

United States History 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

A235

T/Th: 11:00-12:15

Dr. Jason Pierce

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Office Hours: MWF: 11:00am-Noon; T/Th: 12:20-1:00pm

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. The required textbook is Nash and Graves, *From These Beginnings*. It will supplement class lectures, but not replace them. For this reason it is important to show up to class.

Assignments and Grades

Your final grade for this class will be based on three in-class exams and the journal of readings. The journal will be turned in during class three times in the semester. The exams will be a mix of essay and multiple choice.

Grading Scale: 400-360: A

359-320: B

319-280: C

279-240: D

239 and below: F

Journal and Exam dates

Journal 1: 9-10.

Exam 1: 10-1.

Journal 2: 10-15

Exam 2: 10-29

Journal 3: 12-3

Final Exam: December 8th, 2009: 10:30-12:30.

Required Readings

The required textbook is Roderick Nash and Gregory Graves, *From These Beginnings*, Vol. 2. In addition there are primary source readings that are available online.

Inclement Weather Policy

Does this apply in Texas?

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.

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.

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.

ASU Student Handbook

http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

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.

Questions?

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

Tentative Class Schedule.

Week 1

The Civil War and Reconstruction and the Compromise of 1877.

Reading Assignment: “Mark Twain,” in *From These Beginnings*.

Read: 14th Amendment: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amend1.htm#14>

Read: 15th Amendment: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/amend1.htm#15>

Week 2

Reconstruction and The West

Reading Assignment: “Jane Addams,” in *FTB*.

Read: Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=52>

Read: Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1868:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/ntreaty/nt001.htm>

Read: Homestead Act

http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/statutes/homestead_act.htm

Week 3

The West and the Gilded Age

Read: Major Reno’s account of the Battle of Little Big Horn:

http://www.astonisher.com/archives/museum/marcus_reno_little_big_horn.html

Read: One Bull’s account of the Battle of the Little Big Horn:

http://www.astonisher.com/archives/museum/one_bull_little_big_horn.html

Read: Dawes Act, 1887:

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/statutes/native/dawes.htm>

Journal Due on Friday 9-11

Week 4

Populism and the 1890s and the Progressive Era

Reading Assignment: “Gifford Pinchot,” in *FTB*

Read: Owen-Keating Child Labor Act, 1916:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=59>

Week 5

U.S. Foreign Policy in 1890s and World War I

Read: Zimmerman Telegram, 1917:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=60>

Read: Marion Rice’s letter:

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=1033&display_order=1&sub_display_order=2&mini_id=1400

Read: Stull Holt’s Letter:

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=1034&display_order=1&sub_display_order=3&mini_id=1400

Week 6

World War I

Read: Wilson's 14 Points:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=62&page=transcript>

Exam #1 on Friday 10-2

Week 7

The 1920s and the Great Depression and the New Deal

Reading Assignment: "Henry Ford," in *FTB*.

Read "Again the Covered Wagon"

<http://www.newdeal.feri.org/survey/35348.htm>

Read: Transcript of FDR's "Fireside Chat for 9.6.1936:

<http://www.newdeal.feri.org/chat/chat08.htm>

Week 8

New Deal (continued) and World War II

Reading Assignment: "Eleanor Roosevelt," in *FTB*.

Journal 2 Due on Friday 10-16

Week 9

World War II at Home and Abroad.

Read: Truman's message on the atomic bomb:

http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/small/mb10.htm

Week 10

The Marshall Plan and the Postwar World.

Exam #2 on Friday 10-30

Week 11

The 1950's and the Civil Rights Movement.

Reading Assignment: "Elvis Presley," pages 192-254.

Read: "This is the Beat Generation":

<http://www.litkicks.com/Texts/ThisIsBeatGen.html>

Read: Brown v. Board of Education:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=87&page=transcript>

Read: Central High Desegregation order:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=89&page=transcript>

Read: Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail":

http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/popular_requests/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf

Week 12

LBJ, the Great Society, the New Left, and the Women's Movement

11-13: Vietnam

Read: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution:

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=98&page=transcript>

Week 13

Nixon, Ford, and Carter

Read: "Richard Nixon" in *FTB*.

Week 14

The Reagan Revolution and Thanksgiving

Week 15

America since 1990 and Terrorism

Read: "Ted Turner" in *FTB*.

Read: Barack Obama's speech on race (2008):

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/03/18/politics/main3947908.shtml>

Read: George W. Bush's statement on Terrorist Attack

http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/sept_11/president_025.htm

Week 16

Last Day of Regular Class.

Journal 3 Due on Friday 12-4

Final Exam: December 7th, 2009