

TIMOTHY J. PITTS
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OFFICE HOURS:
MW 12:00 – 2:00
OR BY APPOINTMENT

FALL SEMESTER 2007
HISTORY 2112, SECTION 04

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865

TECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTER 1200, MW 2:00 – 3:15

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 early 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:

- George Tindall and David Emory Shi, *The Essential America*, Volume II (W.W. Norton and Company)
- Stephen G. Weisner and William F. Hartford, *American Portraits: Biographies in United States History*, Volume II, Third Edition (McGraw – Hill Publishing)
- You will also need **AT LEAST TWELVE (12)** Scantron sheets for exams and quizzes during the semester. (Make sure you get Scantron Form No. 882-E)

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 primary text (Tindall and Shi), students will be required to read several of the biographies in *American Portraits*. 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.

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lectures; take notes on these supplementary materials just as you would for any other lecture or “text,” as historical documents containing visual and aural evidence to be interpreted and subjected to the same analytical scrutiny as the written word.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.

Quizzes: In addition to the exams, you will be required to read eight (8) of the biographies in *American Portraits* and you will be quizzed over the material. The quizzes are scheduled well in advance, so make sure to be present for them. Makeups **WILL NOT** be given for the quizzes, but you **WILL** be allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade (which will automatically be any missed quizzes first). The average of these quizzes, plus any pop quizzes I may give during the course of the semester, will compose the fifth component of your grade.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Quiz Average	20%
Final Exam	20%

POLICY ON E-MAIL, ABSENTEEISM, LATENESS, “WIRELESS” INTERRUPTIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS OF ETIQUETTE:

- 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.
- Attendance is mandatory in this class. The only excused absences are those approved by the University. Please be aware that things like weddings and family vacations are NOT excused absences, nor are routine dental cleanings and doctor check-ups; you can easily schedule such visits around your class schedule. 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. (**NOTE:** you will NOT be allowed to make-up exams missed as a result of an *unexcused* absence.) If you are absent (for any reason), it is your responsibility to get the notes from someone. **No notes will be provided by the instructor.** Under ordinary circumstances there is no need to communicate with me about absences, so long as you bear in mind that excessive absences will have an adverse impact on your final grade and understand that there is no opportunity to make up exams missed due to a non-University excused absence.
- Also note that attendance requires more than simply showing up to class. If you are sleeping during class, playing a game, text-messaging, listening to your I-pod, or other such activities, then you will be considered absent for that day and asked to leave the room. Repeated occurrences of such behavior will result in your withdrawal from the class as a disruptive influence.
- 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.
- 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 please excuse yourself for the remainder of the class and will record an absence; 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.** Repeated offenses will result in your withdrawal from the class as a disruptive influence.

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.

SCHEDULE OF KEY DATES:

I have elected not to prepare a blow-by-blow schedule for you, since any schedule I hammered out would most likely be obsolete within two weeks. However, there are several key dates that more or less exempt from the ebb and flow of the classroom pace.

Test 1 : Wednesday, September 12
Test 2 : Wednesday, October 10
Test 3 : Wednesday, November 7
Final Exam :

Quiz Schedule:

Quiz 1: Sept 5 – “Philip Sheridan”
Quiz 2: Sept 24 – “Henry M. Turner”
Quiz 4: Oct 1 – “W.E.B. DuBois”
Quiz 5: Oct 22 – “Eleanor Roosevelt”
Quiz 6: Oct 29 – “Huey Long”
Quiz 7: Nov 14 – “Joseph McCarthy”
Quiz 8: Nov 19 – “Martin Luther King, Jr.”

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