

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865
(HIST 2111-04)
Dr. Keith S. Hébert

Course Description: This course is a broad survey of US history since 1865. Topics include politics, society, economy, technology, diplomacy, and warfare. Students will learn how Americans balanced change and stasis in the period after the Civil War. This semester we will pay special attention to the ever-changing meaning of freedom in America.

Purpose: There are three goals for this class. The first is for students to understand important people, events, trends, ideas, and movements in the United States since 1865. The second goal is for students to recognize how these developments in American society relate to their lives today. The third goal is for students to improve their academic skills, particularly reading, writing, and listening. Students demonstrate their understanding through exams and writing assignments.

Instructor and Office Hours: Dr. Keith S. Hébert is the instructor for the course. Office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 PM or by appointment.

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Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities that might affect their performance in this course should contact the university student's with disabilities office. Students must present the course instructor with any specific accommodations as soon as possible so that the instructor can make the proper accommodations. Students will need to present the course instructor with documentation of their disability provided by the university disability office prior to any accommodation.

Attendance: *Students who want to succeed come to class.* Class meetings will consist of lecture, films, discussion of reading materials, and opportunity for questions. The instructor does not provide copies of lecture notes to students who miss class. Students who need to miss an exam should contact the instructor in advance. A period for make-up exams will be scheduled during the week before finals. I will take roll during the final 15 minutes of every class. Students whose names do not appear on the roll will receive a zero for all assignments due during that class period.

Students who consistently miss class (5 or more absences) will be withdrawn from the course by the instructor.

Students who consistently arrive late or leave prior to the completion of class will be withdrawn from the course by the instructor.

Academic Courtesy: *Students expect respect from their instructor and fellow students during class meetings.* Students show respect by raising their hands to indicate that they have a question or comment, turning off cell phones during class meetings, refraining from conversation when another person is speaking, and paying attention during class. Please do not come to class to read the newspaper, use the internet, sleep, or to work on other assignments. Students who engage in such acts will be counted absent. ***Students who repeatedly engage in such acts will receive a failing grade for the semester.*** Students need to plan ahead to arrive on time, pay attention, and stay for the entire class period.

Academic Honesty: *Academic honesty is expected of all students.* Students who are caught cheating will receive a failing grade for the semester. Most importantly, students should not hand in assignments that are plagiarized from historians or copied from other students. I want to read your original thoughts. The development of your ability to think creatively and produce original thought is one of the major goals of a college education. Students should consult the University Honor Code for more information.

Required Reading: There are three required books for this course.

- Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, editors, *Major Problems in American History*, Volume 2: Since 1865.
- Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*.
- [On-line Reading Assignments Posted on Web-CT.]

Each book is available for purchase at the university bookstore. Students must bring their assigned readings to every class.

How to do well in this course:

1) READ, READ, READ: take notes while reading; 2) Attend Class; 3) Pay Attention During Class; 4) Ask Questions; 5) Complete Assignments on Time; 6) Prepare for Examinations; 7) Follow instructions carefully; 8) Review all of your work carefully prior to turning in your assignments; 9) Act in a respectful manner toward instructor and fellow students.

Course Grading Scale

A—89.5—100
B—79.5—89.4
C—69.5—79.4
D—59.5—69.4
F—59.4 and below.

Graded Assessments

- 1) *Exam One* 25 percent
- 2) *Exam Two* 25 percent
- 3) *Final Exam* 25 percent

FINAL EXAM DATE: (December 11, 8:00-10:00 PM)

- 4) Weekly Reading Assignment Quizzes 25 percent
Each Thursday students will be quizzed over that week's reading assignments and course lecture material. Each quiz will have 10 questions. Students need to read their assignments and review their lecture notes in order to be prepared for these quizzes. At the end of the semester I will drop a student's three lowest quiz grades and average the rest. Quiz grades and correct responses will be posted on Web-CT.

Web-CT: The instructor plans to use Web-CT to post a copy of materials such as the syllabus, assigned readings, study guides, and student grades.