



**HIST 1302.01E U.S. HISTORY FROM 1865
COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER 2 2014**



DelMonte Ketchup ad, early 1960s

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Ross Wiecko
Adjunct Instructor
Class Time/Location: M – R 10:00am – 11:50am / SS141
Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 126
Office Hours: M – R 9:00am – 9:50am; email
Instructor 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: 978-0312534080

Reader:

[RAP] Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past*, Vol. 2. Fifth Edition. Bedford St. Martin's Press. ISBN: 978-0312563776

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

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 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 Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This is a face-to-face course with extensive use of 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. 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 class. 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. Exams are an assessment of the student's ability to synthesize and understand the course material. Writing assignments, such as the discussion posts and film analysis, allow students to develop better communication skills and demonstrate an understanding of course material.

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

The general grading criteria for all written assignments in this class is based on the following:

A = Mastery of content and reading material; factual accuracy; thoughtful interpretation or argument that synthesizes original thoughts and ideas with content; technically clean

B = Good-to-excellent command of the majority of content and reading material; competent factual accuracy; a generally solid historical argument backed with adequate evidence

C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence

D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay

F = Even worse than above; completely off topic; no work submission

Assignment Explanations:

Exams:

Students will complete a mid-term and a final exam in eCollege over the reading material assigned and lecture. The exam format is multiple choice and short essay. See the schedule for exam due dates. 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, notes, and information in eCollege to complete the exam but no outside sources are allowed. Exams 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 and additional readings assigned for the week. 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 Friday @ 11:59pm. 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.

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 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. 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 cited 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 Analysis Papers will be scored according to the Grading Standards available under the DocSharing tab in eCollege.

Film Papers cannot be made up. No late work accepted.

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 read 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.

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, students must keep up with the readings, writing assignments, and promptly notify the instructor via email with any questions or concerns.

Grading

Exams (2 @ 100 points each)	200
*Film Analysis (Film Selection-25, Tentative Sources-75, Paper-100)	200
Discussion Posts (5 @ 50 points each)	250
Participation	100
TOTAL:	750 points

The general grading criteria for all written assignments in this class is based on the following:

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- C = Fair command of content material; reasonable factual accuracy; ability to articulate a specific thesis or argument even if it is not original or is poorly supported by the evidence
- D = Poor command of content; factual errors; no real argument driving the essay
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Semester Grades: A: 100-90%; B: 89-80%; C: 79-70%; D: 69-60%; F: 59% and below.

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 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.

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:

Email or visiting during office hours 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 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:

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.

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

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*).

Note

This syllabus is your contract with the instructor for the semester. By enrolling in this course you agree to abide by all the policies and requirements set forth below. The terms of this contract are non-negotiable, apply equally to each student, and remain in effect throughout the semester; only the instructor may alter the terms of this agreement. Please contact the instructor if there are any questions about this syllabus or the terms herein.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

I reserve the right to modify the class schedule throughout the semester if necessary but will give all students ample notice.

Exams, Discussion Posts, and Film Analysis Paper assignments are due by Friday @ 11:59pm in eCollege. EXCEPTION: WEEK 5 DUE DATE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS - THURSDAY @ 11:59PM. Assignments submitted early are welcome.

Week 1:

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

Assignment: Discussion post #1
Film Selection

Week 2:

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

Assignment: Discussion post #2

Week 3:

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

Assignment: Mid-term Exam
Discussion post #3
Tentative Sources

Week 4:

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

Assignment: Discussion post #4

Week 5:

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

Assignment: Final Exam DUE THURSDAY @ 11:59pm
Discussion post #5 DUE THURSDAY @ 11:59pm
Film Analysis Paper DUE THURSDAY @ 11:59pm