

HIST 112: History of America, 1865 to the Present

Winter Session 2021-2022

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general survey of the United States from 1865 to the present, emphasizing major political, economic, social, and intellectual developments.

This class will offer a broad overview of American History based on lectures and supplementary readings. Major themes will include political, social, and economic developments, demographic changes, and the diversity of the American experience. We will also examine how the meaning of ideas such as freedom, liberalism, and equality changed over time, depending on particular historical circumstances.

The best way to get a firm grasp of the materials is to focus less on memorizing names and dates and more on understanding human motivations and observing larger historical trends. How did the end of slavery change the lives of Black Americans? Why was Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal considered "new"? How did the nature and meaning of work change over the course of the 20th Century? How did the emergence of the United States as a global power effect government policy as well as social and political life? These are examples of the types of questions you should be considering, and the kinds of topics you will be asked to discuss in class, exams, and written assignments. This course contains many details, which can often be confusing and difficult to remember; however, events, policies, and individuals will carry much more meaning if you can relate them to a larger question or development.

PREREQUISITES

There is no prerequisite for this course.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will formulate skills that allow them to analyze and interpret major developments in modern U.S. History. Over the course of the semester, students will:

1. Recognize the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the contemporary era.
2. Analyze major events, developments, and themes of United States history from the end of the Civil War until the contemporary era.
3. Identify selected sources and their relevance in the context of historical knowledge.
4. Relate historical events to significant primary and/or secondary sources.

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All learning outcomes/objectives in this Distributed Learning course are equivalent to those of a face-to-face (F2F) version of this course.

III. COURSE FORMAT

This is a fully online course. Online classes are not easier than face-to-face lecture classes. To succeed in an online class, you must be extremely motivated and well organized. You will need to purchase the required textbook listed above by the first day of the course. Other course materials are available via Blackboard (“Bb”). Regular Internet access is essential for successful completion of the course.

The typical class structure will consist of weekly learning modules, which include:

Recorded Lectures

PowerPoints

Primary Source Readings

Quizzes

Exams

Historical Films

This is an entirely Web-based course. We have no face-to-face class meetings, and you will complete your work asynchronously - which simply means that you will be working on it at different times than your colleagues. You can log in to the class to do your work at whatever time is convenient for you as long as you are meeting class deadlines.

It is important to understand that this is not a self-paced class or an independent study. You will have assigned deadlines, and work must be submitted on time and will not be accepted late. You may not save up your assignments to complete in the last days of the semester. Each assignment sequence must be completed on schedule – you can't work ahead or get behind and be successful.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

All course deadlines are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST). Blackboard will record all deadlines in this timezone. If you are in a different timezone, plan accordingly.

In order to complete all of the weekly assignments, you will spend about 15 hours per week on the course material for a total of approximately 45 hours of course-related activities using Blackboard, discussion boards and blogs, and reading and reflecting on the texts. A list of weekly responsibilities/deadlines follows:

Monday/Tuesday: Read assigned text(s) for week. Watch lecture online.

Wednesday 5 PM: Blackboard initial post.

Thursday 5 PM: Blackboard responses.

Friday midnight: Individual blog post.

Monday noon: Blog post responses. Read/prepare next text.

IV. TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The PowerPoint lecture presentations, links to articles, assignments, exams, and discussion boards are located on the Blackboard site for the course. Adobe Presenter will be used for the online lecture presentations. To participate in learning activities and complete assignments, you will need:

- Access to a working computer that has a current operating system with updates installed, plus speakers or headphones to hear lecture presentations (transcripts provided);
- Reliable Internet access and a USC email account;
- A current Internet browser that is compatible with Blackboard (Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard);
- Microsoft Word as your word processing program; and
- Reliable data storage for your work, such as a USB drive or Office365 OneDrive cloud storage.

If your computer does not have Microsoft Word, Office 365 ProPlus package is available to students free of charge and allows students to install Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Publisher, and Access on up to 5 PCs or Macs and Office apps on other mobile devices including tablets. Office 365 also includes unlimited cloud storage on OneDrive. To download Office 365 ProPlus, log into your student (University) email through a web browser, choose Settings (top right corner), and select software. If you have further questions or need help with the software, please contact the [UTS Service Desk \(http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/\)](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/).

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED

Minimal technical skills are needed in this online course. All work in this course must be completed and submitted online through Blackboard. Therefore, students must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the Internet. The minimal technical skills students should have include the ability to:

- Use USC email and attached files;
- Check email and Blackboard daily;
- Download and upload documents;
- Locate information with a browser; and
- Use Blackboard.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

[Blackboard Help \(http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm\)](http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm) If you have problems with your computer, please contact the University Technology Services (UTS) Help Desk at (803) 777-1800 or visit the [online service portal \(https://shibboleth.sc.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword\)](https://shibboleth.sc.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword). The UTS Help Desk is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time). If you are located in the Columbia, SC area, the Thomas Cooper Library at USC has computers for you to

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use in case you encounter computer issues/problems. If you are not located in the Columbia, SC area, most regional campuses and public libraries have computers for public use.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

This course will meet University standards for ADA compliance. PowerPoint lectures include transcripts in “notes” section of corresponding slide. Professor’s videos will be closed captioned. All posted documents will be processed for accessibility.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The following are required reading materials, although the textbook may be used more for reference than for locating all class content. There is information that will be provided in class that is not necessarily treated as fully in the textbook. Likewise, there is information in the textbook that may be omitted or treated superficially in lectures. The best way to ensure full comprehension is to listen to lectures in conjunction with textbook consultation for further clarity.

All course materials comply with copyright/fair use policies.

REQUIRED READINGS:

James Henretta, Rebecca Edwards, Robert Self, eds. *Sources for America’s History, Vol II: Since 1865* Eighth Edition (New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, 2014). THESE WILL BE POSTED IN THE MODULES THEY CORRESPOND TO. There is no need to purchase the textbook unless you would like a hard copy of the documents.

RECOMMENDED BOOK:

James Henretta, Rebecca Edwards, Robert Self, eds. *America’s History, Vol II: Since 1865* Eighth Edition (New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, 2014)

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Articles + PowerPoint Lecture Presentations + Computer with Internet Access

- Students must read specific primary sources in the course modules and after viewing the weekly lectures and PowerPoint presentations.
- Students must view PowerPoint lecture presentations.
- Students must have access to a computer with reliable Internet access to check Blackboard daily, communicate online, and post assignments.

VI. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- All coursework (assignments, exams, etc.) is secured in Blackboard with a username and password.

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- All assignments and exams are due by 11:59pm (Eastern Standard Time) on the day indicated on the course schedule.

Quizzes

There will be posted online multiple choice quizzes worth 30 pts. each. These quizzes will be based on the readings and are meant to help students prepare for the larger exams at the end of each week.

EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE

Scores will be posted in Blackboard. Students are strongly encouraged to check their scores in Blackboard regularly. A final letter grade will be assigned based on total points earned.

Course Requirements	Point Value	Possible Points
Check-in Quizzes	5 @ 30	180
Discussion Board Post	1@ 30	
Exams	3 @ 100	300
Total Possible Points:		480

Grading Scale				
430 - 480	=	89.5- 100%	=	A
415 - 429	=	86.5- 89.4%	=	B+
382 - 414	=	79.5- 86.4%	=	B
367 - 381	=	76.5- 79.4%	=	C+
334 - 366	=	69.5- 76.4%	=	C
319 - 333	=	66.5- 69.4%	=	D+
286 - 318	=	59.5- 66.4%	=	D
0 - 285	=	0- 59.4%	=	F

GRADING

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. All assignments and tests will have results posted the day after they are due. All assignments are multiple choice and will be graded by Blackboard with my oversight.

ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS

Reading Quizzes (6 quizzes - 30 points each) 37%
Weekly Exams (3 exams – 100 points each) 63%
TOTAL 100%

GRADING SCALE

90-100% A
87-89% B+
80-86% B
77-79% C+
70-76% C
67-69% D+
60-66% D

Below 60% F

EXTRA CREDIT

In addition to regular assignments, there will be opportunities for earning extra credit through film screenings and website reviews. Films relating to each unit are listed on the syllabus and these are available at Thomas Cooper Library (or may be obtained from another service such as Netflix, Amazon Prime etc.). Students may complete up to **10** extra credit response forms, which will be posted on blackboard. Each response form will count for one point (assuming it is adequately completed), which will be added to the lowest exam grade. Some of our units have wonderful websites that further explore the topic; these too can be evaluated for extra credit. In addition, there may be lectures or other events that arise during the semester that students can apply towards extra credit points. If you would like to visit a historic site or see a film that is not on the list, please consult Dr. Sklaroff—these options might be possible as well.

Extra Credit Bonus-If you choose to watch the entire documentary, *O. J.: Made in America*, you will receive all ten points. It is very long (almost 8 hours), but well worth it. It is part of the ESPN 30/30 series. If you have trouble accessing the film, let Dr. Sklaroff know, and there will be a reserve copy in the library. There will be a special form to fill out for that series.

VII. COURSE POLICIES

CLASS CONDUCT/NETIQUETTE

Professionalism will be expected at all times, but most especially with your interactions online. Because the university classroom is a place designed for the free exchange of ideas, we must show respect for one another in all circumstances. We will show respect for one another by exhibiting patience and courtesy in our exchanges. Appropriate language and restraint from verbal attacks upon those whose perspectives differ from your own is a minimum requirement. Courtesy and kindness is the norm for those who participate in my class.

Some Netiquette Rules:

- Treat one another with respect. It will be expected that we will not attack one another personally for holding different opinions.
- Do not use all CAPITAL LETTERS in emails or discussion board postings. This is considered "shouting" and is seen as impolite or aggressive.
- Begin emails with a proper salutation (Examples: Dr. Sklaroff; Hello Professor Sklaroff). Starting an email without a salutation or a simple "Hey" is not appropriate.
- When sending an email, please include a detailed subject line. Additionally, make sure you reference the course number (Ex. HIST 112) in the message and sign the mail with your name.
- Use proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Text messaging language is not acceptable.
- Use good taste when communicating. Profanity should be avoided.
- Re-Read, think, and edit your message before you click "Send/Submit/Post."

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Please remember when posting to be respectful and courteous to your colleagues, and limit your posts to discussions of this course and its assignments.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

You are required to use your USC email account throughout this course. I will be communicating with you regarding grades and assignments. If you need to get in touch with me, the best method is via email. Generally, I will reply to emails within 24 hours and will provide feedback on assignments within 48 hours. Students may also post questions pertaining to the course on the Blackboard Discussion Board. These questions will be answered within 24 hours.

If you are having trouble with this course or its material, you should contact me via email to discuss the issues.

Announcements will be posted to this course whenever necessary. If there is any other information I think is important, I will send it to your email address you have in Blackboard. If you primarily use another email account, you should make sure that the Blackboard account is linked to that address. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email accounts work properly in order to receive mail.

Please be sure that the email you check regularly is set in Blackboard:

- Click on the My USC tab along the top of the page in Blackboard
- In the Tools module, click on "Personal Information"
- Click on "Edit Personal Information"
- Scroll down to the listing for Email
- In the box will be listed what Blackboard has as your email address. If you wish to change it, delete the email address in the box and type in the email address you want to use.
- Click on the Submit button at the top or bottom of the page.

LATE WORK & MAKE-UP WORK

No late or make-up work is accepted. All assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted online through Blackboard by the deadline as posted on the course calendar. All required coursework is posted via Blackboard and is available from the beginning of the semester, thereby allowing students to submit coursework from any location.

Please plan accordingly, and complete these assignments in advance of their deadlines to ensure any unanticipated circumstances do not result in a missed assignment. User Error does not qualify a student for any kind of makeup or retake opportunity. Completing and submitting the assignments or exam responses by the due date is the sole responsibility of the student. If you receive an incomplete score because of failure to submit the assignment or test by the due date, then your score for that event will be recorded as "zero."

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You will be allowed to take quizzes or exams one time each on or before the due date/time as indicated on the course calendar. If you are concerned about missing a deadline, you may want to do any of the following:

- Post your assignment the day before the deadline; or
- Begin exams as soon as you feel you are ready.

Late exams will be accepted if the following two requirements are met:

1. You must contact me in advance of the exam's deadline to make arrangements for its completion.

Late exams will be subject to the following penalty: 10% will be deducted from your grade for the first day late, and an additional 5% will be deducted on each subsequent day.

Be Careful: The clock on your computer may be different than the clock in Blackboard. If the clock is different by one second, you will be locked out of the assignment, quiz, or exam. Plan accordingly. I recommend that you submit your assignments, quizzes, and exams well before the 8:00 am (Eastern Standard Time) deadline.

INCOMPLETES

Incompletes will be granted only in accordance with university policy.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Successful online learners:

1. Do not procrastinate;
2. Are open to sharing professional experiences online;
3. Enhance online discussions;
4. Have good written communication skills;
5. Use proactive communication;
6. Are self-motivated and self-disciplined;
7. Have a commitment to learning;
8. Have critical thinking and decision-making skills;
9. Believe quality learning can take place in an online environment; and
10. Have good time management skills.

Student Success Center (<http://www.sa.sc.edu/ssc/>)

If you are having trouble with this course or its material, you should contact me to discuss the issues. As a student of this course you also can get help from the Student Success Center (SSC), which provides a variety of services to assist University of South Carolina Undergraduate students on their path to success. At any time you may call the Student Success Hotline at 777-1000 to learn more, or go on-line to schedule an appointment with a staff member. The SSC is located on the mezzanine level of the Thomas Cooper Library, with satellite locations in Columbia Hall, Bates House, and Patterson Hall. These services are free and available to all students enrolled in this

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course. Please do not wait to take advantage of these resources designed for your success.

[Blackboard and Technology](#)

[\(http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/\)](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/)

As a student in this course, you have access to support from University Technology Services for Blackboard and computer issues. The service desk can be reached at 803-777-1800.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Zero Tolerance Policy – 1) Cheating, 2) plagiarism, 3) falsification of records, 4) accepting assistance from others in taking an exam or preparing a project, 5) giving assistance to others in taking an exam or preparing a project, and 6) engaging in any other form of academic dishonesty, will be dealt with according to guidelines provided in the current student handbook, including a professional penalty of “F” for the course and mandatory reporting of the offense to the Office of Student Conduct. (Yes, I really do report). Below are some websites for you to visit to learn more about the University policies:

[Carolinian Creed \(http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed\)](http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed)

[Academic Responsibility \(http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf\)](http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf)

[Office of Academic Integrity \(https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/\)](https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/)

[Network Guidelines for Responsible Computing](#)

[\(http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/policies_procedures/networkguideline.php\)](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_technology_services/policies_procedures/networkguideline.php)

University policy regarding academic responsibility ([Student Affairs Policy STAF 6.25 \(http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf\)](#)) states “It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violates this rule or who knowingly assists another to violate this rule shall be subject to discipline.”

Plagiarism

As students at USC, the University of South Carolina finds you to the Honor Code. All work produced for HIST 112 must be your own. The professor does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism under any circumstances. By enrolling in the course and accepting the terms of this syllabus, you agree to this, the only warning. Instances of cheating will immediately result in a zero for the assignment, and potentially the course. The professor reserves the right to pursue more drastic action within the University administration.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The university is committed to a campus environment that is inclusive, safe, and respectful for all persons, and one that fully embraces the Carolinian Creed. To that end, all course activities will be conducted in an atmosphere of friendly participation and interaction among colleagues, recognizing and appreciating the unique experiences, background, and point of view each student brings. Students are expected at all times

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to apply the highest academic standards to this course and to treat others with dignity and respect.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The instructor worked with the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) to develop the syllabus and course to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss the logistics of any accommodations needed to fulfill course requirements (within the first week of the semester). In order to receive reasonable accommodations from the instructor, students must be registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (address: 1523 Greene Street, LeConte Room 112A, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-6142). Any student with a documented disability should contact the Student Disability Resource Center [Student Disability Resource Center](http://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/) (http://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/) to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

I will cite and/or reference any materials that I use in this course that I do not create. You, as students, are expected to not distribute any of these materials, resources, quizzes, tests, homework assignments, etc. (whether graded or ungraded).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module & Topic	Assignments to Read & View	Assignments to be Completed	Due Dates (Assignments are due by 11:59pm)
Start Here Module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course Introduction 	Review "Start Here" section in Blackboard		
	Read the syllabus		
	Read the "Course Introduction"		
	Read and review emails, announcements, and "Questions about the Course" Café Forum feedback.		
Start Here Module			
Module #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstruction and Industrialization 	Complete self-check for "What is a Primary Source?"		
	Listen to Reconstruction Lecture		
	View Reconstruction Powerpoint		
	Read 15-2 A Freed Family's Dream of Landownership		
	Watch 2 videos on Reconstruction		
		Quiz 1, multiple choice, bi weekly check-in	12/28/21
	Listen to Industrialization Lecture		
	View Industrialization Powerpoint		
	Read 17-3 Worker Finds His Way on the Shop Floor		

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Module & Topic	Assignments to Read & View	Assignments to be Completed	Due Dates (Assignments are due by 11:59pm)
	Read 18-3 A Black Leader's Compromise for Racial Opportunity		
	Watch 2 videos on Industrialization		
		Quiz 2, multiple choice, bi weekly check-in	12/30/21
		EXAM 1, multiple choice, on both Reconstruction and Industrializaiton content	12/31/21
	Read and review emails, announcements, and "Questions about the Course" Forum feedback.		
Module #2			
Module #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America Between the World Wars 	Listen to World War I and 1920s Lecture		
	View World War I and 1920s Powerpoint		
	Read 21-4 I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier		
	View 22-6 Advertising the American Dream Ads		
	Watch 2 videos on WWI and the 1920s era		
		Quiz 3, multiple choice, bi weekly check-in	1/3/22
	Listen to the Great Depression and World War II Lecture		
	View Great Depression and World War II Powerpoint		
	Read 23-2 President Inspires Depressed Nation with Promise of Action		
	Read 24-3 Japanese Americans in the Crosshairs of War		

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Module & Topic	Assignments to Read & View	Assignments to be Completed	Due Dates (Assignments are due by 11:59pm)
	View 24-5 <i>Life Magazine Exposes the Horrors of Germany's Concentration Camps</i>		
	View Federal Writers Project and Holocaust Videos		
		Quiz 4, multiple choice, bi weekly check-in	1/5/22
		EXAM 2, multiple choice, on both WWI, 1920s, Great Depression, and WWII content	1/6/22
	Read and review emails, announcements, and "Questions about the Course" Forum feedback.		
Module #3			
9Module #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postwar America 	Listen to Cold War and the 1950s Lecture		
	View Cold War and the 1950s Powerpoint		
	Read 25-1 Containing the Communist Threat		
	Read 27-3 Civil Rights Activist Challenges Racial Discrimination		
	Read 27-4 Civil Rights Movement Takes a More Militant Turn		
	Watch videos on the Cold War and Civil Rights Movement		
		Quiz 5, multiple choice, bi weekly check-in	1/10/22
	Listen to 1960s Activism and Vietnam War		

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Module & Topic	Assignments to Read & View	Assignments to be Completed	Due Dates (Assignments are due by 11:59pm)
	View 1960s Activism and Vietnam War Powerpoint		
	Read 28-2 Vietnam Vet Questions America's War in Asia		
	Read 28-4 Mexican American Labor Leader Seeks Peaceful Path		
	Watch 2 videos on 1960s Activism and the Vietnam War		
		Discussion Board Questions to Post-Activism Vietnam	1/12/22
		EXAM 3, multiple choice, on both Cold War/Civil Rights Movement and 1960s Activism/Vietnam War content	1/14/22
	Read and review emails, announcements, and "Questions about the Course" Forum feedback.		
		FINAL EXAM	1/16/22