



HIST-1302-111H1 and HIST-1302-611H1

United States History II

Spring 2025, 1st 8-week session

MW, 8:00am-9:20am

I: Course Information

Instructor: John William Herrington: jherrington4@com.edu

Hours and Location: Monday and Wednesday, 8:00am-9:20am in LRC 255

Office and Office Hours: Adjunct office in LRC Suite A. Please email me to schedule a time to meet. We can also talk immediately before or after class, or meet online via Zoom.

Textbook: <https://americanyawp.com> - A free, open, and collaborative textbook created by hundreds of historians. Reading the textbook isn't strictly required, but it will reinforce and expand upon what we discuss in the classroom.

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 sub-urbanization, the expansion of the federal government and the study of U.S. foreign policy.

Course Requirements: The content of this hybrid course is delivered 50% in the classroom and 50% online, as a combination of lectures and primary source readings/discussions that we do as a class. The online textbook is supplemental and a great resource for reinforcing your learning, but regular attendance and viewing of online lectures is necessary to meet the learning objectives of this course. Powerpoint slides will be posted on D2L, but you are expected to take your own lecture notes. Please, ask me for help if you aren't sure how to take effective notes!!! Assignments consist of two exams (a midterm and a final), two papers, and an oral presentation. Extra credit assignments are available.

Determination of Course Grade:

- **Exams: 40% total (Midterm and Final are weighed equally)**
 - Exams are taken in class. Please consult the course schedule to see specific days.
 - Midterm covers chapters 16-23. Final covers chapters 24-30.
 - Exam grades consist of 25 multiple choice questions worth 3% each, and 5 short answer questions worth 5% each. There will be a few bonus questions for extra points as well.

- **Papers: 40% total (Both papers are weighed equally)**
 - Papers are uploaded to D2L. Please consult the course schedule for initial due dates. You can then revise and resubmit your papers as many times as you like up until the date specified in the course schedule.
 - Please consult the rubrics posted to D2L for the paper topics and specific details.
 - Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12pt font., one-inch margins. Minimum of 2 pages.
 - Paper grades are determined by the clarity of your argument, the strength of your thesis statement, and the presence (or lack thereof) of evidence to support your argument.
- **Presentation: 20%**
 - Presentations can either be done in class or submitted as a recording online. Please consult the course schedule to see specific dates.
 - Please consult the rubric posted to D2L for presentation topic and specific details.
 - Presentation grade is determined largely by the same criteria as the papers, such as clarity of your argument, strength of your thesis, and the presence of supporting evidence. It is also graded by the quality of your oral communication.
- **Extra Credit: 5% for each assignment, up to a total of 10% extra credit towards your final grade**
 - Film review/critique: Write a 2 page paper (Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12pt font, one-inch margins) about a film set during the period of U.S. history covered in this course (from 1877). The first page should be a summary of the film, and the second page should critique the historical accuracy of the film based on what you learned in this course. You do not need to cite outside sources, but are welcome to do so.
 - Primary source review: Write a 2 page paper (Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12pt font, one-inch margins) about a primary source or collection of primary sources that we did ***NOT*** discuss in class. The first page should be a summary of the source(s), and the second page should be your thoughts on how the source either reinforces or challenges (or both!) your understanding of the historical person/movement/event/time period that the source corresponds to. Please email me or meet with me during office hours to pick out a primary source!

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Analyze and critique the historical role and legacy of various individuals, groups, organizations, and movements that are part of U.S. history from 1877	Social Responsibility; Personal Responsibility; Communication; Critical Thinking	Both papers
2. Understand and interpret the basic elements (political, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual) of U.S. history from 1877	Communication; Critical Thinking	Both exams, particularly the short answer sections
3. Design a presentation that effectively and clearly communicates a chosen topic in U.S. history from 1877	Communication; Critical Thinking	Presentation

Late Work and Make-up Policy: The midterm exam, final exam, and presentation can be made-up with advanced notice or the occurrence of a documented emergency. Papers can be submitted late within reason (no more than a week late without documentation), and you are allowed to re-submit them with revisions for a higher grade so long as you do so before the date specified in the course schedule. Extra credit assignments also must be submitted by this deadline.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is not part of your grade, though regular attendance is necessary to pass the course as the exams are based on lecture content -- reading the textbook alone will not sufficiently prepare you. That said, you are free to miss as many class days as you wish, and there is no need to notify me in advance of an absence, nor to explain your absence afterwards. However, missing exam days or presentation days will require advanced notice other than in the case of an emergency.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, including generated papers/short answers using LLMs such as ChatGPT, is unacceptable. First offense will result in having to resubmit the assignment. Repeated offenses will result in failing the course and being referred to the Office of Student Conduct. However, minor cases of accidental plagiarism, such as forgetting to include quotation marks but still citing your source, will be excused and instead used as a learning opportunity. If you're unsure if something is plagiarism, please just ask!

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me at jherrington4@com.edu and/or visit me during office hours. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Department Chair Dr. Shinya Wakao at swakao@com.edu

II: Course Schedule

Below is the schedule for the course. As this is a hybrid course, roughly half of the lectures will be posted online. I recommended watching/listening to the online lectures on the days specified below, as otherwise you will miss crucial context for the in-person lectures. Additionally, you are ***NOT*** required to read the textbook chapters for the week, they are only there for your reference or for further reading if you're interested :)

Note: Due dates for the two papers are for the initial submission. You are allowed (and encouraged!!) to resubmit your papers as many times as you like. **However, re-submissions of the papers will not be accepted after Wednesday, March 5th @ 11:59pm since final grades are due shortly thereafter. This deadline also applies to any extra credit assignments.**

Disclaimer: This is an ideal schedule, some things are likely to change as I may lecture slightly faster or slower than anticipated. Any changes to the schedule will be communicated in-person and via email, far in advance.

Week 1 (January 13th-16th)

- **Assignment:** None
- **Jan. 13th-14th:** Introduction and “Capital and Labor” **START: Midterm**
- **Jan. 15th-16th:** “The West”

Week 2 (January 21st-23rd)

- **Assignment:** None
- **Jan. 21st:** “Life in Industrial America”
- **Jan. 22nd-23rd:** “American Empire”

Week 3 (January 27th-30th)

- **Assignment: *Paper 1 (due by Friday, Jan. 31st at 11:59pm)***
- **Jan. 27th:** “Progressive Era”
- **Jan. 28th-29th:** “World War I & Its Aftermath”
- **Jan. 30th:** “The New Era”

Week 4 (February 3rd-6th)

- **Assignment:** None
- **Feb. 3rd:** “The New Era”
- **Feb. 4th-5th:** “The Great Depression” **END: Midterm**
- **Feb. 6th:** “World War II” **START: Final**

Week 5 (February 10th-13th)

- **Assignment: *Midterm Exam (Monday, Feb. 10th in class)***
- **Feb. 10th:** Midterm Exam
- **Feb. 11th:** “World War II”
- **Feb. 12th-13th:** “The Cold War”

Week 6 (February 17th-20th)

- **Assignment: *Paper 2 (due by Friday, Feb. 21st at 11:59pm)***
- **Feb. 17th-18th:** “The Affluent Society”
- **Feb. 19th-20th:** “The Sixties”

Week 7 (February 24th-27th)

- **Assignment: *Presentations (Wednesday, Feb. 26th in class OR online by Feb. 27th at 11:59pm)***
- **Feb. 24th-25th:** “The Unraveling”
- **Feb. 26th:** Presentations!
- **Feb. 27th:** “The Triumph of the Right”

Week 8 (March 3rd-6th)

- **Assignment: *Final Exam (Wednesday, Mar. 5th in class)***
- **Mar. 3rd:** “The Triumph of the Right”
- **Mar. 4th:** “The Recent Past” (Two lectures) **END: Final**
- **Mar. 5th:** Final Exam
- **Have a great rest of the year!**

III: 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_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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

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.

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 February 26. 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 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.