



**History 1302.331IN**  
**US History II: 1877 – the Present**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Online**

**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.)

**Student Hours and Location**

Student Hours Monday - Thursday: 8-8.30 am; or, by Appointment  
Office Location *Online through TEAMS*; I will also monitor email Mon-Fri between 8 and 5, and check email at least once a day on Weekends and holidays.  
Student Hours and Location *on Campus*: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12-12.30; LRC Suite A

**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**

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright, Ed. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook*. Vol. 2: Since 1877. 2019. 2022-2023 updates included. *(This is a free textbook that you can read online, save as a PDF to your computer, or purchase through Stanford University for \$25. When you open the page, you will see a link for print or PDF versions of Volumes 1 and 2.)*

Instructions to access the book:

1. Open your browser and search for [The American Yawp](#) (or click on this link).
2. This opening page has the Table of Contents with Volume 2 chapters in the right column. Click on the chapter title to go to it.
3. In addition, the home page has other links. One is to the Reader with primary documents for each chapter. 2 other links will take you to a PDF version of the textbook that you can download for free and a link to purchase a print copy of the textbook through Stanford University Press.

**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, and then scroll to "Get Microsoft Office – Free" instructions.

## 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 an online section of multiple-choice questions and an essay section. The online section will be under Quizzes in Desire2Learn Brightspace (D2L). The essay section will be written outside D2L 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 in the unit such as films. Exams will not be cumulative. (4 @100 points each; 400 points total)

### 2. Historical Research Paper (130 points)

Each student will write a 3 to 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)
- Paper proposal which will include the thesis statement and sources you plan to use. (25)
- Completed paper. (100 points)

Specific instructions for writing the paper will be provided 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 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 D2L. (100 points)

### 5. Discussions

A large part of the learning process is done in collaboration with others—discussing the readings and historical events and listening to others. In this class, these activities are imperative for richer understanding of the events and people who made history. (*Online, listening is reading carefully.*)

The discussions cover films we have seen and material you have read, either in the textbook or in my lectures. For example, in week 1, you are assigned an Introduction discussion and in week 2 there is a discussion on 2 short films. Each discussion is worth 10 points each.

As part of your discussion grade, you will read your classmates' posts and reply to at least 2 of them.

Replies to earn full credit:

- Your responses must be more than “I agree with you,” if you want to receive full credit for your responses. Your replies should have some substance: if you agree with a posting, why? If you disagree, why?
- When you respond to others, observe the rules of Netiquette—we don’t have the advantage of body language and tone of voice to moderate our words. Since our replies can happen at the click of a button and cannot be retracted, be polite even as you disagree with someone.
- Be aware of your audience and purpose.

*To earn full credit, you must post your responses to the questions and reply to at least 2 other posts in the discussion forum.*

(16 @ 10 points each = 160 points total)

Refer to the rubric posted in the Assignments Folder in Content for the specific grading requirements.

*Note: your response to the question(s) will be due Friday night and your replies to other posts will be due Sunday night each week.*  
*The Friday deadline is flexible; that is, if you cannot get your post in on time, be sure you post and reply by the Sunday Night deadline.*

6. Short Writing Assignments

Two writing assignments, each paragraph-length. Handouts with specific instructions will be in D2L (2 @ 25 points each = 50 points)

7. Syllabus Quiz      10 points

**Grading Formula**

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

Exams (4 @ 100 points each)	400 points
Discussions (16 @ 10 points each)	160 points
Historical Research Paper	100 points
Topic and Proposal	30 points
Social Responsibility Paper	100 points
Oral Presentation	50 points
Short Writing Assignments	50 points
Syllabus Quiz	<u>10 points</u>
Total	900 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	810 - 900
B	720 - 809
C	630 - 719
D	540 - 629
F	539 and below

### **Late Work**

I do not like to accept late work. However, I understand that occasionally a student may have an unexpected problem getting an assignment in on time – for whatever reason. If you find yourself in that situation, you need to email me ASAP (use my COM email).

If I agree to accept your late assignment, you will have **2 (two) weeks** to submit it, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the assignment earns a "0" – unless you and I have agreed on different terms.* All assignments must be uploaded to D2L.

### **Missed Exam**

Online Portion: If you miss the online portion of an exam, an alternate exam will be given. *I WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY OPEN a makeup exam. **YOU** must email me and request the alternate exam. You will have **2** weeks to take the makeup exam, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the online section of the exam will earn "0" (zero) points.**

Written/Essay Portion: If you miss submitting the written essay part of an exam by the due date, it will be treated as *Late Work*. you will have **2 (two) weeks** to submit the exam essay, and I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty. *After 2 (two) weeks, the essay section of the exam will earn "0" (zero) points.*

### **Make-Up Policy**

There is no make-up in an online class. You either take/do your exams, assignments, and discussions, or not; you can't make them up other than the conditions for an exam and late work.

Review the Late Work and Missed Exam Policies above.

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.

### **Extra Credit**

There are 2 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 Assignment includes a list of pre-approved films. If you would like to review a film not on the list, you must email the title to your instructor for approval before the review is turned in. If the title is not approved, the review will not be accepted.

A copy of the film review assignment is available in the 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.

### **Attendance Policy**

In an online class, “attending” means logging in at least 2-3 times per week—at your convenience—and participating actively in the class. “Active Participation” is completing discussions each week, completing writing assignments, and taking exams.

Failure to actively participate in the class WILL affect your course grade. A suggested amount of time is 6-9 hours per week spent in reading, reflecting, writing, and participating in discussion forums.

If something happens and you know you will be unable to log in and participate for a short period of time, notify me and keep me informed of your situation.

**Note: Simply logging in to your online course does not constitute attendance.**

### **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, 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.

I try to answer emails within 24 hours, and I generally post grades once a week.

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

Core Objectives for this course:

- Communication: to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Critical Thinking: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

<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 Communication	Research Paper
Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	Critical Thinking Skills	Research Paper
Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on this period of United States history	Critical Thinking Skills Communication	Exams
Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1302-related topic through written communication	Communication Skills	Research 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** (refer to the **Content Folders in D2L Brightspace for specific assignments** and due dates. *Subject to change.*)

#### Unit 1: America: 1877-1911

Weeks 1-4: Readings: *The American Yawp*, chapters 16, 17, 18, & 20  
Films and discussions  
Week 1: Syllabus Quiz due January 18  
Week 4: Exam 1 due February 11

#### Unit 2: Politics and Foreign Policy: 1877-1932

Weeks 5-8: Readings: *The American Yawp*, chapters 19, 21, 22, & 23  
Films and discussions  
Week 6: Research Paper Proposal Due  
Week 8: Exam 2 due March 10

Unit 3: World War II and America in the 1940s, the 1950s, and the 1960s

Weeks 9-12: Readings: *The American Yawp*, chapters 24, 25, 26, & 27  
Film and discussion  
Week 9: Research Paper due March 24  
Week 10: Oral Presentation due April 1  
Week 11: Social and Personal Responsibility paper due April 7  
Week 12: Exam 3 due April 14

Unit 4: The Nixon Administration to the Present: 1970s Forward

Weeks 13-16: Readings: *The American Yawp*, chapters 28, 29, & 30  
Films and discussion  
Week 14: Extra Credit Film Review due April 28  
Week 16: Exam 4 due May 8 at NOON

Course Evaluation System opens Monday, April 22 and closes Tuesday, May 7  
(Dates are approximate)

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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 [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.pdf). *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 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 February 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 1.

### **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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).