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. 140
Academic Rm 221
Class Time: MWF 1:00-1:50

Dr. Jason Pierce
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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 the journal of readings. 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. Journals are due twice during the semester and are 50 points each (totaling 100).

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

Papers and Exam dates
Journal Assignment 1: Readings 1-13 due February 8th in class (50pts)
Exam 1: Week 8 Friday March 8th. (100 pts)
Journal Assignment 2: Readings 14-21 due May 3rd in class. (50 pts)
Final Exam: (200 pts) Final Exam: Wednesday, May 9th at 1:00pm.

Extra Credit
Any extra credit opportunities will be announced by the instructor in advance. 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
- Roderick Nash and Gregory Graves, From These Beginnings, Volume 2.
- 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

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 14-18**
Civil War and Reconstruction

**Week 2: January 22-25th**
No class on Monday the 21st.
The West

**Week 3: January 28- February 1**
The Gilded Age
Assignment 1: due Friday the 3rd

**Week 4: February 4th-8th**
Labor and Reform

**Week 5: February 11th-15th**
U.S. Foreign Policy in 1890s
Assignment 2: due Friday the 17th.

**Week 6: February 18-22nd**
World War I

**Week 7: February 25th-March 1st**
The 1920s and the Great Depression and the New Deal

**Week 8: March 4th-8th**
New Deal (continued)
Exam 1: Friday March 8th.

**Week 9: March 11th-15th**
Spring Break (Time for me to break out my mankini!)

**Week 10: March 18th-22rd**
World War II

**Week 11: March 25th-March 29th**
Assignment 3: due Friday March 31st at 5:00pm
The 1950’s and the Civil Rights Movement.

**Week 12: April 1st-5th**
LBJ, the Great Society, the New Left, and the Women’s Movement

**Week 13: April 8th-12th**
Assignment 4: Due Friday the 14th at 5:00pm  
Vietnam Nixon, Ford, and Carter

**Week 14: April 13th-17th**  
Ronald Reagan and the Neoconservative Revolution

**Week 15: April 20-24th**  
America since 1990 and Terrorism

**Week 16: April 29th-May 4th.**  
Last Day of Regular Class: May 4th

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 8th at 1:00pm.**