AMH 2020– The History of the United States since 1877
Sample face to face syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AMH2020 (LS-HIS) This course surveys the United States from the end of the Reconstruction to the present with emphasis on social, economic, and political problems of the 20th century. (May not be taken by students with test credit in American history.) In addition, students will learn how historians construct arguments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Discuss the role of social or historical factors in contemporary problems or personal experiences related to the history of the United States from 1877 to the present.
2. Analyze claims about social or historical phenomena related to the history of the United States from 1877 to the present.
3. Critically examine, interpret, and explain how personal, political, economic, and social experiences and/or structures shape the history of the United States from 1877 to the present.

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies offers a transformative experience; this course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of historical theories and the facts that support them.

This course is approved as meeting the Civic Literacy requirement. As such, this course will enable you to achieve the following competencies:
1. Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
3. Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government.
4. An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.
To demonstrate civic literacy competency as required by the State of Florida, the student must earn a “C-” or higher in the course.

Course Reading


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMINATIONS:
There will be three examinations in this course. The exams will test the student’s knowledge of important ideas, persons, themes and events. Exams will be composed from the instructor’s lectures. There will not be any test questions that draw exclusively from the optional textbook. They are each worth 30 percent of your final grade.
POWER POINT ASSIGNMENT:
For this assignment, you will create a five to six page Power Point as if you were giving a lecture on a subject in recent American history. Your topic for the power point needs to originate from outside the time period of what we cover in class – specifically, anything from the years 2000-2016. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the presidencies of George W. Bush or Barrack Obama, political or social movements, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the financial crisis, major political issues, or the issues of race, class, or gender in the twenty-first century. Along with the Power Point, which you will upload to Canvas, you will write a paragraph explaining the importance of the topic within American history. The Power Point should contain a title, subtitles, pictures, and a limited amount of text. Please imagine that you were teaching the subject to an actual class and, as such, strive as best you can to maintain an objective tone rather than a partisan one.

Grade Breakdown:
Power Point Assignment: 10%
First Exam: 30%
Second Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

Grading Scale: (A=93-100%; A-=90-92%; B+=87-89%; B=83-86%; B-=80-82%; C+=77-79%; C=73-76%; C-=70-72%; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62%; F=0-55%)

DUE DATES FOR AMH2020

DATES (All of the following are in our classroom during class time)
Wednesday, February 7th: Exam One
Friday, March 23rd: Exam Two
Wednesday, April 18th: Power Point due

FINAL EXAM- Definite Date - Cannot be Changed
Monday, April 30, 2018: 10:00 AM to Noon in our classroom

Under University policy, the final exam CANNOT be given at an earlier or later date.
PLEASE, DO NOT MAKE PLANS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY!!!

Other Important Dates
January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Class
March 12-16: Spring Break, No Class

COURSE POLICIES

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, calls to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY:
According to FSU policy, you must be present on the first day of class or you will be automatically be dropped from the course.
After the first day, there is no formal policy on attendance. While I am not taking attendance every day, it is doubtful that you will do well in the course with several absences. Therefore, students should make every effort to attend class. I will answer specific questions, but I will not re-teach any lecture or give the notes for it.

**MISSED EXAMS:**
In the case of a personal or family emergency, you must contact the Dean of Students at 850-644-2428. I will receive official notification from them if your absence is to be excused.

If you have an EXCUSED absence, you will need to:
1. Notify the instructor of any valid, verifiable excuse in advance if possible and provide documentation for the absence.
2. Set up a time with me for a make up exam.

***A missed exam due to unacceptable reasons will result in a failure for that exam.

Note: All make-up exams will be based on the same information, but are understandably different and will reflect the additional time you have had to study.

**LATE POWER POINT ASSIGNMENTS:**
The same valid excuses apply for assignments. If the instructor deems the excuse valid, you will receive UP TO one week to complete the assignment. Any late assignments, due to unacceptable reasons, will result in 10% off each calendar day (not class day) it is late. **Two weeks from the due date, no essays will be accepted – regardless of excuse.**

**STUDENT CONDUCT:**
This is a large class and we need to respect each others’ time. Please DO NOT arrive late to class. If you must leave early, please inform me before class. Students are also requested to refrain from such behaviors as carrying on conversations with classmates during lectures or reading non-course materials/surfing the web, etc., during class.

Further, I have a pet peeve about cell phones. PLEASE turn off any phones during class time (that means no texting either!) Any breach of these rules will result in removal from class.

**TITLE IX**
As a recipient of Federal financial assistance for education activities, FSU is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities are free from discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual discrimination includes sexual misconduct (sexual violence, stalking, intimate partner violence, gender based animosity and gender based stereotyping). If you have questions about Title IX or wish to file a Title IX complaint, please visit the FSU Title IX website: [www.titleix.fsu.edu](http://www.titleix.fsu.edu) or call Jennifer Broomfield, Title IX Director 850-644-6271. **Please note that as Responsible Employees, all faculty are required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office.**

The Victim Advocate Program at FSU has a confidential advocate on call twenty-four hours a day to respond to FSU students, faculty, and staff who are victimized, or any other person who is victimized on our campus, or by an FSU student. Daytime Phone: 850.644.7161, 850.644.2277, or 850.645.0086. Nights, Weekends & Holidays 850.644.1234 (FSUPD) Ask to speak to the on-call advocate.

**ACADEMIC HONOR CODE AND PLAGIARISM:**
With all assignments at FSU, the Academic Honor Code applies. You are expected to be familiar and abide by the University’s Academic Honor Code, listed below. You are also expected to know the definition of plagiarism. You must do your own work and make sure that your work is not being plagiarized by others.
Failure to abide by the Honor Code could result in a “0” for the assignment, an “F” for this course, and/or possible dismissal or suspension from the University. In other words - do your own work.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY’S ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
(2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

Free Tutoring from FSU
For tutoring and writing help in any course at Florida State University, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of tutoring options - see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu for more information. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

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Syllabus Change Policy
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, including the schedule of assignments, lectures, and the selected readings.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS FOR THE COURSE:

Week One: The Gilded Age
Weeks Two: Freedom’s Boundaries
Week Three: The Progressive Era
Week Four: World War One
Week Five: Roaring 20s
Week Six: The Great Depression and New Deal
Week Seven: World War Two
Week Eight: The First Decades of the Cold War
Week Nine: Eisenhower to Truman
Week Ten: Spring Break
Week Eleven: The Stormy Sixties, Domestic
Week Twelve: The Stormy Sixties, Abroad
Week Thirteen: The 1970s
Week Fourteen: The Reagan Revolution
Week Fifteen: N’Sync and Newt – the 1990s.