



**History 1302.122H2**  
**United States History II**  
**Spring 2025**  
**TTH 11:00 - 12:20 p.m.**

**Instructor Information:** Dr. Steven L. Sewell [ssewell@com.edu](mailto:ssewell@com.edu) 409-933-8117

**Class Days and Time:** TTH 11:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

**Student office hours and location:** MTWTH 10:00-11:00 a.m., MTWTH 2:00-3:00 p.m., and by appointment, LRC A-220.

**Required Open Educational Resource (OER) Textbook:** *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Vol. II, Since 1877*. This is a free open-source textbook, which is embedded in the course, and is easily accessible online at [www.AmericaYawp.com](http://www.AmericaYawp.com) Reading assignments are listed on page 9 of the syllabus. Material drawn from the textbook will account for 10% of each exam.

**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.

**Determination of Course Grade:**

**Exams:** There will be **four exams** during the semester with a value of **100 points** each. Exam material will be drawn from both lectures and assigned readings. Students should pay particular attention to the terms in the study guides. Each exam will consist of **fifty** multiple-choice questions. Each question will be worth **two** points. Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances, and all make up exams will have an automatic 10-point penalty assessed.

**Quizzes:** In addition to the five exams, there will be **seven** two-question pop quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will be given at the end of class, directly following the lecture. The five highest quiz scores will be kept, and the lowest **two** quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes are 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. Each quiz will be worth **twenty** points. **Quizzes cannot be made up.** If you miss a quiz, it will count as one of the two quizzes that will be dropped.

**Textbook Chapter Discussions:** There are **two** textbook chapter discussions. There is a textbook chapter discussion in Modules 2 and 3. **There are no textbook chapter discussions for Modules One and Four.** The discussion questions are in D2L Brightspace and are available on the first day of each module. After reading the textbook chapter, you will upload to D2L Brightspace a 200-word minimum discussion responding to the discussion question and you must respond to another student's discussion posting. You can submit your discussion posting at any time between the start and end dates of each module, but it must be turned by the module's end date. See the course outline section of the course for chapter discussion deadlines. Each discussion posting is worth **50 points**. **Chapter discussions will not be accepted past the exam deadline and will be recorded as zeros in the grade book.**

Discussion postings will be evaluated using the following rubric.

- 45-50 points: Contains all required elements
- 40-44 points: Contains most required elements
- 35-39 points: Missing some required elements
- 30-34 points: Missing most required elements
- 29 or less points: Missing all required elements

**Oral Communication Assignment:** One of the key core objectives you will develop in college is oral communication skills. To help you develop this skill, this course has an oral communication assignment. Students are free to select a topic as long as it is U.S. history and from the time period covered in this course and then make a five-minute oral presentation on the topic. Students will record their oral presentation on either their cellphone or their computer and then upload the presentation to D2L Brightspace in the "Assignments" section of the course, or you can upload the presentation to YouTube and then upload the link to D2L Brightspace.

**The deadline for the oral communication assignment is 11:59 p.m., April 9. No late oral communication assignments will be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS.** The oral communication assignment is worth **100 points**. This is a high value assignment. Failure to turn this assignment will adversely affect your final course grade.

The oral communication assignment will be graded according to the following formula:

- Verbal Communication - 20 points
- Nonverbal Communication - 20 points
- Content - 30 points
- Organization - 30 points
- 100 points**

**Paper Assignment:** In the paper assignment the student will analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources, then create an argument using historical evidence in a two-page paper (double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman). In your paper you must use at least one primary source and two secondary sources. The paper assignment will address the following Core Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

In addition to analyzing and interpreting primary and secondary sources and constructing an argument using historical evidence, the student **MUST** include a section in their paper discussing the social and personal responsibility (using the definition on page 7 of the syllabus) of the individuals involved in the topic. Students must discuss these individuals and the issues they were involved in using critical thinking and effectively communicate their views on these topics in their papers.

**The deadline for submitting the paper assignment to D2L Brightspace is 11:59 p.m. on April 22. No late papers will be accepted, NO EXCEPTIONS.** The paper assignment is worth **100 points**. This is a high value assignment. Failure to turn this assignment will adversely affect your final course grade.

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

Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources	- 20 points
Create an argument using historical evidence	- 20 points
Effective use of Critical Thinking Skills	- 20 points
Effective use of Communication Skills (written)	- 20 points
Analysis of the Social Responsibility component of the topic	- 10 points
Analysis of the Personal Responsibility component the topic	- 10 <u>points</u>
	<b>100 points</b>

**Choose one of the following individuals for the subject of your paper assignment**

Discuss Emma Goldman. Discuss her role as a political activist and a writer. Include a section on the social and personal responsibility of her political activities and writings.

Discuss Andrew Carnegie. Discuss his role and contributions to the development of American industry. Include a section on the social and personal responsibility of his actions.

Discuss Jonas Salk. Discuss his role in the development of the polio vaccine. Include a section on the social and personal responsibility of his actions.

Discuss Robert Oppenheimer. Discuss his role in the development of the atomic bomb. Discuss the social and personal responsibility of his actions.

**How the final course grade will be calculated:**

**Total points for the semester will be 800 points.**

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

	Points
Quizzes 5 @ 20 points	100
Textbook Chapter Discussions 2 @ 50 points	100
Oral Communication Assignment	100
Paper Assignment	100
Module One Exam	100
Module Two Exam	100
Module Three Exam	100
Module Four Exam	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>

**Grade Scale:**

720-800 = A (90 - 100% average)

640-719 = B (80 - 89% average)

560-639 = C (70 - 79% average)

480-559 = D (60 - 69% average)

479 or below = F (59% or below)

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra Credit Policy:**

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted. Deadlines for quizzes, exams, and other assignments are stated in the syllabus. Deadlines are known well in advance; therefore, no late work will be accepted.

**Make-Up:** Make-Up work is allowed under extraordinary circumstances and must be approved by the instructor. All work can be submitted only once. No “redoos” on quizzes and exams.

**Extra Credit:** To earn extra credit, select a film from the list below. After you watch the film and write a two-page typed summary of the film, answering the questions listed below. **Ten extra credit points** for each summary turned in. **Send all extra credit as an email attachment.**

**Extra Credit Film List:**

Sergeant York

Matewan

Inherit the Wind

The Grapes of Wrath

The Longest Day

Mississippi Burning

Judgement at Nuremburg

The Manchurian Candidate (1962 version)

Bad Day at Black Rock

Salt of the Earth

Dr. Strangelove

Failsafe

Film review questions:

- What did you enjoy most about the film?
- What did you enjoy least about the film?
- Was there a message or moral to the story?
- Can the message or moral be applied to life?
- Did the story engage your emotions? How did the story leave you feeling?

**Note:** Quality summaries will earn you ten extra points; summaries that are not well done will earn less credit, so don't turn in sloppy work and expect to earn a full ten points extra credit. Summaries must be turned in by the last lecture class of the semester. Summaries **will not** be accepted after that date.

Other extra credit may be offered from time to time at the discretion of the instructor.

**The maximum extra credit that can be earned is thirty points.**

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is crucial to success in any class. There is a clear and direct correlation between attendance and success in the classroom. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every 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.

**Student Learner Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Create an argument using 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. Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
7. 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.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper Assignment
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Paper 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)	Exams
4. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History 1301-related topic through written communication.	Communication Skills (CS)	Paper Assignment
5. Develop, interpret, and express ideas on a History	Communication Skills (CS)	Oral Communication Assignment

1301-related topic through oral communication.		
6. 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 Assignment
7. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and relate consequences to decision-making.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Paper Assignment

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy 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 appropriate discipline action.

**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 appropriate discipline action.

**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Any assignment containing material generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate disciplinary action.

**Concerns/Questions Statement:** 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 Department Chair, Dr. Shinya Wakao at 409-933-8212.

**Student Rights:** Students taking this class have rights, but also responsibilities. One student right is the expectation that this course be taught within the parameters specified within this syllabus. While the instructor reserves the right to alter the course, no material or assignment will be added without proper notification and advance warning.

## **History 1302.122H2 Course Outline:**

### **Module One**

Mar. 11 - Introduction & The End of the Frontier  
Mar. 12 - The Robber Barons (**ONLINE**)  
Mar. 13 - When Labor Was Angry  
Mar. 18 - **Spring Break (NO CLASS)**  
Mar. 20 - **Spring Break (NO CLASS)**  
Mar. 24 - Politics & Reform in the Gilded Age (**ONLINE**)  
Mar. 25 - Competing Philosophies in the Gilded Age  
Mar. 26 - Immigration and Urbanization in the late-19th Century (**ONLINE**)  
Mar. 27 - **First Exam**

### **Module Two**

Mar. 31 – Populism (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 1 - Rise of the American Empire  
Apr. 2 - Women and Blacks at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 3 - Progressivism  
Apr. 7 - World War One (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 8 - The 1920s  
Apr. 9 - **Second Exam & Chapter 22 discussion & Oral Communication assignment (ONLINE)**

### **Module Three**

Apr. 10 - The Great Depression  
Apr. 14 - Inter-War Years (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 15 - World War Two (Part I)  
Apr. 16 - World War Two (Part II) (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 17 - Origins of the Cold War  
Apr. 21 - Domestic America in the Post-War Years, 1945-1960 (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 22 - **Third Exam & Chapter 23 discussion & Paper assignment**

### **Module Four**

Apr. 23 - Kennedy Administration (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 24 - Johnson Administration  
Apr. 28 - The Civil Rights Movement & Sixties Culture (**ONLINE**)  
Apr. 29 - Nixon Administration  
Apr. 30 - Ford & Carter Administrations (**ONLINE**)  
May 1 - Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations  
May 5 - Clinton Administration to the present (**ONLINE**)  
May 6 - **Fourth Exam**



## **Important Deadlines**

### **Oral Communication Assignment**

**Deadline – April 9**

### **Paper Assignment**

**Deadline – April 22**

## **History 1302**

### **United States History II**

#### **Reading Assignments**

**First Exam - Chapters 16, 17, 18**

**Second Exam - Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22**

**Third Exam - Chapters 23, 24, 25, 26**

**Fourth Exam - Chapter 27, 28, 29, 30**

**Note: 10% of each exam will come from the textbook readings.**

### **Tips for Campus/Classroom Safety:**

#### **Run, Hide, Fight**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vcSwejU2D0>**

#### **Last Resort ACTIVE SHOOTER SURVIVAL Measures by Alon Stivi**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2tfeRUbRHw>**

#### **Surviving an Active Shooter Event - Civilian Response to Active Shooter**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0It68YxLQQ>**

#### **Make the call**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWaPp-8k2p0>**

### Tips for success:

1. **Attend every class.**
2. **Pay attention in class.**
3. **Take detailed notes.**
4. **Study lecture notes after every class.**
5. **Use the study guide.**
6. **Use the study technique that works best for you (highlighting lecture notes, flashcards, study groups, etc.).**
7. **Read the textbook carefully and for retention.**
8. **Make use of office hours.**
9. **If you are not doing well in the course, don't wait until the last week of class to see the professor.**

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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\\_2024-2025\\_v6.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v6.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 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is April 30.

**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).

**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.