of the nation.

Objectives:
• Identifying the main events, periods, and themes in American history.
• Understanding the experiences and the choices of different historical actors, from the common people to national presidents.
• Articulating arguments and supporting them with appropriate evidence.
• Discussing the ways in which the past has shaped and continues to shape the present.

Transformative Learning Objectives:
• Leadership: This course will analyze the consequences of decisions taken by traditional leaders (presidents, businessmen, army officers) and by non-elite leaders (students, housewives, unemployed workers, union activists, ex-slaves, civil rights organizers, etc.).
• Problem Solving: By providing substantial room to discuss recent issues and events, this course seeks to stimulate critical thinking and a creative approach to the analysis of America’s history.
• Service Learning and Creative Engagement: Students who regularly participate in the American Democracy Project (and present written proof to the instructor) will be rewarded with extra-credit.
• Global and Cultural Competencies. Students will analyze how global events (the spread of radical ideas in the late 1800s, World War II, etc.) have shaped American history, and vice-versa.
Requirements:
1. Attendance is mandatory. Let the instructor know in advance if you are not attending any session, via e-mail or telephone.
2. Class participation. It is absolutely necessary to succeed in this course. Posting thoughtful questions, doubts, observations, or criticisms about class matter on BB also counts as participation. Students who show an outstanding and permanent engagement with the class (participating in every session and posting frequently on the Blackboard forum), will receive extra credit.
3. Doing the required exams and/or assignments. Late papers will be docked ten percentage points a day.
4. Enjoying the process of learning.

Evaluation:
- Three tests (45%).
- Class participation (25%). Share opinions, argue in favor or against the arguments proposed by the instructor (always respectfully, of course), and make questions. Participating approximately 2-4 times in class every week is fundamental to reach an A.
- Two book reviews (20% total). They will be 2-4 pages long and will respond to questions provided by the instructor 2-3 weeks in advance. There will also be pre-writing exercises. They will not be graded, but are mandatory as well.
- Various written assignments (10%).
- Quizzes every two weeks. Based on the textbook, they will have 20 multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. With an 80% of correct responses or more, you will gain an extra 2% added to your next exam.

Final grade categories:
- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F <60%

Required Readings:

**Note on Disabilities:** The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting the Assistant Director of Disability Support Services (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in
the Nigh University Center, Room 309. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs by the end of the first week of class.

**Blackboard:** The use of Blackboard is fundamental to succeed in this course. Students are therefore expected to know how to use their BB accounts. Go to learn.uco.edu, and log in. If you have doubts or problems with BB, contact the Information Technology Help Desk: online, by e-mail (support@uco.edu), by phone [(405) – 974 – 2255], or in person: Math & Computer Science building, NE entrance.

**Schedule of classes:**

**Week 1: January 9 to 13**

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 17 and 18 (only 355-361); start Egon’s *The Worst Hard Time*.
- Introduction to the Course
- Reconstruction, the Post-War Economy, and Society in the South.
  - Written assignment: **Plagiarism**

**Week 2: Wednesday, January 18, to 20 – No classes on Monday, Jan. 16 (MLK Day)**

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 18 (361-375), Wickett article (the instructor will provide electronic links or pdf files).
- Expansion to the West
- Class debate: Native Americans and the Conquest of the West
  - **Quiz 1:** Wickett text, Chapters 17 and 18

**Week 3: January 23 to 27**

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 19; continue Egon
- Industrialization: Causes and Patterns
- The Workers’ World

**Week 4: January 30 to February 3**

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 20; continue Egon
- Migration and Urban Life
- Hand out Study Guide for Exam 1
  - **Quiz 2:** Chapters 19 and 20

**Week 5: February 6 to 10**

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 21 and 22; continue Egon’s *The Worst Hard Time*.
- Political Transformations
- Progressivism
  - Documentary: Lewis Hine
Week 6: February 13 to 17

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 23 and 24; finish Egon.
  - Exam 1 (Chapters 17-22)
  - American Foreign Policy in the Era of Imperialism
  - World War I
    - Quiz 3: Chapter 23
  - Hand out prompt for Book Review 1.

Week 7: February 20 to 24

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 24 and 25. Finish *The Worst of All Times*.
  - The 1920s
  - From the Great Depression to the New Deal
    - Book Review 1 due in class on Friday.

Week 8: February 27 to March 2

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 26; start *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
  - WW II Abroad
  - WW II At Home
  - The New Role of the U.S. after World War II
    - Quiz 4: Chapters 25 and 26

Week 9: March 5 to 9

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 27.
  - Cold War
  - McCarthyism
    - Exam 2 (Chapters 23-27)

Week 10: March 12 to 16

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 28; make sure you are advancing on *Outlaw Woman*
  - The Affluent Society: Analyzing Images
  - Suburban America
  - Documentary: *Sex, Censorship and the Silver Screen*
    - Quiz 5 (Ch. 28)

Spring Break: March 19 to 25

Week 11: March 26 to 30

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 29
  - The Struggle for Civil Rights
  - Civil Rights – Women and Change
• Lyndon B. Johnson and The Great Society
  o Hand out assignment for Book Review 2

Week 12: April 2 to 6

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 30; Finish *Outlaw Woman*.
  • The Vietnam War
  • Documentary: *The Fog of War*
    o Book Review 2 due in class.
    o Quiz 6 (Ch. 29 and 30)

Week 13: April 9 to 13

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 31.
  • The Nixon Era
  • The Conservative Challenge, 1976-1992

Week 14: April 16 to 20

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 32; Fragment of *Hidden in the Heartland*.
  • Globalization and Intermestic Issues
  • Class Debate: Immigration in the U.S.

Week 15: April 23 to 27

Read: *U.S.: A Narrative History*, Ch. 32
  • Globalization and Intermestic Issues
  • Final Exam Review
    o Final Exam (Chapters 28-33)
    o Written exercise about *Hidden in the Heartland* due in class.

Final Exam on Friday, May 4th, 9-10:50 am.

On Cheating and Plagiarism: UCO subscribes to the Turnitin.com plagiarism prevention service. Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com restricted access reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com website. Turnitin.com is just one of various plagiarism prevention tools and methods which may be utilized by your faculty instructor during the terms of the semesters. In the UCO Student Handbook, there is a process for contesting any plagiarism allegations against you.

Expectation of Work OSHRE II-2-34 Statement: It is expected that a full-time college student will spend time each week in class attendance and study out of class approaching a 40-hour work week. A person employed on a full-time basis should not simultaneously expect to maintain a full-time
schedule. At the undergraduate level, this means that for each hour in class, a student is expected to spend at least two hours outside of class doing homework.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Academic dishonesty includes, but is not confined to: plagiarizing; cheating on tests or examinations; turning in counterfeit reports, tests, and papers; stealing tests or other academic material; knowingly falsifying academic records or documents of the institution; accessing a student’s confidential academic records without authorization; disclosing confidential academic information without authorization; and, turning in the same work to more than one class without informing the instructors involved. Each student is expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any violation of plagiarism in any of the courses in this department makes the student liable to the penalty for academic dishonesty, which includes as its possible punishment an “F” in the course and dismissal from the college by the academic dean. Please refer to the useful information found on the UCO Student Information Sheet.

**Other UCO Policies that apply at the College of Liberal Arts:**
http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/faculty/StudentInfoSheet.pdf