

History 202-002 (# 11264)
HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1877 TO THE PRESENT

SYLLABUS

Fall Quarter 2008
TR 8:00-9:50 a.m.
Madison Hall 105

Dr Stephen Webre
Madison Hall 111
318/257-2872
swebre@latech.edu
Conference hours: MWF 8:00-10:00, TR 2:00-4:00, or
by appointment

The purpose of History 202 is to introduce the beginning student to the most significant events and personalities, trends and issues associated with the historical development of the United States since the end of the American Civil War. The course begins with an overview of post-war Reconstruction and concludes with an assessment of the contemporary legacy of Vietnam and Watergate. Themes developed in the course include: westward expansion, industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and the rise of the United States as a world power. Considerable attention is given to the changing nature of American politics over the past 140 years, as well as to such major events as the Great Depression of the 1930s and United States participation in World Wars I and II.

COURSE OBJECTIVES.

- The Department of History has defined as an essential objective of this course that upon successfully completing it you will possess an expanded content knowledge base in the field of United States history.
- An additional objective of this course is to encourage appreciation of the diversity of human experience in the past through the analysis of historical documents.
- An additional objective of this course is to promote the development of critical thinking skills through the analysis of historical documents.

Achievement of these objectives will be assessed on the basis of EXAMINATIONS and QUIZZES, as specified elsewhere in this syllabus.

THIS SYLLABUS IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENTS. PLEASE KEEP IT WITH YOUR NOTES AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO CLASS AND TO CONFERENCES WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.

ALL CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND ELECTRONIC PAGERS MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE BEING BROUGHT INTO THIS CLASSROOM.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DEGREE CANDIDATES. Final grades for degree candidates are due earlier than grades for other students. For this reason, degree candidates must complete all course requirements by no later than 10:00 a.m., Thurs., November 13, 2008.

HONOR CODE. I assume that you have read the University Honor Code and that you agree to be bound by it, and that you accept for yourself the Honor Code Statement, which reads: "*Being a student of a higher standard, I pledge to embody the principles of academic integrity.*" Among other things, this means that you promise not to cheat on examinations or to commit plagiarism on written assignments. It also means that you will not assist or enable anyone else to do so. If you are not familiar with the Honor Code, you need to read it immediately. It is in your student handbook and also online at <http://www.latech.edu/documents/honor-code.pdf>

e-MAIL AND BLACKBOARD. In this section we will use the *Blackboard* course management software platform, which allows you to retrieve necessary documents, keep up-to-date with posted announcements, communicate with me and with other members of the class, and perform other tasks related to the course. You need to know how to access and use *Blackboard* and you need to be familiar with the *Blackboard* pages for this section. In addition, you need to ensure that the e-mail address provided for you on *Blackboard* is your correct address. This is your responsibility. It is not my responsibility. Failure to keep up with *Blackboard* and to ensure that your e-mail address is correct and current will not be accepted as an excuse for missed or late assignments or other tasks.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation that prevents classes from meeting as scheduled, this course will continue electronically on *Blackboard*. Should an emergency situation occur it is your responsibility to check e-mail and *Blackboard* announcements for instructions. It is also your responsibility to ensure that you provide *Blackboard* with a currently functioning e-mail address.

REQUIRED READING. The following text is required for History 202, and is available at the University Bookstore:

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.
This course will cover chapters 15 through 28.

For specific chapter assignments, see the COURSE CALENDAR, below.

UNIT EXAMINATIONS. There will be three unit examinations, which will be objective in nature and which will cover material presented in class, as well as in readings. The schedule for unit examinations is as follows:

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>Material Covered</u> |
|---------|------------------------|--|
| Exam #1 | Thurs., Sept. 25, 2008 | Lecture Units 1-3 & corresponding chapters* |
| Exam #2 | Tues., Oct. 21, 2008 | Lecture Units 4-8 & corresponding chapters* |
| Exam #3 | Thurs., Nov. 13, 2008 | Lecture Units 9-12 & corresponding chapters* |

*Consult the COURSE CALENDAR, below, for corresponding chapter assignments for specific Lecture Units.

PLEASE NOTE THE ABOVE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS IMMEDIATELY AND MAKE ALL PERSONAL PLANS ACCORDINGLY. I WILL NOT GIVE ANY EXAMINATION EARLY TO ANYONE FOR ANY REASON, SO DO NOT ASK.

RE-EXAMINATION OPPORTUNITY. If you are not satisfied with your performance on the first or second unit examination, you may take a re-examination. Re-examinations will be in essay format and I will substitute the grade on the re-examination for the grade earned on the examination being repeated. If you wish to take a re-examination, you must notify me in advance by e-mail at swebre@latech.edu I must receive this notification by the date indicated below. There will be no re-examination for the third unit examination, and you will not be allowed to take any re-examination if you have not been recorded present at at least 50 percent of all class meetings, excluding examinations. The schedule for re-examinations is as follows:

| | <u>Date of Re-exam</u> | <u>Deadline to Sign Up</u> | <u>Material Covered</u> |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Re-exam #1 | Thurs., Oct. 2, 2008 @ 3:00 p.m. | Weds., Oct. 1, 2008 | Same as Exam #1, above. |
| Re-exam #2 | Tues., Oct. 28, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m. | Mon., Oct. 27, 2008 | Same as Exam #2, above. |

ONLINE QUIZZES. There will be four quizzes to be completed on *Blackboard*. These quizzes are based on document sets that you will be assigned to read. They consist of primary documents (first-hand accounts) of events or issues related to themes that we will be discussing in class. The quizzes are designed to help you see historical issues from the point of view of the people who actually experienced or observed them and to provide you with experience interpreting primary historical materials. The document sets for the quizzes will be found on Blackboard under COURSE DOCUMENTS. The quizzes will be found on *Blackboard* under ASSIGNMENTS and will be completed online. For the date of availability for each quiz and the deadline for its completion, see the COURSE CALENDAR, below.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ONLINE QUIZZES. Quizzes to be taken online on *Blackboard* are available for an extended period of time, as noted on the COURSE CALENDAR, below. It is assumed that there is no reason for any student not to be able to complete an online quiz in a timely fashion, so makeup quizzes will not be allowed. Prior to taking an online quiz on *Blackboard* be careful to read and follow the instructions posted with the quiz.

Online quizzes are susceptible to technical problems. All technical problems associated with online quizzes must be reported and resolved by the date given in the quiz instructions. After that date, quiz scores reported on *Blackboard* will be considered final and will not be changed.

GRADES. I will calculate the final grade on the basis of a possible total of 365 points. The three unit exams together will be worth 300 points. The four online unit quizzes will be worth 10 points each. Participation/attendance will be worth 25 points. The grading scale will be as follows: A=332 or above; B=296-331½; C=259-295½; D=223-258½; F=below 223. Please note that the grade cutoffs are based on the total number of points earned and only on the total number of points earned. They are not based on averages, and at no point are grades in this course reported as numerical averages. Also, grades earned in this course are not related in any way to what you, or anyone else, may tell me that you “need” to keep your scholarship, to stay in your curriculum, to participate in some extracurricular activity, or for any other purpose.

EXTRA CREDIT. From time to time, assignments may be given for extra credit. All extra credit assignments are due on the date assigned for their completion. They will not be accepted late, and missed assignments cannot be made up. When and if made, extra credit assignments will apply to the class as a whole. No extra credit assignments will be made for the benefit of specific individuals. Do not ask.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you require special testing or classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must meet with me as soon as possible so that I can make the necessary arrangements early in the quarter. All requests for accommodations under ADA must be accompanied by written certification from the Office of Disability Services, Wylie Tower 318, campus extension 4221.

If accommodations call for examinations to be taken at the Office of Disability Services, you must complete and sign a "Request for Testing Accommodation" form and turn it in to me with the required accompanying envelope no later than three class days prior to the first examination. This form is available at the ODS. For instructions, go to ODS or visit the ODS web page at <http://www.latech.edu/ods/>

ATTENDANCE. If you expect to do well in any class, you must attend class regularly and punctually, pay attention to what is going on, and take good notes. On issues associated with class attendance, I am guided by the following principles:

1. I assume that each of you is a responsible adult person who will be punctual in attendance and in fulfillment of obligations and that you are old enough to take responsibility for your own behavior and to accept the consequences of the choices that you make.
2. Exclusive of scheduled examinations, which are governed by a different policy (see below), I allow you three free absences without penalty. Absences in excess of three will be penalized at a rate of 1.67 pt. per absence.

3. Except for official university excuses, I do not accept excuses. An official university excuse is a written statement by a competent university official that you were absent as a result of mandatory participation in an official university activity. I do not accept medical excuses. Do not give them to me.
4. Even if you are absent and regardless of the reason for your absence, you, and only you, are responsible for ensuring that you know what occurs in class. Also, you, and only you, are responsible for ensuring that the work that you are required to do in this class gets done in a timely fashion, according to the due dates and procedures set forth in this SYLLABUS and in the accompanying COURSE CALENDAR, below.
5. If you are absent so often that it affects your performance on quizzes, examinations, and other activities, it is reasonable to conclude that you are not interested in keeping up with the course, or that, for some reason, you are not capable of doing so. In such cases, my recommendation to you is to discuss the matter with your academic advisor and, if appropriate, to execute a timely withdrawal from this course.
6. University policy requires me to keep accurate attendance records. Data from these records may have a bearing on decisions affecting your status in this class and at the University. I will take the roll at each class meeting. The record I keep based on this roll will be the only official record of attendance. In the event of a question regarding the accuracy of this record, I will ask, among other things, to inspect your class notes from the date or dates in question.
7. Special policies will apply if you miss a unit examination (see ABSENCE FROM A UNIT EXAMINATION, below).

ABSENCE FROM A UNIT EXAMINATION. If you are absent from a unit examination, you will receive a score of 0 (zero) for that examination. In such a case, the following policies will apply:

1. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you may make up the first or second unit examination by taking a re-examination, as described above under RE-EXAMINATION OPPORTUNITY.
2. The same conditions will apply as in the case of a re-examination, including the condition that you may not take a re-examination unless I have you recorded present at at least 50 percent of all class meetings, excluding examinations.
3. If you miss the third unit examination, a make-up examination may be arranged at my discretion and my convenience, provided that you notify me in person, by telephone, or by e-mail of the circumstances surrounding the absence no later than 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 13, 2008.
4. You may not make up the third unit examination unless I have you recorded as present at at least 50 percent of all class meetings, excluding examinations.

No examination will be given early to anyone for any reason. Do not ask.

RETENTION OF GRADED MATERIALS. In the event of a question regarding an examination grade or final grade, it will be the responsibility of the student to retain and present graded materials which have been returned for student possession during the quarter.

COURSE CALENDAR

| Date | Unit | Topic or Activity | Assigned Reading | Notices |
|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| R 9/4 | 1 | Introduction to Course; Reconstruction and Westward Expansion | Foner, ch. 15-16 | |
| T 9/9 | 1 | Reconstruction and Westward Expansion | | First online quiz available on Blackboard. |
| R 9/11 | 2 | Industrialization and Urbanization | Foner, ch. 16 | |
| T 9/16 | 2 | Industrialization and Urbanization | | |
| R 9/18 | 3 | Politics in the Gilded Age | Foner, ch. 16-17 | Deadline for completing first online quiz. Fri., Sept. 19, is the last day to apply for November graduation. |

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|---------|----|---|------------------|--|
| T 9/23 | 3 | Politics in the Gilded Age | | Second online quiz available on Blackboard. |
| R 9/25 | | FIRST UNIT EXAMINATION | | You will need a blue computer answer sheet and a no. 2 pencil. Fri., Sept. 26, is the last date for completing I grades from Spring and Summer. |
| T 9/30 | 4 | Emergence of the United States as a World Power | Foner, ch. 17 | |
| R 10/2 | 5 | Progressive Era | Foner, ch. 18 | First re-examination. See Syllabus for deadline and procedure for signing up. |
| T 10/7 | 6 | America and World War I | Foner, ch. 19 | Deadline for completing second online quiz. |
| R 10/9 | 7 | Society, Culture, and Politics in the 1920s | Foner, ch. 20 | Third online quiz available on Blackboard. |
| T 10/14 | 8 | Great Depression and the New Deal | Foner, ch. 21 | |
| R 10/16 | 8 | Great Depression and the New Deal | | |
| T 10/21 | | SECOND UNIT EXAMINATION | | You will need a blue computer answer sheet and a no. 2 pencil. |
| R 10/23 | 9 | America and World War II | Foner, ch. 22 | Deadline for completing third online quiz. Fri., Oct. 24, is the last day to drop this course with a grade of W. |
| T 10/28 | 9 | America and World War II | | Second re-examination. See Syllabus for deadline and procedure for signing up. Fourth online quiz available on Blackboard. |
| R 10/30 | 10 | America in the Cold War | Foner, ch. 23-24 | |
| T 11/4 | 10 | America in the Cold War | | |
| R 11/6 | 11 | America in the 1960s | Foner, ch. 25 | |
| T 11/11 | 12 | America since Vietnam and Watergate | Foner, ch. 26-28 | Deadline for completing fourth online quiz. |
| R 11/13 | | THIRD UNIT EXAMINATION | | |

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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UNIVERSITY POLICY FORBIDS THE CONSUMPTION OF FOOD, BEVERAGES, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN CLASSROOMS.

Updated August 30, 2008.