



**HIST 1302.01W U.S. HISTORY FROM 1865
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2 2012**



Cola Ad, 1950s



Moon Landing, 1969



WTO Protests, Seattle 1999

Instructor: Cynthia Wiecko, PhD
Adjunct Faculty

Course: Online

Office Hours: Via Email

Email: Cynthia.wiecko@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Additional Readings:

Textbook:

[TAP] James Roark, et al., *The American Promise: A Compact History*, Vol. 2, Fourth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-0-312-53408-0

Reader:

[RAP] Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past*, Vol. 2. Fourth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-0-312-45968-0

Both books are also available as eBooks at a reduced cost. Visit the campus bookstore website for more information.

Any additional readings will be posted in eCollege by the instructor.

Each student will also select a film from an approved list as part of a film analysis assignment.

Course Description:

This course introduces the field of history by developing the students' skills at critical analysis of both reading and writing assignments. Students will explore the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the United States from Reconstruction to the beginning of the 21st century. The course will consider the cultural patterns of American life, from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show to social reform movements, Jim Crow, prohibition, Cold War fears, the "Beats," Civil Rights and the sexual revolution. We will look at the two World Wars, the social welfare state, the upheavals of the 1960s, and the cultural trends at the close of the 20th century. Throughout the semester, we will consider these important questions: How has American society distributed power? How have Americans extended and limited participation in civic life? In what ways have Americans resolved their conflicts?

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will evaluate the ways in which American government and society promoted and suppressed the exercise of civil rights by African Americans from the 1860s through the 1960s.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This is an online course using eCollege. The course space in eCollege will include the syllabus, gradebook, weekly reading assignments, all writing assignments, and all exams. Students will be submitting all of their completed assignments into the course space as well. **Note: All student work will be submitted electronically into eCollege.** Students must have an email address listed on file with the university for Instructor communication, access to a computer with word processing capability, and internet connectivity.

The reading assignments and class topics are listed for each week. I expect you to complete your readings prior to viewing the Powerpoint presentation for the week. This class requires a substantial amount of time to complete the reading and writing assignments. Note taking and engagement are essential to doing well in this class. Readings give students a broad overview of major issues while the lecture delves more deeply into a few of those topics. Examinations are an assessment of the student's ability to synthesize and understand the course material. As such, examinations include material from the textbook, reader, and lecture. Writing assignments, such as the discussion posts and film analysis, allow students to develop better communication skills and demonstrate an understanding of course material.

Before any assignments are due, students should familiarize themselves with eCollege and the course space. To access this course, go to [MyLeo](#), login, click eCollege on the right side of the screen, then click My Courses on the left side of the next screen and look for this course.

Assignment Explanations:

Exams:

Students must complete all three exams and submit them by 11:59pm on the day indicated; see Schedule. Exams will be posted in eCollege at least 3 days before the due date giving students ample time to complete them. All exams are non-comprehensive. The format consists of

Multiple Choice questions. Multiple choice questions will be scored immediately in eCollege. Your exam score will be finalized in the Gradebook within 7 days. Students are free to use the textbook, reader, notes, and information in eCollege to complete the exam but no outside sources are allowed. **Exams cannot be made up. No late work accepted. Failure to submit all three exams will result in an automatic F for the course.**

Discussion Posts:

Every week has a prompt in the Discussion area of eCollege. You must answer each prompt in two paragraphs using the assigned sources and any relevant information from other class texts. Remember to provide citations. You will submit your discussion post to the Discussion Thread by 11:59pm on Friday of that week (exception: Week 5). While these posts are more informal than the exams or paper, spelling and grammar must be accurate. **Discussion Posts cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

Students can earn up to 5 additional points per week by responding to a fellow classmate's post. Your response should elaborate on a point or pose a related idea/question. Simply writing something like, "Good work, Joe! I completely agree" is insufficient.

Note: I reserve the right to substitute special assignments of a similar length with notice.

Film Analysis Paper:

Students will choose a film, either from the provided list available in eCollege or obtain instructor approval for an alternate title, and write a critical film review. If choosing an alternative film, it must pertain to American history from Reconstruction to the 21st century. All students must notify the instructor of their film choice by the date indicated on the schedule and receive an 'Approved' notice before submitting the paper. See the Schedule for the Film Selection Due Date.

This assignment requires active participation in the viewing experience so note taking is essential. Students will submit their paper into the appropriate eCollege Dropbox by the due date indicated on the Schedule.

This will be a 3 to 4 page paper (full pages, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). A minimum of three sources, in addition to the film, are required. All papers must include a Work Cited page in [MLA](#) or [Chicago](#) format (Chicago is the standard for History). Significant latitude is given for writing style but spelling and grammar must be accurate. For any questions on spelling and grammar, contact the instructor or visit the TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab. More than three typographical errors results in 1 full letter grade deduction from the final score. **Film Papers cannot be made up. No late work accepted. Failure to submit the film paper will result in an automatic F for the course.**

For this paper, you are a highly regarded film critic known internationally for your reviews of historical films. The editor of the *New York Times* has asked you to write an in-depth review of a film. She wants you to research the historical event or group, (1) write about what actually happened, and (2) then review the film for its historical accuracy. Thus, your paper will have two parts of similar length. In order to conform to the *New York Times* style of writing, a good film critic would also view a few reviews already published in the paper, available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/movies/index.html>.

If you are unfamiliar with film reviews focusing on historical accuracy, visit these sites before constructing your paper. They are regarding Mel Gibson's 2006 film, *Apocalypto*.

['Apocalypto' a pack of inaccuracies](#)

[A history professor explains where Mel Gibson got it very, very wrong](#)

This paper should not focus on cinematography, camera angles, acting ability, or the soundtrack. Instead, students are conducting a historical analysis of the film, attempting to 'read between the lines' and compare the historical event with the writer/director's interpretation of the event. To achieve sufficient depth of material, students should also read the part of their textbook and reader that discusses the historical context of the film's subject matter AND from the time of filming (for example, a film about the 1880s that was made in the 1950s would require the student to read about both decades). It will also be necessary to do further background reading from appropriate hard copy and online sources and provide citations for those used in the paper.

When you are ready to write your paper, some of the questions below may help guide you in constructing your analysis. Note: Responses to these questions are not required; they are simply food for thought!

How does the film portray the past when compared to descriptions of life in the US from that time?

Does it romanticize or demonize the period?

Does it accurately portray the past?

What historical myths and misconceptions does the film convey?

Do the filmmakers seem to have an agenda?

What does the film say about the time in which it was made?

What forces (contemporary issues, beliefs, fears, mores) were at work during its production that might have affected its final form?

What underlying message(s) does the film contain?

For whom is the message(s) intended?

How differently is this subject viewed now when compared to the time of the film's release?

What is lost and what is gained in portraying history through film?

How do filmmakers and historians negotiate the tension between accuracy and truth?

Some films can be accurate, even meticulous, about historical detail, events, and personalities, yet totally lack any larger insight about the past. Can creative imagination actually enhance a fundamental understanding of the past?

Does cinema embody the autobiographies of the scriptwriters and filmmakers more than those of the historical characters portrayed?

What do audiences actually experience when watching "history on film?"

Participation:

This course moves at a fast pace and focuses on a variety of complex events and ideas, sometimes spending only a short amount of time on a particularly large topic. For this reason, you must keep up with the readings and writing assignments. As this is a university level course, discussion (through the discussion post assignment) is also an expected part of the class. You are also encouraged to ask questions and answer those questions asked to the class.

Grading

*Exams (3 @ 100 points each)	300
*Film Analysis Paper	100
Discussion Posts (5 @ 20 points each)	100
TOTAL:	500 points

Semester Grades: A: 100-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59 and below.

***NOTE: Failure to complete any exam or the film analysis will result in an automatic failing (F) grade for the course. You must complete all these assignments.**

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0 or higher).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0 or higher) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, log in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If you need to contact me, email is best. Unless otherwise announced, I will respond within 24 hours.

eCollege Student Technical Support:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Additional Resources:

Depending on your familiarity with history courses, university classes, and the quality of work expected in assignments you might find the following links helpful:

[Doing Research](#)

[Evaluating Scholarly Content Online](#)

[A Tutorial on Plagiarism](#)

[Assessing Online Resources](#)

[How To Use the Library Catalog](#)

[MLA Tutorial](#)

Late Assignments:

Ample time is given for the completion of all assignments and there are no 'surprise' due dates. Late work will not be accepted.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit in this course.

Class Conduct:

I will treat you with respect and I expect the same in return. Please exercise common courtesy as if you were physically in a classroom setting.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own words, thoughts, or ideas. This includes, but is not limited to, using direct quotes out of a book or from the internet as your own words, properly using quotation marks but noting the wrong person as the author, purchasing a paper from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages as your final paper. Cheating

on exams and discussion posts or allowing others to copy your answers is another form of academic dishonesty.

It is fine to use other people's words and ideas as long as they receive credit in citations. If you are unsure about the precise definition of plagiarism and/or think you may have committed this form of academic dishonesty, see me or visit the TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab before you turn in the assignment.

I have absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism! If a student commits academic dishonesty on any part of an assignment, the assignment will receive a zero with no possibility for make-up. If academic dishonesty is committed a second time, the student will immediately fail the course and the instructor will pursue the maximum university discipline possible. *This is not negotiable.*

Writing Lab:

The [TAMU-Commerce Online Writing Lab](#) is a valuable service free to any student. They can help you get started on a paper, help with drafts, and answer specific questions about citation style, grammar, and spelling. While they will not write the paper for you, they are there to give feedback and guidance.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

I reserve the right to modify the class schedule throughout the semester if necessary but will give all students ample notice in eCollege.
All assignments are due by Friday @ 11:59pm in eCollege unless otherwise noted. Assignments submitted early are welcome.

Week 1:

Readings: TAP, Chapters 16 - 18
RAP, Chapters 16 - 18

Assignment: Discussion post
Film Selection

Week 2:

Readings: TAP, Chapters 19 - 22
RAP, Chapters 19 - 22

Assignment: Discussion post
Exam 1

Week 3:

Readings: TAP, Chapters 23 - 25
RAP, Chapters 23 - 25

Assignment: Discussion post

Week 4:

Readings: TAP, Chapters 26 - 28
RAP, Chapters 26 - 28

Assignment: Discussion post
Exam 2

Week 5:

Readings: TAP, Chapters 29 - 31
RAP, Chapters 29 - 31

Assignment: Film Analysis DUE Monday @ 11:59pm
Discussion post DUE Thursday @ 11:59pm
Exam 3 DUE Thursday @ 11:59pm