



**History 1302.125CL**  
**US History II: 1877 – the Present**  
**Spring 2023**  
**Mon-Thu, 11-12.20**

**Instructor Information**

Name Dr. Gilchrist White  
Email [gwhite@com.edu](mailto:gwhite@com.edu)  
Office Phone 409.933.8212 (Social and Behavioral Sciences Office; the Administrative Assistant can get a message to me.)

**Office Hours and Location**

Office Hours Mondays & Wednesdays 12.30-1; or, by Appointment  
Office Location Suite A in LRC, Social and Behavioral Sciences Office

**My Teaching Philosophy**

Learning is best achieved when students become engaged with the material and discover information on their own. Students also need interaction with other learners through discussions, debates, collaboration, and evaluation. Individual learners also need to reflect on their learning—to evaluate his/her past experiences and how they relate to his/her present situation, and to plan for future learning and growth. A teacher's job is to help learners with this on-going process.

This philosophy places students at the center of their own learning and in charge of it.

**Required Textbooks**

P. Scott Corbett, et al, *U.S. History*. Published by OpenStax. Updated May 20, 2022. (*This is a free, downloadable textbook.*)

Instructions to access the book:

1. Open your browser and search for Openstax. It is provided by Rice University.
2. Click on subject and search for the book *US History*. There are instructions to download the app, download the PDF, read online, or order a print copy.

*You may also Click on this link if you are reading this syllabus online in Desire2Learn: [US History \(Openstax\)](#) to access the book. This link is a direct link to our textbook.*

**Other Requirements**

You must use Microsoft Office Word for your essays and other written assignments. You may download a free copy of Office 365 through the College web site. Go to COM's Home Page. Click on the College Operations tab and scroll down to the Information Technology button. Click on it. At the top of IT's page is a button "Office 365." Click on it and follow the instructions on the page.

**Course Description**

A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction to the present. United States History II examines industrialization, 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 US foreign policy.

**Prerequisite:** TSI Reading 351 or equivalent developmental course.

*History 1302 is an academic transfer course satisfying COM's American History Core Curriculum requirement.*

## **Course Requirements**

### 1. Exams

Each exam will have a multiple-choice section and an essay section. The online section will be given in class. The essay section will be written outside of class and submitted through an Assignment link in D2L. Exam material will be drawn from both the PowerPoint lectures and assigned readings and any other material covered. Exams will not be cumulative. (4 @100 points each; 400 points total)

### 2. Historical Research Paper (100 points)

Each student will write a 3-5-page research paper over a topic in US History from 1877 to 1980. Several steps are required and are part of the final grade on the paper.

- Submit your topic to your instructor in an email. (5 points of total)
- Paper proposal which will include the thesis statement and sources you plan to use. (20 points of total)
- Completed paper. (75 of total)

Specific instructions for writing the paper will be provided in class and in D2L.

### 3. Oral Presentation

You will use your Historical Research Paper as the basis for the oral presentation. A detailed handout will be provided in class and in D2L. (50 points)

### 4. Social and Personal Responsibility Assignment

This paper will cover an issue in US history from 1877-the present in which you will analyze individual choices in a social and ethical setting. A handout with detailed instructions will be provided in class and in D2L. (100 points)

### 5. In-class Discussions

A large part of the learning process is done in collaboration with others—discussing the readings and historical events and listening to others.

The discussions cover material we've read or films we have seen. For example, in week 1, you are assigned an Introduction discussion a discussion on a short film we'll watch in class. 13 discussions @ 10 points each = 130 points; 1 @ 20 points; 150 points total

### 6. Syllabus Quiz      10 points

## **Extra Credit**

There are 3 ways to earn extra credit in this class.

1. The first way is to complete the Course Evaluation, available toward the end of the semester. If you complete the evaluation, I will add 5 points to your course point total.

NOTE: As with all course evaluations, I will not see the results until after grades are in and they are not identified by name, so the results are completely anonymous. I only receive a list of students who completed the evaluation.

2. The second way is to complete a written film review. You must watch a film covering an event that occurred or a person who lived between 1877 and the present. There are many excellent films both recent (within the last 5 or so years) and older films (10 to 20 or 30 years old).

The film title must be approved by your instructor before it is turned in. If the title is not approved, the review will not be accepted.

A copy of the review assignment will be handed out in class and is available in Assignments Folder in the Content Menu in D2L. Only one review will be accepted, and it is worth 15 extra credit points, added to your course point total.

3. Finally, there is one discussion that will be worth 10 extra credit points and it will be a short written paragraph. It is not included in the number of discussions listed above.

### Grading Formula

A cumulative point system for grading is used in this course:

Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points
Historical Research Paper	100 points
Social Responsibility Paper	100 points
Discussions (13 @ 10 points each; 1 20 points)	150 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	<u>10 points</u>
Total	810 points*

*\* Your grade will be based on the number of points you have earned divided by the total points available. The D2L Grade book keeps a running total of points so that you can always see how you are doing.*

### Grading Scale:

A	729 - 810
B	648 - 728
C	567 - 647
D	486 - 566
F	485 and below

*I have been as accurate as I can with the number of points available, but assignments can be dropped or added as needed to insure your comprehension of content. Therefore, the point total, and therefore the grading scale, may change. I will keep you informed of any changes.*

**Late work is not accepted.** You have a window of several days and in some cases several weeks to complete assignments. I do not go back and open assignments up. Please do not email me missed assignments.

Most written assignments including the essay sections of the exams must be uploaded to D2L Brightspace.

I will substitute your lowest exam grade for one missed exam (this DOES NOT mean I drop a grade). If you miss more than one exam those grades will be a zero.

### Make-Up Policy

There will be NO makeup tests or quizzes given. You are given dates for exams in advance.

Please make every effort to be available the days an exam is open. Essays and other papers are available for at least 2 weeks. You should be working on them and not wait until the last minute. Late work will not be accepted.

If you have issues with the grade on an assignment DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to say something. I will not go all the way back to look at those assignments

**If you are having trouble with an assignment, let me know BEFORE it is due. I will work with you as much as I can.**

### **Attendance Policy**

COM recognizes no excused absences other than those prescribed by law: religious holy days and military service (see the current *Student Handbook*).

In accordance with that policy, I recommend that you miss no more than 4 classes, for whatever reason. Missing classes will affect your grade. Please do not schedule doctor's appointments or other events during class time.

### **Tardiness Policy**

If you must be late, come in and take the nearest vacant seat. See me after class.

### **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.

If you have questions outside of class, email me through COM email. If you have computer problems and CANNOT access D2L or the Internet, leave a message with the Administrative Assistant, Kerry Kloesel (409-933-8212), and I will call you as soon as I can.

### **Table Mapping SLOs, Core Objectives, and Assignments**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
Create an argument through the use of historical evidence	Critical Thinking Skills	Paper
Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	Critical Thinking Skills	Paper
Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history	Critical Thinking Skills	Exams
Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills	Paper
Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through oral and visual communication	Communication Skills	Oral Presentation
Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities	Social Responsibility	Paper
Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and relate consequences to decision-making	Personal Responsibility	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 or paper and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism is a common form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his/her work to be used by others is also guilty\*.)

### **Links to Resources about Avoiding Plagiarism**

[Purdue University OWL](#)

[The Tutoring Center at COM](#)

### **Concerns/Questions Statement**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact your instructor using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with your instructor, you continue to have questions, please contact the Department Chair, Shinya Wakao at 409.933.8107 or swakao@com.edu.

**General Course Outline** (*Subject to change. See the Calendar for more specific details such as due dates.*)

#### Unit 1: America's Expansion West, Industry and Labor, American Cities: 1877-1911, & Progressivism

Readings: *US History*, chapters 17, 18, 19 & 21; films and discussions

Week 1: Syllabus Quiz

Week 2: Exam 1 due

#### Unit 2: Foreign Policy and Politics, World War 1, and the 1920s

Readings: *US History*, chapters 20, 22, 23, & 24; films and discussions

Week 4: Research Paper Proposal Due in class

Exam 2 due

#### Unit 3: The Great Depression and The New Deal: 1877-1932, World War II, Post War Foreign and Domestic Affairs, the 1960s

Readings: *US History*, chapters 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29; film and discussion

Week 6: Research Paper due

Exam 3 due

#### Unit 4: The Presidential Administrations from Nixon to Obama; 1970s Forward

Readings: *US History*, chapters 30, 31 & 32; films and discussion

Week 7: Social and Personal Responsibility Paper due

Course Evaluation system open

Week 8: Extra Credit Film Review due

Oral Presentations in class

Exam 4 due

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## **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 [Student Handbook 2022-2023\\_v4.pdf \(com.edu\)](#). *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 career. 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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 3.

### **Fn Grade**

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 will be submitted for an Fn grade (for an online class, the last date an assignment is submitted will be considered the last date of attendance.)

### **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 visit the Community Resource Center in the Student Center or 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 in the Student Center or at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### Tentative Calendar

*This schedule is subject to change at my discretion.*

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Homework/Readings due for Class</b>	<b>Class Activities/Due Dates</b>
<b>Week 1 Mar 20-23</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 17, "Go West Young Man! Westward Expansion, 1840-1900" Chapter 18, "Industrialization and the Rise of Big Business, 1870-1900"</i>	Introduction to class and D2L Short film and discussion Lecture: Westward Expansion Short film and discussion Various assignments given <b>Due Mar 21: Syllabus Quiz</b>
<b>Week 2 Mar 27-30</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 19, "The Growing Pains of Urbanization, 1870-1900" Chapter 21, "Leading the Way: The Progressive Movement, 1890-1920"</i>	Lectures: Industry and Labor, 1877-1911; American Cities, 1870-1900; The Progressive Era, 1880-1920 Short films and discussions <b>Due Mar 27: Research topic Mar 30: Exam 1 in class Mar 30 at 11.59 pm: Exam 2 Essays</b>
<b>Week 3 April 3-6</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 20, "Politics in the Gilded Age, 1870-1900" Chapter 22, "Age of Empire: American Foreign Policy, 1890-1914"</i>	Lectures: Politics, 1870-1900; Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, 1890-1914 Short films and discussions
<b>Week 4 April 10-16</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 23, "Americans and the Great War, 1914-1919" Chapter 24, "The Jazz Age: Redefining the Nation, 1919-1929"</i>	Lectures: World War I and the Aftermath, 1914-1920; The 1920s Short films and discussion <b>Due April 10 at the beginning of class: Research Proposal Due April 16 at 11.59 pm: Exam 2 Essays April 16 in class: Exam 2</b>
<b>Week 5 April 17-20</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 25, "Brother, Can you Spare a Dime? The Great Depression, 1929-1932" Chapter 26, "FDR and the New Deal, 1932-1941 Chapter 27, "Fighting the Good Fight in World War II, 1941-1945" "Street Fighting" by Ernie Pyle</i>	Lectures: The Great Depression; FDR's New Deal, 1932-1939; World War II, Events Leading to War; World War II, America at War Short films and discussions

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Homework/Readings due for Class</b>	<b>Class Activities/Due Dates</b>
<b>Week 6 April 24-27</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 28, "Post-War Prosperity and Cold War Fears, 1945-1960"</i> <i>Chapter 29, "Contesting Futures, American in the 1960s"</i>	Lectures: US Foreign Policy, 1945-1960; Domestic Affairs, Post World War II-1960; The Johnson Administration Short film, discussions <b>Due April 24: Research Paper</b> <b>Due April 26: written discussion</b> <b>Due April 27: Exam 3 in class</b> <b>Due April 27 at 11.59 pm: Exam 3 Essays</b>
<b>Week 7 May 1-4</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 30, "Political Storms at Home and Abroad, 1968-1980"</i> <i>Chapter 31, "From Cold War to Culture Wars, 1980-2000"</i>	Lectures: The Administrations of Nixon, Ford, and Carter; The Reagan and Bush Administrations Short films and discussions?? <b>Due May 1: Social &amp; Personal Responsibility Paper</b>
<b>Week 8 May 8-11</b>	<i>US History: Chapter 32, "The Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"</i>	Lecture: Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama <b>Due May 8: Extra Credit Film Review</b> <b>Due May 10: Oral Presentations in class</b> <b>Due May 11 at 11 am: Exam 4 Essays; Exam 4 in class</b>