

TIMOTHY J. PITTS
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OFFICE HOURS:
MWF 10:00AM – 11:00AM;
MW 12:00 – 1:00PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT

SPRING SEMESTER 2012
HISTORY 2112, SECTION 02

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865

TECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTER 1203, MWF 11:00 – 11:52 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the political, economic, social, diplomatic, and cultural development of America since the Civil War. Upon satisfactory completion of this class, students should have a thorough understanding of the origins and development of the people and institutions of the United States as outlined by the following criteria:

- *Students will understand the social and cultural diversity of the United States*
- *Students will understand the political development of the United States*
- *Students will understand how the United States has interacted with other nations of the world*
- *Students will understand the development of a national identity*

In addition to these specific criteria, this course should also help students in developing the broader skills of clear, analytical reasoning; a sense of historical consciousness; and a deeper understanding of global and cultural diversity.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *American Stories: A History of the United States*, Vol. 2 (Since 1865), Second Edition, by H.W. Brands, T.H. Breen, R. Hal Williams, and Ariela J. Gross. Pearson/Prentice Hall. ISBN **0205036554**.
- Electronic access to the online resource *My History Lab* (Should come with the textbook)
- You will also need **AT LEAST FOUR (4)** answer sheets for during the semester. (Make sure you get Form No. 229633)

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

The primary method of instruction for this class will be lecture. However, in order to succeed in this course, students **MUST** obtain a textbook and read it diligently. In addition to the text (*Visions of America*), students will be required to read selected primary documents (most of these will come from *My History Lab*). If you are not prepared to do the reading, it is in your best interest to drop the course immediately. Please do not hesitate to contact me individually with any questions or concerns you have about my expectations.

Electronic media, film footage, audio recordings, overhead transparencies, and other media may occasionally be included in class along with more conventional lectures; take notes on these supplementary materials just as you would for any other lecture or “text,” as historical documents containing visual and aural evidence to be interpreted and subjected to the same analytical scrutiny as the written word.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS AND GRADING:

The bulk of your grade will consist of four exams — three during the semester and a non-cumulative final exam. These will be primarily objective in format, containing any combination of multiple choice questions, short answer, identifications, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the exams, you will be required to read various primary documents and complete assignments on the material. These assignments will consist of quizzes, response papers, short essays, etc. While most of the primary documents will be accessed through *My History Lab*, the assignments themselves will usually be administered via CourseDen. Since these assignments are scheduled well in advance, **MAKEUPS WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR READING ASSIGNMENTS**. Period. The **AVERAGE** of these assignments, plus any pop quizzes or additional in-class assignments I may give during the course of the semester, will compose one-fifth of your overall grade.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Reading Assignments <u>AVERAGE</u>	20%
Final Exam	20%

POLICY ON E-MAIL, ABSENTEEISM, LATENESS, TECHNOLOGY, AND OTHER MATTERS OF ETIQUETTE:

- **ATTENDANCE:** In order to succeed in this class, you must attend it. However, there is not an attendance policy in this class. Therefore, in ordinary circumstances there is no need to present an excuse for missing class. However, if you are

absent on the day of an exam, then you **MUST** have a University-sanctioned excuse in order to make up the exam. *All make-up exams are in essay format.* (NOTE: you will **NOT** be allowed to make-up exams missed as a result of an *unexcused* absence.) It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me for a makeup exam. If you schedule a make up exam with me but fail to show up, you will not be given another chance to make up the exam and will receive an “F” for the exam.

- If you do miss class (for any reason), I strongly recommend that you get the notes from a classmate. No notes will be provided by the instructor.
- Lateness to class is distracting, disruptive, and disrespectful, both to your colleagues in the class and to me. Also note that if you are more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent for that day. Class will begin promptly at the scheduled time.
- In addition to arriving on time, I expect you to stay until class is over. If for some reason you must leave early, then I expect you to notify me ahead of time and sit near the door so as to minimize the disruption. Failure to follow this procedure will result in you being considered absent for that day. Be aware that **repeatedly being late to class or leaving class early will lower your grade.**
- I regularly use e-mail to communicate about matters relating to the class, assignments, and examinations. It is my expectation that you will check your *University e-mail account* regularly. Please let me know immediately if you have any questions or concerns in this regard. **All email correspondence with me should include your name, the course ID (HIST 2112), and the section number (Sec. 02).** Also note that I cannot/will not discuss grades via email (or by phone).
- DO NOT bring children or pets to class for any reason.
- In summary, I expect you to be courteous and respectful, both to me and to your fellow students.



CRITICAL NOTE TO USERS OF WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY: Due to unfortunate experiences in the past, I *require* that you disable the sound on your cell phones and any other wireless devices *before* coming to class. If your cell phone or pager goes off audibly in class, I will ask you to leave the classroom. If your wireless device goes off during the middle of an exam **I will require that you turn in your exam immediately and leave the class, receiving a grade of ZERO for that exam.** Additionally, I will not tolerate texting during class. Not only are such behaviors rude and disrespectful, they are distracting to your fellow students. Therefore, repeated violations will result in you failing the class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The penalties for cheating are severe. Any student who resorts to cheating on any assignment will receive an “F” (zero) for that assignment and an “F” for the course. Such behavior may also result in a hearing before the Academic Honesty Committee and possible expulsion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, and aiding and abetting. Refer to your student handbook for more information.

In short, **the penalties for cheating are severe.** Don't do it.

NOTE REGARDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any student who qualifies for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should contact me immediately so that such accommodations can be arranged.

DISCLAIMER:

One of the first things that becomes apparent to students of American History, and indeed the entire history of the world, is that much of it is unpleasant or even offensive to modern sensibilities. Since it is the nature of this course to examine and explore those very unpleasanties, you may encounter actions, words, or points of view with which you disagree or that you find offensive. Rest assured that any such material you may encounter in no way reflects the personal opinions of the instructor, the history department, or the University. If you do not feel you are mature enough to engage in an academic study of such material, you should consider taking a different course.

EXAM SCHEDULE: **

Test 1 :	Friday, January 27
Test 2 :	Monday, February 20
Test 3 :	Friday, March 16
Final Exam :	Friday, April 27: 11AM – 1:30PM

READING QUIZZES:

The dates for the scheduled quizzes (along with the assigned readings) can be found on CourseDen.

** I reserve the right to adjust the above schedule should it become necessary.