2014

144-94 United States History 2

Timothy Wurst
wursttw@xavier.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/history_syllabi_summer_2014

Recommended Citation
http://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/history_syllabi_summer_2014/8
United States History 2

This course is designed to provide a broad survey of American history since 1865. In particular we will focus on four major issues: the development of corporate capitalism, and various conflicts surrounding it, the rise of big government and the fate of democracy in “the age of reform” (i.e. progressivism and the New Deal), the question of race in American society and the foreign and domestic conflicts in the post World War II era of Pax Americana.

This course is also designed to promote habits of critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing. The method for promoting these habits is the reading of historical documents and historical arguments, followed by thinking, speaking, and writing about the issues they raise. Since the assigned texts are central to the course it is probably important that students keep up with the reading. **It will be difficult to do well in this course without careful and timely reading.**

Works Assigned:


Your grade in this course will be the result of the following:

a.) Class attendance and participation; attendance is required and repeated absences will lower your grade; participation is also required, which includes keeping up with the readings, as well as asking and answering questions.

b.) Short homework assignments.

c.) One (1) midterm examination. (This examination will be a take-home exam and will be essay in nature.)

d.) Booknote. (Instructions are attached)

e.) Final Examination. (This examination will be take-home and will be essay in nature.)

* Late assignments will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor.
* Your grade will be based on the number of points you have accumulated and divided by the total number of points possible.

The grading scale for the class is as follows:

- A+ 98-100%
- A  95-97%
- B+ 90-92%
- B  87-89%
- C+ 82-84%
- C  78-81%
- D+ 74-75%
- D  72-73%
- A- 93-94%
- B- 85-86%
- C- 76-77%
- D- 70-71%
SYLLABUS

(T) July 8
Introduction (attendance and explanation of the syllabus)
Topic: Reconstruction and the Meaning of Freedom
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 18 (pgs. 520-551), ch. 20 (pgs. 590-615); Hofstadter, ch. 6 (pgs. 177-210), Worksheet (due on 7/10)

(TH) July 10
Topic: The Second Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Corporate Capitalism
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 19 (pgs. 559-572), ch. 22 (pgs. 650-663); Hofstadter, ch. 7 (pgs. 213-238) Worksheet (due on 7/15).

(T) July 15
Topic: The Consequences of Industrialization on Labor and Agriculture
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 22 (pgs. 663-677); Hofstadter, ch. 9 (pgs. 267-305), Worksheet (due on 7/17)

(TH) July 17
Topic: The Age of Progressive Reform
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 24 (pgs. 712-741); Hofstadter, ch. 10 (pgs. 309-336), Worksheet (due on 7/22)

(T) July 22
Topic: The American Empire and World War One
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 23 (pgs. 685-709); Hofstadter, ch. 10 (pgs. 337-365)
**Distribute Midterm Examination, (due on 7/29)**

(TH) July 24
Topic: The 1920s and the Great Depression
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 26 (pgs. 776-795); Hofstadter, ch. 11 (pgs. 369-399), Worksheet (due on 7/31)

(T) July 29
**Midterm Examination Due**
Topic: The Great Depression and the New Deal
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 27 (pgs. 798-821); Handout: William Leuchtenburg, “The Achievement of the New Deal.”

(TH) July 31
**Booknote Due**
Topic: The New Deal/Events Leading to the Second World War
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 28 (pgs. 824-859)

(T) August 5
Topic: The Second World War/Cold War and Containment
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 29 (pgs. 862-883)
(TH) August 7
Topic: The Cold War and Containment: 1945-1960
Assignments: Tindall, ch. 30 (pgs. 974-1011)
Distribute Final Exam (Due on 7/14)

(T) August 12
Topic: The Fair Deal and the Affluent Society

(TH) August 14
Final Examination Due
**Instructions For Writing a Booknote**

A booknote will be completed on three type-written pages. It will be single-spaced. The note will begin with a full bibliographical citation similar to the following example:


**THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE BOOKNOTE IS TO PROVIDE A USEFUL REFERENCE FOR YOUR FUTURE USE SO THAT YEARS FROM NOW YOU WILL HAVE A DOCUMENT WHICH WILL RECALL FOR YOU WITH SOME VIVIDNESS WHAT THE BOOK WAS ABOUT.**

The body of the booknote should include the following information:

1. **The main subject of the book and the limits which the author places on his/her materials:** biography, economic and social history, or institutional history.

2. **The special nature of the book:** a collection of essays, one of several volumes, a novel or any other unique characteristics.

3. **A synopsis of the contents** which will be a synthesis of the subject material rather than an outline of the book or a summary of the table of contents.

4. **An analysis of the work** which will include statements on the thesis, opinion or bias (or all three) of the author. For example: Does the author support a particular political point of view? Is he/she friendly or hostile to his subject? Does he/she take a stand which challenges the position of others who have written on the subject? Does he/she fulfill the promises he/she makes at the start of the book? Did he/she make good use of source materials? Did he/she miss any important sources? A brief biographical sketch of the author is also both important and required. What is the background or qualification of the author to write this book? What other works had this author completed? Is he/she a journalist or an academic?

5. **Importance of the book, if any.** Is this book valuable or trivial to the serious student of history? Did it have any special impact when it was published? Does it continue to have value today? Is the book to be recommended over other works on the same subject?

The body of the booknote should have the distinct flavor of a book review rather than a book report. You must tailor the booknote to the book you are writing about. If there is something about the book which is not anticipated in the guidelines above, be certain to include such information. If a part of these guidelines is not relevant to the book you read, ignore it.

Your booknote should convince your instructor that you are well acquainted with the book. Again, it should be written so that its ultimate value is as a document in your bibliographic files.
Booknote Suggestions

Reconstruction


Second Industrial Revolution


Populism – The Revolt of the Farmers


**Progressive Era**


**Non-Fiction:** Upton Sinclair. *The Jungle*.

**America Becomes A World Power**


David Traxel. *1898: The Tumultuous Year of Victory, Invention, Internal Strife, And Industrial Expansion That Saw The Birth of the American Century*.


**The 1920s**


**The Great Depression and the New Deal**


**The Second World War**


The Cold War and The Age of Affluence


The Tumultuous Sixties


