



HIST 1302.113H1
United States History II From 1877
Fall 2025
M/W 12:30-1:50 LRC 255

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Patricia Ovesny MA. povesny@com.edu, 409-933-8304

Office: Learning Resource Center, Suite A, LRC-222

Student Hours and Location: M-Th 7:35-8:05 FHS, M 10:45-12:30, T/TH 10-11, W 10:45-12:30 (virtual), you can also email me at povesny@com.edu

Textbook: This is a free online textbook, American Yawp <https://www.americanyawp.com>. Reading assignments are listed on the last page of the syllabus. Material drawn from the textbook will account for 10 – 20% of each exam. Book may include the electronic key to access online material.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/reconstruction era to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, immigration, World Wars, the Great Depression, Cold War, and post-Cold War eras. Themes that may be addressed in United States History II include American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy. Any topic for this class must be after 1877.

DETERMINATION OF GRADE

Course Work Requirements: This is a course that requires the student to attend lectures. Each lecture contains material that may not be available in the textbook, material that the student is responsible for and will be tested upon; therefore, it is essential that students make a concerted effort to attend class. If a student is absent from class, they are responsible for acquiring the lecture notes from a classmate. Rigorous note taking and studying of lecture notes is expected if the student is to succeed in the class. In addition to attending lectures, students are expected to read the textbook assignment prior to attending the lecture on that subject.

Exams: There will be **four exams** during the semester with a value of **100** points each. Exams will be online with an essay question. Exam material will be drawn from both lectures and assigned readings. Students should pay particular attention to terms in the study guides, which will be distributed prior to

each exam. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, short answers, map questions as well as a take home essay question. **There will be NO makeup tests given. If you miss a test your lowest test score for the semester will count twice. If you miss more than one test the other will be a 0. Exams address the following Core Objective: Critical Thinking.**

Assessment Quizzes: In addition to the four exams, there will be several pop quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will be given in class for the most part, there may be some that are posted on D2L. The lowest **two** quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes will be given in order to identify at-risk students. Once at-risk students are identified, a plan will be developed in conjunction with the student with the goal of improving their performance in the class. Quizzes will count for a total of 100 points. **Quizzes cannot be made up.** Quizzes address the following Core Objective: Critical Thinking.

Discussion Posts: You are responsible for reading primary documents and posting comments on the discussion boards on D2L. These discussions will address the readings, and your responses should incorporate reading and class discussion. This will account for 50 points, 5%, of your total grade.

Primary documents will be posted on D2L, and these are the documents that you need for the discussion posts. You will read the documents for that discussion and post a comment (needs to be about a paragraph) on the documents, what did the document say, what was its purpose and how did it fit into our class discussions. You will also need to comment on at least one other person's post.

Here is a link to a source for generally accepted network etiquette. Please review this material, be familiar with the core principles of netiquette and please follow these guidelines during the term of this course:

- [Netiquette: Etiquette for Communicating Online](#) - Howard Community College Netiquette Statement.
- [Netiquette: Ground Rules for Online Discussions](#) - The Institute for Learning and Teaching at Colorado State University
- Two-minute video about [Discussion Board Netiquette](#)
- Virginia Shea's [Netiquette Home Page](#)
- [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#) by Virginia Shea (an excerpt from *Netiquette*)
- [The Net: User Guidelines and Netiquette](#) by Professor Rinaldi, Florida Atlantic University

Research Paper Assignment: Each student will be responsible for a 5-page typed double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, cited paper over a historical topic that we cover that is after 1877. You must have in-text citations, and a works cited list. You may use MLA, APA, or Turabian citations. You must use at least one primary document, one scholarly article, one book, and one scholarly internet site. You may pick your own topic, but it must be approved by the instructor. **You must turn in a rough draft of the paper and receive feedback before you will be allowed to turn in the final paper. See syllabus for due date.** No late papers will be accepted. Make sure you turn in your paper on time! The research paper will count for 10% of your grade. See class outline for when specific parts of the paper are due. **The Paper Assignment will also address the following Core Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills (CS1)**

The Research Paper Assignment will be graded using the following formula:

Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	25 points
Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	25 points
Effective use of Critical Thinking Skills	25 points
Effective use of Communication Skills (written)	25 points
Total Points	100 points

No late papers will be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS. The research paper assignment is worth 100 points. This is a high value assignment. Failure to turn this assignment will adversely affect our final course grade. **See Calendar for due date.**

Oral Presentation Assignment: This course has an oral communication assignment. Each student will present a 5-minute video presentation of their research topic to the class. Each student will be graded on content, research, and presentation. The oral presentation will count for 10% of your grade. **The Oral Presentation will address the following Core Objectives: Communication Skills (CS2) and Communication Skills (CS3).**

You must also create a “movie” poster for your topic to compliment your presentation. This must use visual imagery and be limited to 5 words. See Calendar for due date.

The presentation is worth 100 points and will be graded according to the following formula:

Verbal Communication	25 points
Nonverbal Communication	25 points
Content	25 points
Poster (visual Communication)	25 points
Total Points	100 points

Responsibility Paper: Students will pick a person that fits into the time-period of HIST 1302 -

U.S. History from 1877. Students look for a person that fits into the major area that you are studying.

- Arts & Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Health, Human and Consumer Science and Public Safety
- STEM

There are many interesting people/movements that fit into these major areas. Find a person or movement that interests you.

Students will write a two-page typed paper on the Social and Personal Responsibility of the person/or persons involved in the movement.

The student must include a section in their paper discussing the social and personal responsibility of the individuals involved. Students will use primary and secondary sources for their paper.

Example: Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb, what are the consequences of this action? What personal responsibility and social responsibility does he have and how does it influence those around him?

The Paper Assignment will be graded using the following formula:

Effective use of Critical Thinking Skills	25 points
Effective use of Communication Skills (written)	25 points
Analysis of the Social Responsibility Component of the Topic	25 points
Analysis of the Personal Responsibility Component of the Topic	25 points
Total Points	100 points

Movie Critique: Movies can be accessed through the Com Library site, go to Swank Films and choose a film appropriate for our class. The movie must be based on a historical event that occurs after 1877 in the US. You may also use any streaming media source you have access to. After watching the movie, you will write a 2-page typed paper about the movie. You will address the question of how this movie fit into the class discussions we were having. Is this an accurate representation of what we have been studying? **See Calendar for due date.**

Extra Credit: Films on U.S. History are available in the library. To earn extra credit, you will select a film, watch it, and write a one-to-two-page typed response to the film. You will receive up to five extra credit points for each summary turned in. Note: Quality responses will earn you five extra points; summaries that are not well done will earn less credit, so don't turn in sloppy work and expect to earn extra credit. I do not want just a summary but what you thought about the film in the context of what we have discussed in class. You can earn a total of 30 points of extra credit.

Other extra credit may be given throughout the semester. These may be extra credit questions on a test or other out of class assignments.

Emergency Closure Assignment: In case of an emergency closure of the school it may be necessary for assignments to be posted on D2L. Also, if class is unable to meet for any reason, assignments may be posted on D2L. Always check announcements on D2L for more information if this becomes necessary.

Total points for the semester will be **1000 points**.

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

Assessment Quizzes	100 points
Responsibility Paper	100 points
Research Paper Rough draft	25 points
Final Research Paper	75 points
Presentation/ Poster	100 points
Discussion Posts/Attendance	100 points

Movie Critique	100 points
First Exam M/C	50 points
First Exam Essays	50 points
Second Exam M/C	50 points
Second Exam Essays	50 points
Third Exam M/C	50 points
Third Exam Essay	50 points
Final Exam M/C	50 points
Final Exam Essay	50 points
Total Points	1000 points

Grade Scale:

1000-900 = A (90 – 100% average)

899-800 = B (80 -89% average)

799-700 = C (70 – 79% average)

699-600 = D (60 – 69% average)

599 or below = F (59% or below)

MAKE-UP POLICY: THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP TESTS OR QUIZZES GIVEN. IF YOU MISS A TEST YOUR LOWEST TEST SCORE FOR THE SEMESTER WILL COUNT TWICE. IF YOU MISS MORE THAN ONE TEST THE OTHER WILL BE A 0. QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP.

Attendance: The nature of this course is such that one should attend all scheduled sessions. There is a clear and direct correlation between attendance and success in the classroom, therefore regular attendance is strongly urged. However, in the event of illness or extenuating circumstances, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate.

Attendance is 5% of your grade. On online days, your discussion posts will count for a total of 5% of your grade.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence. This course-level outcome maps to the Critical Thinking Skills Core Objective.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources. This course-level outcome maps to the Critical Thinking Skills Core Objective.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history. This course-level outcome maps to the Critical Thinking Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility Core Objectives.
4. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through written communication. This course-level outcome maps to the Communication Skills Core Objective.
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through oral communication. This course-level outcome maps to the Communication Skills Core Objective.
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through visual communication. This course-level outcome maps to the Communication Skills Core Objective.
7. Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
8. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to decision-making.

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE OBJECTIVES

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, and the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
2. **Communication Skills:** Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. **Personal Responsibility:** Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Quizzes and Exams
4. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through written communication.	Communication Skills (CS1)	Paper
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through oral communication.	Communication Skills (CS2)	Oral Presentation Assignment
6. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through visual communication.	Communication Skills (CS3)	Oral Presentation Assignment
7. Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	Social Responsibility (SR)	Paper
8. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to decision-making.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Progress assessment and paper

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Turnitin: All papers will be submitted to Turnitin. Please check your similarity report, this flags plagiarism. Also, Turnitin now checks to see if your paper was written by Artificial Intelligence, you will not see this percentage, but your instructor will. **Any percentage of Artificial Intelligence usage will result in a zero for your paper and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action.**

Do not use Grammarly or any other online helpers to help you write your paper, it will show up as Artificial Intelligence. If you need help with papers, use the COM Tutoring Center.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. When in doubt – cite!! Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism: <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Shinya Wakao swakao@com.edu or 409-933-8107.

Course Outline: Subject to change
History 1302
United States History II

Aug 18	In Class- Introduction/ /100 Questions
	Online - syllabus quiz / introduction post
Aug 20	In Class- The American West (Chapter 17) West/Industrial America (Chapter 16)/
	Online- Dawes Act Post Chinese Exclusionary Post
Aug 25	In Class- Age of Enterprise (Chapter 18)
	Online- Urbanization (Chapter 18)
Aug 27	In Class- Politics of 1900's (Chapter 18)/
	Online- Politics in Gilded Age Jungle Post
Sept 1	No Class Labor Day- Progressivism (Ch 20)
	Online- Exam/ Research Topic Due
Sept 3	In Person- Emerging World Power (Ch 19)/ World War I (Ch 21)
	Online- World War I (Ch 21)/ Platt Amendment Post/ Zimmerman Telegram Post
Sept 8	In Person- World War I (Ch 21)
	Online- Modern Times (Chapter 21)/ Treaty of Versailles Post /Responsibility Paper Due
Sept 10	In Class-Great Depression (Chapter 23)/
	Online- New Deal (chapter 23)/worksheet due/ Volstead Act post/ Exam
Sept 15	In Class- World War II (Chapter 24)
	Online- FDR speech post /Research Paper rough Draft due
Sept 17	In Class- World War II (Chapter 24)
	Online- World War II /Worksheet due/ Movie Critique Due
Sept 22	In Class- Cold War (Chapter 25)

	Online- McCarthyism and the Cold War (Chapter 25)/Worksheet due/ Marshall Plan Post
Sept 24	In Class- Affluent Society (chapter 26)/
	Online- Changes in Society (Chapter 26) /worksheet due Research Paper due
Sept 29	In Class- JFK and the Civil Rights Movement/
	Online- Exam /Worksheet due
Oct 1	Online- Vietnam Era (Chapter 28)/ Conservative America (Chapter 28) Gulf of Tonkin Post
Oct 6	In Class- Reagan (Chapter 29)
	Online- Watergate post. Worksheet due/ Video Presentations Due
Oct 8	Modern America (Chapter 30) Presidents Quiz
	Worksheet due / Final Due /

UNITED STATES HISTORY II READING ASSIGNMENTS

First Exam	Chapters 16-18, 20
Second Exam	Chapters 19, 21-23
Third Exam	Chapters 24-26
Final Exam	Chapters 27-30

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>

An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator
Phone: 409-933-8919
Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu
Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.