United States History 1877 to the Present.

“Not to know what happened before one was born is always to be a child.” Cicero, ca. 80 B.C.

“If you know your history, then you would know where you’re coming from. Then you wouldn’t have to ask me, ‘Who the hell do I think I am?’” Bob Marley’s “Buffalo Soldier” from Confrontation, 1983.

History 1302, Sec. 050
Academic Rm 225
Class Time: T/Th: 8:00-9:15am

Dr. Jason Pierce
jason.pierce@angelo.edu
Office: 942-2199
Office A210D
Office #: 325 942-2199
Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-11:30am;
MW: 3:00-4:00pm
or by appointment

Course Objectives
In 1865 the United States was a developing nation recovering from the bloodiest, most divisive war in its history. Today the United States is the world’s foremost global power. This class will trace the incredible development of the United States from the end of the Civil War through the present. While no survey can possibly include every aspect of U.S. history, this class will attempt to introduce students to the most important events in U.S. history, and it will provide some perspective on where we have been as a people and how we got where we are today.

The class will be set up as primarily a lecture class. At the end of this syllabus you will find a tentative schedule. We may, or may not, actually stick to this, but it will give you an idea of what to expect. There is no required textbook for this class, but there is an optional textbook. While this saves you money, it means that attendance is vital to your success in this class. There will be questions from every lecture on the tests, so missing even a few days will cost you points.
Assignments and Grades
Your final grade for this class will be based on two in-class exams and four short (2-3 page) papers. The exams will be multiple choice and essay and will be worth 100 pts for the midterm and 200 points for the final. The essay portion of the test will be drawn from the assigned textbook. Each short assignment is worth 25 points, totaling 100 points for the semester.

Grading Scale: 400-360: A  
359-320: B  
319-280: C  
279-240: D  
239 and below: F

Papers and Exam dates
Writing Assignment 1: *The Devil in the White City* due on February 11th at 11:59pm. Please bring paper copy to class. (50pts)
Exam 1: Week 8 Friday March 16th. (100 pts)
Writing Assignment 2: *The Things They Carried* due on April 29th at 11:59 pm. Bring a paper copy. (50 pts)
Final Exam: (200 pts) Final Exam: Thursday, May 10th at 10:30am.

Extra Credit
There will, most likely, be several extra credit opportunities as part of our World War I Lecture Series. Dates to be announced. Five points of extra credit per event attended and a written reaction turned into the instructor. In addition, if 100% of students complete the course evaluation, each student will be given 5 points of extra credit.

Blackboard
Course Syllabi, Announcements, and Assignments will be available on the course’s Blackboard page. All writing assignments will be turned in via Turnitin on Blackboard. No emailed assignments will be accepted.

Required Readings
- Erik Larsen, *The Devil in the White City*. **ISBN-10:** 0375725601 or **ISBN-13:** 978-0375725609
- Optional online textbook. There is no standard textbook for this course. However, we do have a free online textbook from the University of Houston. Use this if you need extra help or when studying for the exam. [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/index.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/index.cfm)

Inclement Weather Policy
If the university is open, we will have class.
Attendance
Attendance is mandatory, but will not be taken. Exams will be comprised of material from classes. I WILL NOT PROVIDE YOU WITH THE POWERPOINTS/NOTES. I will discuss the themes of classes you missed but I WILL NOT REDELIVER THE LECTURE TO YOU. You may instead check out a textbook on reserve in the library.

Makeup of Exams
You must come to me within two class days to schedule a makeup exam or you will receive a zero.

Plagiarism
Cheating of any sort will not be tolerated, and cheaters will automatically fail this class and be reported to the administration. This includes the use of cellphones during tests—if you’re texting, I’ll assume that you are cheating and you will automatically fail the class.

Technology and the Learning Environment
Please be courteous to your classmates and refrain from talking during lectures. Also, turn cellphones off, and please don’t answer your phone in class. Please arrive on time, and if you are late, then quietly enter without causing a disturbance. Try not to leave during class unless you really can’t hold it.

During exams ask before you leave and please turn in your cellphone before leaving. Headphones of any sort will not be allowed during class or exams (except with an accommodation letter allowing for their use). If you have issues with concentration during exams, please contact the student life office and I will provide you an alternative environment.

Please don’t take photographs of the slides. This is distracting for students and not beneficial to you: MUCH OF THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE TESTED IS NOT ON THE SLIDES, WHICH ARE INTENDED AS OUTLINES.

After several incidents in recent semesters, I have decided to BAN ALL LAPTOPS AND TABLETS. Please take notes on paper, which research shows is better for retention anyway.

ASU Student Handbook

Students with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
Religious Holidays
Students miss class to observe a religious holiday for their particular religious affiliation are welcome to do so, but they must inform the instructor in writing (email is acceptable) in advance of the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 for more information.

Questions?
Please feel free to contact me or stop by during my office hours.

Tentative Class Schedule.

Week 1: January 16-19nd
Civil War and Reconstruction

Week 2: January 22-26th
The West

Week 3: January 29- February 2rd
The Gilded Age
Assignment 1: due Friday the 3rd

Week 4: February 5th-9th
Labor and Reform

Week 5: February 12th-16th
U.S. Foreign Policy in 1890s
Assignment 2: due Friday the 17th.

Week 6: February 19-23th
World War I

Week 7: February 26th-March 2nd
The 1920s and the Great Depression and the New Deal

Week 8: March 6th-19th
New Deal (continued)
Exam 1

Week 9: March 12th-16th
Spring Break (Time for me to break out my mankini!)

Week 10: March 19th-23rd
World War II

Week 11: March 26th-March 31st
Assignment 3: due Friday March 31st at 5:00pm
The 1950’s and the Civil Rights Movement.
Week 12: April 2nd-6th
LBJ, the Great Society, the New Left, and the Women’s Movement

Week 13: April 9th-13th
Assignment 4: Due Friday the 14th at 5:00pm
Vietnam Nixon, Ford, and Carter

Week 14: April 16th-20th
Ronald Reagan and the Neoconservative Revolution

Week 15: April 23-27th
America since 1990 and Terrorism

Week 16: April 30th-May 4th.
Last Day of Regular Classes: May 4th

Final Exam: Thursday, May 10th at 10:30am.