



**HIST 1302.901 U.S. HISTORY FROM 1865  
COMMERCE HIGH SCHOOL DUAL-CREDIT  
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012**



*Cola Ad, 1950s*



*Moon Landing, 1969*



*WTO Protests, Seattle 1999*

Instructor: Cynthia Wiecko, PhD  
Adjunct Faculty  
Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 12:45pm – 2:05pm  
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 119  
Office Hours: M-F 9:30am to 10:30am; by appointment; email  
Instructor Email: [Cynthia.wiecko@tamuc.edu](mailto: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. Fifth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-0-312-56377-6

The campus bookstore has these titles packaged together for sale. If students choose to obtain the books from another source be sure of the editions.

*A Note about the Course Texts:*

*Students are expected to acquire the course texts prior to the start of class.* Failure to do so will hinder a student's ability to keep up with the course, and the Instructor is in no way responsible for such an eventuality. Allowances will not be made for students who lack possession of any one or both of the textbooks.

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 war(s) impacted American society during the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

This is a course that includes face to face instruction and extensive use of the internet to access eCollege. The course space in eCollege will include the syllabus, gradebook, reading assignments, writing assignments, and quizzes. 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 for Instructor, access to a computer with word processing capability, and internet connectivity.

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.

This class consists primarily of in class lecture and discussion. Note taking and engagement are essential to doing well in this class. Readings give students a broad overview of major issues while lecture and discussion delves more deeply into a few of those topics. Quizzes are an assessment of the student's ability to synthesize and understand the course material. As such, quizzes may include material from the textbook, reader, and lecture. Writing assignments allow students to develop better communication skills and demonstrate an understanding of course material.

### **Assignment Explanations:**

## **Weekly Reading Quizzes:**

Each week students will complete a short reading quiz on eCollege over the assigned reading in *The American Promise* (exception: Week 1). Students should expect no more than 10 questions per chapter that may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, or maps. Each quiz will be open all week but students only have a one hour time limit to complete it. The quiz will be due @ 11:59pm the day before the material is covered in lecture. Multiple choice questions will be scored immediately in eCollege. Your quiz score will be finalized in the Gradebook within 7 days. Students are free to use the textbook, notes, and information in eCollege to complete the quiz but no outside sources are allowed. **Quizzes cannot be made up. No late work accepted.**

## **Discussion Posts:**

A total of five prompts will be posted in eCollege under Discussion. These prompts are usually based on the primary source readings assigned for the week and additional readings selected by the Instructor. Students must answer each prompt in two paragraphs using the primary sources and any relevant information from other class texts. Posts must contain evidence cited from the assigned readings. Students will submit their discussion post to the Discussion Thread by 11:59pm on Friday of the week indicated. 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 from 1 to 5 additional points (up to the maximum 20 points for the assignment) by responding to a fellow classmate's post. Your response must 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 (1865) to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. All students must notify the instructor of their film choice by the end of Week 3 and receive an 'Approved' notice before submitting the paper. Students must also provide the instructor with a tentative list of proposed sources, in addition to the film, by mid-semester and will receive Instructor feedback. See the Schedule for the Film Selection Due Date and Tentative Sources 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, double spaced (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, you 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, you should also read the part of your 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 reading 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 one day on a particular large topic. For this reason, your attendance is just as important as keeping up with the readings and writing assignments and will be recorded. University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service. All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarceration or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences.

As this is a university level course, discussion is also an expected part of the class. You are encouraged to ask questions and answer those questions asked to the class. There will also be opportunities to voice your informed opinions and debate certain issues. I do not grade on your opinion but rather on your engagement, participation, and ability to support your arguments.

### **Grading**

Quizzes (15 @ 20 points each)	300
*Film Analysis (Film Selection-25, Tentative Sources-75, Paper-100)	200
Discussion Posts (5 @ 20 points each)	100
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>600 points</b>

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

**\*NOTE: Failure to complete the film analysis paper will result in an automatic failing (F) grade for the course. You must this assignment.**

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed required (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, 7.0, or 8.0).

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) 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, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

<b>ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b>
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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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

This course will use most of the features in eCollege including email, announcements, threaded discussion, assignment drop boxes, and the grade book. Students can also find the syllabus and other necessary materials posted in the course space.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

Email is the best way to contact the Instructor with any questions or concerns. Unless otherwise announced, students will receive a response 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](mailto: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

### **Additional Resources:**

Depending on student familiarity with history courses, university classes, and the quality of work expected in assignments the following links may be 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 classroom courtesy which includes: being on time, not interrupting me or fellow students during discussion, turning off all electronic devices not intended for class, staying focused on the material rather than social networking, reading material for other classes, avoid sleeping and generally act in a way that indicates to me that you are engaged. Also, refrain from putting away your things before class is over since I will not keep you past the end time.

### **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 or exam from friends or strangers, using material from the internet verbatim as your own words, and cutting and pasting entire papers or internet pages and passing it off as your own work. 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 the instructor or visit the 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 I 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](mailto: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*).

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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*I reserve the right to modify the class schedule if necessary but will give students ample notice in class and on eCollege. Lectures are held Tuesday and Thursday.*

#### **Week 1 (Aug 27 – Aug 31): Reconstruction**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 16  
RAP, Chapter 16

*Assignment:* Familiarize yourself with the course, books, and carefully review the syllabus.

#### **Week 2 (Sept 3 – 7): The Gilded Age**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 18  
RAP, Chapter 18

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Discussion Post #1 due @ 11:59pm Friday

#### **Week 3 (Sept 10 - 14): Westward Expansion**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 17  
RAP, Chapter 17

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Film Selection due @ 11:59pm Friday

#### **Week 4 (Sept 17 - 21): America at the Turn of the Century**

*Readings:* TAP Chapters 19 & 20



RAP, Chapters 19 & 20

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday

**Week 5 (Sept 24 - 28): Progressivism**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 21  
RAP, Chapter 21

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday

**Week 6 (Oct 1 - 5): World War I**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 22  
RAP, Chapter 22

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Discussion Post #2 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 7 (Oct 8 - 12): The 1920s: A Return to Normalcy?**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 23  
RAP, Chapter 23

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Tentative Sources for Film Analysis @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 8 (Oct 15 - 19): The Great Depression and the New Deal**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 24  
RAP, Chapter 24

*Film:* [Surviving the Dust Bowl](#) (1998) Documentary; Length 55 min.

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Discussion Post #3 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 9 (Oct 22 - 26): World War II**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 25  
RAP, Chapter 25

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday

**Week 10 (Oct 29 – Nov 2): Cold War America**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 26  
RAP, Chapter 26

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Discussion Post #4 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 11 (Nov 5 - 9): Conformity & Rebellion**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapters 27 & 28  
RAP, Chapters 27 & 28

*Film:* [Atomic Café](#) (1982) Documentary; Length 86 min.

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday

**Week 12 (Nov 12 - 16): Vietnam**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 29  
RAP, Chapter 29

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday

**Week 13 (Nov 19 – 23): Holiday**

*Thanksgiving Week, No Class. Eat lots of turkey and pie!*

**Week 14 (Nov 26 - 30): The Conservative Counter-Revolution**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 30  
RAP, Chapter 30

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Discussion Post #5 due @ 11:59pm Friday

**Week 15 (Dec 3 - 7): America in a Globalizing World**

*Readings:* TAP, Chapter 31  
RAP, Chapter 31

*Assignment:* Weekly Reading Quiz due @ 11:59pm Monday  
Film Analysis due @ 11:59pm Friday

Finals Week (Dec 10 - 14)

**Have a wonderful holiday!**