

HIST 1312-010: History of the United States (since 1865)

Class Meetings: T/Th: 2:00-3:20pm

Fall 2011

UH 115

Prof. Karen Beasley

Email: beasley@uta.edu or via Blackboard

Office Hours: T/Th 12:30-1:30pm, 3:30-4pm, or by appointment

Office: University Hall 317

COURSE PREREQUISITES: This course has no prerequisites. Students who pass this class will have satisfied one-half of their six-hour core curriculum requirements in United States History.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:

- Davidson, et al: *Experience History: Interpreting America's Past*, 7th Ed;
[Access to *Connect Plus* is optional, but I encourage you to utilize it for the study modules, practice quizzes, and various primary source documents, videos, and images. If the textbook you purchased did not come with Connect access, you can try a 3-week free trial or purchase Connect (only) access for \$10; Registration available via http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/k_beasley_fall_2011_tth_2pm]
- And various documents made available via Blackboard [<http://elearn.uta.edu>] for download.
- 3 Bluebooks

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the political, socio-economic, and cultural history of the United States since 1865. Topics will include Reconstruction, Industrialization, Immigration, the Progressive Era, World War I and World War II, the Cold War, Civil Rights, and more. This course is designed to help students understand and evaluate their society, comprehend the historical experience, and further develop reading and writing competencies and critical skills.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Understand and analyze major themes, trends and developments in various periods and areas within the timespan of the course
- Identify key events, peoples, periodizations, and chronology of the history of the United States since 1865.
- Sharpen their critical, analytical and writing skills through the study of primary sources and various kinds of historical documentation.
- Appreciate the approach of reading films as cultural texts that can be used as tools to better understand the eras in which they were made.

CLASS FORMAT: The instructor will primarily use the lecture-discussion format for the course. Classes will consist of interpretive and topical lectures on issues and events in American history, PowerPoint presentations, and discussions and quizzes on reading assignments and films. There is also an online component based in Blackboard that you will be actively working within. I prefer a lively classroom where students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas and opinions. However, I ask that students maintain proper classroom etiquette. Students should come to class fully prepared each week.

GRADING POLICY:

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Online Weekly Quizzes = 10% [Lowest quiz grade will be dropped !]

Film Paper = 15% [Includes film analysis assignment]

3 Exams = 25% each

Reading Quizzes will be administered each week online via Blackboard over that week's assigned reading. Students are responsible for completing these quizzes at any time during that week—but before the scheduled due date and time. Quizzes will close by 1pm the afternoon before our Thursday classes, and will *no longer* be accessible. There will be a total of 11 quizzes, and I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

Film Analysis Paper: (3-5 pages; citation required; both online and print copy submission)

You will choose from among a short list of historical films and write an analytical reaction paper of 3-5 pages that is worth 15% of your grade. As part of this process, you will watch the film and analyze the historical topic represented as you complete a Film Analysis Worksheet (worth 25% of your final paper grade). This worksheet will guide your content and analysis as you write your film paper.

Much of this analysis draws from what we have learned in lecture, your readings, and what you brought to this course – this is primarily *your* reaction to the film. But you may find it necessary to do some secondary source research. Make sure you use proper citation (Chicago Manual Style or Turabian, please!) to avoid any plagiarism. This assignment WILL be submitted via SafeAssign on Blackboard, and I WILL know if you copy someone else's thoughts and ideas – so if you use any, give them their due credit!

Basic Format Requirements: 3-5 pages, double-spaced with 1-inch margins; please use 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font; CMS or Turabian citation style.

If you submit your film paper late, a letter grade *per DAY* will be taken off. Further information, such as the list of possible film choices, writing guidance and advice, citation information, the worksheet assignment, research database web links, and more will be made available to you via Blackboard.

It will be your responsibility to obtain or rent the film you have chosen to analyze. One film option will be shown during class time, another is available (copyright-free) for free online download, and (when possible) some titles will be placed on course reserve at the UTA Central Library.

Exams will contain identification, short answer, and an essay question for a total of 100 points. Exam questions will be taken from class lecture AND from the readings; you are responsible for all assigned reading, even if that material is not covered in lecture.

Grades will be determined according to the following scale. There will be no “rounding up.”

Grade Equivalency:

0- 59.99 = F; 60-69.99 = D; 70-79.99 = C; 80-89.99 = B; 90-100 = A;

I repeat, there will be no “rounding up.” Thus, a student who earns an 89.99% will receive a B, while one who earns a 90.00% will receive an A. Grades are not determined by need. If you “need” a particular grade in this class, then that should affect the time and effort you put into the class. Your “need” to get a particular grade is not relevant to me in determining your final course grade. Students caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade of “F” for the course. Keep all returned exams until the end of the course; clerical errors cannot be identified and corrected without the evidence provided by these test papers.

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT:

An extra credit opportunity will be provided this semester on October 27th; details will be forthcoming via Blackboard. Aside from this planned opportunity, no additional extra credit will be arranged under any circumstances.

MAKEUP EXAM POLICY:

All make-up exams will be given on THURSDAY, Dec 8, from 2-3:20pm (regular class time). All make-ups will be alternate versions of the original exams. I do not permit “retakes” nor grant “incompletes”. An exception *may* be provided if you know prior to date of exam that you have a school-excused

absence; contact me in advance, provide legitimate documentation, and we can schedule a makeup.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM RULES:

- *Attendance Policy:* Attendance is expected, but I will not take attendance nor punish you for missing class. However, if you miss class, it is *your* responsibility to get notes from another student. A lot of information is covered each day; thus it is better if you show up, else your performance on your exams will suffer accordingly.
- *Laptop Policy:* Laptops and netbooks may *only* be used for taking notes during class. If used for any other purpose (especially if it disrupts our class), I will ask you not to use a computer for the remainder of the semester.
- *Phones, Music, and other Paraphernalia:* The classroom is a time for lecture and discussion. Cell phones, Music MP3 Players, and other devices must be turned off during class.
- *Student Behavior:* You are expected to behave appropriately during lecture. Behavior which may result in your being asked to leave class includes, but is not limited to: sleeping; talking during lectures, movies or clips; text messaging; playing with your cellphone; and working on other things during class. Students are expected to keep the classroom clean.
- *Last Row Policy:* Please leave the last row open before class begins. If you arrive late for class, please sit in the last row of the classroom so you do not disrupt those students considerate enough to arrive on time. Do not leave class early, unless you have informed me in advance.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXAMS:

Bring a blue or black ink pen and a Bluebook for the 2 Midterm Exams and the Final Exam.

You should bring as few belongings to class as possible and arrive early enough to get settled.

Baseball caps will not be worn during exams. Be sure to turn off all cell phones. Once distribution of exams begins, classroom doors will be locked and no one will be permitted to enter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BLACKBOARD [ONLINE COMPONENT OF COURSE]:

BLACKBOARD is used in this class. You may access BLACKBOARD by going to <http://elearn.uta.edu/>. You will need to logon using your UTA NetID and password. Then simply click on this class under the "Courses" tab to access the course module.

Be sure to check BLACKBOARD regularly for assignments, updates, exam dates, grades and other pertinent information. I will also post important communications & announcements through Blackboard. I will assume you receive all sent communications – so check often.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:

Only the official UTA student email address will be used for all course notification. It is your responsibility to check your UTA email on a regular basis.

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

OFFICE HOURS:

If you have any questions, please see me during scheduled office hours or by appointment. "Drop-in" visits at other times are not advised. E-mail is a good way to communicate specific questions and concerns, but immediate responses are not the norm.

DROP POLICY:

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late

registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

COURSE SCHEDULE: All readings should be completed PRIOR to the beginning of each week's topic under discussion. Additional links of interest will sometimes be provided on Blackboard.

UNIT 1: 1865 to 1914

Week 0, 8/25: COURSE INTRODUCTION:

Discuss Syllabus, Blackboard and Online components to this course, and general expectations.

Week 1, 8/30 & 9/1: REUNION & RECONSTRUCTION:

Reading: Davidson, Ch 17 (all) & Ch 18 (471-480); & online primary source docs
Go to Blackboard – become familiar with it.

Online Quiz 1: Due Thursday, 9/1 by 1pm

Week 2, 9/6 & 9/8: WESTERN EXPANSION AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Reading: Davidson, Ch 18 (480-502) & Ch 19 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 2: Due Thursday, 9/8 by 1pm

Week 3, 9/13 & 9/15: THE GILDED AGE: URBANIZATION AND POPULISM

Reading: Davidson, Ch 20 (all) & Ch 21 (566-580); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 3: Due Thursday, 9/15 by 1pm

Week 4, 9/20 & 9/22: THE PROGRESSIVE ERA: REFORM AND EMPIRE BUILDING

Reading: Davidson, Ch 22 (all); Ch 21 (580-592) and Ch 23 (627-632); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 4: Due Thursday, 9/22 by 1pm

Week 5, 9/27: MIDTERM EXAM # 1 – Bring a pen and a BlueBook to class.

Over class lectures, textbook, and online readings and documents

UNIT 2: 1914 to 1945

9/29: WWI AND U.S. MYTH OF NEUTRALITY

Reading: Davidson, Ch 23 (632-647; and revisit 627-632); & online primary source docs

No Online Quiz

Week 6, 10/4 & 10/6: WWI AND THE POLITICS OF PEACEMAKING

Reading: Davidson, Ch 23 (647-654, incl. Wilson's 14 Points); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 5 (over ALL of CH 23): Due Thursday, 10/6 by 1pm

10/6: FILM: *Sergeant York* (1941)

Week 7, 10/11: FINISH FILM: *Sergeant York* (1941)

10/13: 1920S: PERILS OF PROSPERITY

Reading: Davidson, Ch24 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 6: Due Thursday, 10/13 by 1pm

Paper Topic/Film Choice: Due via Blackboard Journal Entry by Thurs, 1pm.

Week 8, 10/18 & 10/20: GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE NEW DEAL

Reading: Davidson, Ch 25 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 7: Due Thursday, 10/20 by 1pm

Week 9, 10/25: ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR II

Reading: Davidson, Ch26 (719-731); & online primary source docs

Film Analysis Worksheet: Due via Blackboard by Thurs, 10/27 by 11:59pm

10/27: No Class; Extra Credit Opportunity!

More Info to be posted on Blackboard

Week 10, 11/1: WWII: HOMEFRONT & AFTERMATH

Reading: Davidson, Ch26 (731-748; and 750-753 After the Fact: Atomic Bomb);
& online primary source docs

No Online Quiz;

11/3: MIDTERM EXAM # 2 – Bring a pen and a BlueBook to class.

Over class lectures, textbook, and online readings and documents

UNIT 3: 1945-to Today

Week 11, 11/8 & 11/10: THE COLD WAR: ORIGINS, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

Reading: Davidson, Ch 27 (all); Ch 28 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 8: Due Thursday, 11/10 by 1pm

Week 12, 11/15 & 11/17: THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION

Reading: Davidson, Ch 29 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 9: Due Thursday, 11/17 by 1pm

Week 13, 11/22: VIETNAM ERA: LIBERAL REFORM IN CRISIS

Reading: Davidson, Ch 30 (837-859); & online primary source docs

FILM PAPER DUE 11/22: BRING PRINT COPY TO CLASS AND SUBMIT ONLINE BY 1PM.

11/24: No Class – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14, 11/29 & 12/1: THE RISE OF CONSERVATIVISM

Reading: Davidson, Ch 30 (859-866) and Ch 31 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 10: Due Thursday, 12/1 by 1pm

Week 15, 12/6: GLOBALIZATION

Reading: Davidson, Ch 32 (all); & online primary source docs

Online Quiz 11: Due Thursday, 12/8 by 1pm

12/8: MAKE-UP DAY:

ALL EXAM MAKE-UPS TO BE TAKEN TODAY ONLY, DURING CLASSTIME;
No Class Lecture!

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DEC 13th from 2 – 4:30pm

Bring a pen and a BlueBook to class.

Covers Unit 3 only – NON-CUMULATIVE!

Over class lectures, textbook, and online readings and documents