



HIST 1302.03E
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring, 2014

Instructors: Dr. Ricky Dobbs
Days/Times/Locations: MWF 11:00-11:50, BA 243
Office Location: OSS 141 (Dobbs)

Office Hours: MW 3-4 PM
TR 1-3 PM
or by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required: Biel, *Down With the Old Canoe: A Cultural History of the Titanic Disaster*
ISBN 0393340805
McLaurin, *Separate Pasts: Growing Up White in the Segregated South*
ISBN 0820320471

All books are required. Buy them now.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of American history since 1877. It cannot cover the whole of the topic, but it will highlight significant trends in American politics, economics, society, and foreign relations across the period. The main focus will be upon trends and events leading the US's emergence as the dominant world power, the continuing story of civil rights and liberties and other domestic developments to 1989. HIST 1302 ought to serve as an introduction to many problems still facing Americans today, and as such has relevance for students regardless of their personal interest in the past.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1.) **Critical Thinking.** Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

- 2.) **Communication.** Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
- 3.) **Social Responsibility.** Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
- 4.) **Personal Responsibility.** Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Web-Enhanced: HIS 1302.011E is a web-enhanced course. This means that many aspects of the course that might ordinarily be carried out in class will be reserved for the web. Both major exams are online, for example. Some elements of course content will also be housed on the web. You are required to keep up with those aspects of the course online.

Instructional Methods: Class consists primarily of lecture and discussion. *Note taking is an essential skill in this class. **If you do not take notes, you will not do well.*** Readings illuminate major issues covered in lecture. Examinations require a synthesis course readings and material covered in lecture. Writing assignments will allow students to develop written communications skills as well as demonstrate mastery of course material.

Assignments: Students must complete all assignments listed below. The descriptions given are brief, and additional information will be forthcoming.

Student Responsibility Sheet: All students must complete a Student Responsibility Sheet as part of the Social Responsibility learning outcome. This is a non-graded assignment that is nonetheless required to pass the course. These must be turned in to me by Friday, January 24. Failure to turn in the sheet will result in failure for the course.

Examinations: Students will complete two examinations worth 75 points each. Each will have twenty-five multiple-choice questions. Each question is worth two points. In addition students will respond to an essay prompt for twenty-five points. Prior to each exam the instructor will make available to students a review sheet with all terms and concepts to be tested. Neither exam is cumulative. Exams are based entirely upon lecture and class discussion. Together they are worth 37.5% of your course grade.

Cold War Unit Quiz: Students will be expected to read and assimilate the eCollege unit on the Cold War prior to starting the simulation. A quiz over the material will be done via eCollege. This quiz consists of twenty-five multiple choice questions worth two points apiece. Students will have a forty-eight hour window to complete the quiz, check the Important Dates section of the syllabus for more detail. This quiz is worth 12.5% of your course grade.

Simulation: Students will participate in a group simulation in class, the background reading, rules and other elements of which will be available in eCollege. The simulation is worth 100 points or 25% of your course grade. Additional instructions regarding the simulation will be forthcoming later in the semester.

Reading Responses: The two monographs—*Down With the Old Canoe* and *Separate Past*s are intended to give you a window into life in the Progressive Era and under segregation, respectively. In response to each, students will write a brief essay following instructions and questions available in eCollege. Students will be permitted to revise ONE of these essays for a higher grade. The dates for the papers can be found below. Together, the two reading responses count for 100 points or 25% of your grade.

Grading

Students' course grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

A = EXCELLENT	360-400 Points
B = GOOD	320-359 Points
C = AVERAGE	280-319 Points
D = POOR	240-279 Points
F = FAILURE	less than 240 Points

Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

HIST 1302.011E is a web-enhanced course. Delivery problems can result if technological requirements are not taken into consideration.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. [List those technologies needed for your course.]

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous sessions in an online course)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)
- [List other related hardware or software necessary for your course]

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.

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.tamu-commerce.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@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

My preferred form of interaction is in person during office hours or during the minutes just before and after class. I invite you to contact me by e-mail to make appointments if you cannot come to office hours.

I can be reached more easily by e-mail than by phone.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance: Roll will be taken daily. Students must sit in assigned seats. Poor attendance tends to result in poor student performance. **Students who have FIVE or more unexcused absences WILL LOSE A LETTER GRADE.** Excused absences include participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, a verifiable court appearance OR any other similar circumstance in the view of the instructor. Excuses must be turned in, in writing, to the instructor upon return to class.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Irritants: For thousands of years humankind has survived without these devices. You can get by without them for three hours a week. If you must have a phone, turn off the ringer and excuse yourself from class if you get a call. Please tell anyone likely to call you that class time is off-limits.

Cheating: Plagiarism, appropriating or otherwise using the work of others, avoiding or aiding others in avoiding class requirements or other activities that contravene ordinary standards of academic integrity will not be tolerated. Students who cheat will be punished one or more of the following: point penalty, failure of the assignment in question or failure for the course. If you are in doubt about whether or not your conduct constitutes cheating, you had better ask the instructor. Do not find out the hard way. There are *no excuses*. For further clarification, check out the History Department's academic integrity policy on the departmental webpage.

Curving: Major exam grades will not be curved unless the class average slips below 70. The maximum curve on any examination will be five points. Don't bet on this to buoy your grade. Other assignments will not be curved in any circumstances.

Friday: This course meets on Friday. If you are not here, you *will* miss out.

Late Work: No work will be accepted late unless it is accompanied by a written excuse considered acceptable by the University. Specifically, this includes participation in a University-sponsored event, illness accompanied by a doctor's note, death in the student's immediate family, or a verifiable court appearance.

Make Up Work: No make-ups will be permitted without a written excuse along the lines explained above.

Slacker Clause: **Failure to attempt an assignment will result in failure for the course.**

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@tamu-commerce.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

Schedule of Meetings and Important Dates—Below see class meetings by date, topic, and reading assignment. Days on which major assignments come due are in **bold**.

Monday	Jan 13	Introduction/Syllabus/One Big Idea and Three Big Issues
Wednesday	Jan 15	Gold Standard Game
Friday	Jan 17	Gilded Age Election Game
Monday	Jan 20	MLK Holiday, University Closed
Wednesday	Jan 22	Big Business and Labor
Friday	Jan 24	Farmers' Misfortunes and Protest
Friday	Jan 24	Student Responsibility Sheet Due
Monday	Jan 27	Crisis of the 1890s
Wednesday	Jan 29	Segregation and Disfranchisement
Friday	Jan 31	America Becomes an Empire
Monday	Feb 3	Victorianism
Wednesday	Feb 5	Progressivism: Making Other People Behave
Friday	Feb 7	Progressivism: Making Other People Behave
Friday	Feb 7	Down With the Old Canoe Response Due
Monday	Feb 10	Progressivism: Reining in Big Business

Wednesday	Feb 12	Progressivism: Reining in Big Business
Friday	Feb 14	Progressivism: Detox
Monday	Feb 17	TBA
Wednesday	Feb 19	World War I
Friday	Feb 21	Origins of the Great Depression
Monday	Feb 24	Hoover and the Depression
Wednesday	Feb 26	The New Deal
Friday	Feb 28	The New Deal
Monday	Mar 3	Fascism and Communism
Wednesday	Mar 5	American Neutrality
Friday	Mar 7	Midterm Examination
Friday	Mar 7	Cold War Unit Opens in eCollege
Mon-Fri	Mar 10-14	Spring Break, University Closed
Monday	Mar 17	World War II
Wednesday	Mar 19	World War II
Friday	Mar 21	Tying It Together
Friday	Mar 21	Cold War Quiz Opens in eCollege
Monday	Mar 24	Cold War Quiz Closes in eCollege
Monday	Mar 24	Cold War Simulation Orientation
Wednesday	Mar 26	Cold War Simulation Turn 1
Friday	Mar 28	Cold War Simulation Turn 2
Monday	Mar 31	Cold War Simulation Turn 3
Wednesday	April 2	Cold War Simulation Turn 4
Friday	April 4	Cold War Simulation Presentations
Friday	April 4	Cold War Simulation Essays Due
Monday	April 7	Cold War Simulation Presentations
Wednesday	April 9	1950s: Prosperity for All?
Friday	April 11	1950s: Prosperity for All?
Monday	April 14	Civil Rights to 1963
Wednesday	April 16	Civil Rights to 1968
Friday	April 18	The Great Society
Friday	April 18	Separate Pasts Responses Due
Monday	April 21	Vietnam
Wednesday	April 23	Watergate
Friday	April 25	1970s: Economic Malaise
Friday	April 25	Separate Pasts Responses Returned
Monday	April 28	1980s: Emergence of Modern Conservatism
Wednesday	April 30	1980s: The Reagan Revolution
Friday	May 2	Review in Class
Friday	May 2	Separate Pasts Responses Returned
Wednesday	May 7	Final Examination