REQUIRED TEXTS:
W.W. Norton & Company, 2010

COURSE OBJECTIVES/OVERVIEW

This course is designed to present the college student with a general overview of U.S. History from 1890 until the present. It is believed that an understanding of this historical period enables the educated individual participate in our complex society in a reasoned and effective manner.

1. The student will demonstrate a general knowledge of U.S. History covering the period from 1890 to the present day. This will be done through objective tests and quizzes over the assigned materials.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to assess historical data recognizing different ways of interpreting the same set of historical facts. This will be demonstrated through class discussions/presentations and assigned writing.
3. The student will demonstrate appropriate college level writing skill in all assigned writing. This includes coherent presentation of information and proper grammar and format. A rubric for writing assignments has been included in this syllabus.

Classes will consist of a short writing activity for the specific purpose of demonstrating that the student has read and studied the assigned material. I will review the material in class to expand and clarify it. We will then discuss various points of view concerning the manner in which one can interpret the historical information assigned.

GRADING POLICIES

1. Each class activity will be assigned a point value by the instructor.
2. Your grade will be determined by computing your percentage of the total possible points during the semester. The general guidelines are as follows:
   92% of the points will be a A
   85% of the points will be a B
   75% of the points will be a C
   70% of the points will be a D
   Fewer than 70% of the points will be a failing grade.
   A current listing of activities and their point value can be found online. You can keep track of your grade by dividing the total possible points into your current total.
3. Over the course of the semester, I will provide opportunities for EXTRA CREDIT points. These will be points that will be added to your total but will not be added to the total possible so they can directly improve your grade. THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEMESTER.
4. At the outset of each class, there may be a short quiz. This will consist of questions that are factually based on the end of chapter review, chronology and terms. The purpose of this quiz is to allow you to demonstrate that you have read and studied the assigned materials. If you are absent, you will lose the opportunity to earn these points. For examples of quiz questions (sometimes the exact quiz questions), you can go to http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/amERICA8/brief/. Click on the assigned chapter and you will get access to a chapter outline (there are terms here that would make good quiz questions); several focus questions; (these type of questions do not lend themselves to quizzes but may find their way to the examinations) a set of flash cards where definitions are paired with terms. When you look at the “Study Plan”, I would suggest that you complete items 1, 2, 3, 4, (take the chapter quiz) and 6. Making use of this resource will greatly enhance your ability to accumulate points toward an outstanding grade.

5. There will be a Mid-Term and Final Examination. These will consist of an objective section (True/False; Multiple Choice; Matching) and short essay questions.

6. You should note that my goal is for you all to pass this class. I try to provide ample opportunities for each of you to successfully earn points. I am looking for a valid reason to award you a high grade. Provide me with that reason and we will all be pleased.

7. Please keep up with your current grade as the semester progresses. It is my goal that there be no confusion regarding your grade.

Writing/Essay Grading Rubric

A = Excellent. Your essay will:
- Have a strong thesis (main point) that is clearly supported by an organized essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Provide excellent examples to support your thesis.
- Show thorough comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
- Demonstrate innovative ideas and approaches.
- Have strong analyses of material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
- Contextualize ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
- Have proper citations as per syllabus.
- Be written clearly, with few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

B = Good. Your essay will:
- Have a valid thesis that is supported by a mostly well organized essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Provide appropriate examples to support your thesis.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
- Analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
- Connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
- Have proper citations with few mistakes as per syllabus.
- Be written clearly, with minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

C = Satisfactory/Average. Your essay will:
- Have a thesis, perhaps flawed, or one that is incompletely supported by the essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Organized.
- Provide examples to support your thesis.
• Demonstrate basic comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
• Reveal some incompleteness in the research.
• Incompletely analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
• Incompletely connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
• Improper use of citations, or incorrect format as per syllabus.
• Be written clearly, with some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

D = Below Average/Barely passing. Your essay will have one or more major problems:
• A weak thesis; or one that is incompletely supported by the essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
• Incomplete or weak organization.
• Weak examples or neglect to include textual examples.
• Show minimal comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
• Show incomplete research.
• Partially analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
• Missing, or use incorrect citation format as per syllabus.
• Show lack of coherence, or many errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

F = Failing. Your essay will receive an “F” if it meets ANY of the criteria below:
• Does not meet the minimum requirements for a D.
• Shows evidence of plagiarism.
• Does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.
• Contains unacceptable number of compositional errors.
• Written in stream of consciousness or incoherent argumentation (babbling).

Class Policies
1. You are expected to attend class on a regular basis. You may miss the equivalent of one week of class without penalty. (for classes that meet twice a week, you could miss two; for classes that meet three times a week, you could miss three) There are no EXCUSED ABSENCES. Please be prompt to class. If you must arrive late, please exercise consideration for the instructor and the other members of class. You are considered absent if you miss fifteen minutes of the class period. If you have other University related obligations that necessitate your absence, you must see me in advance. I will determine the manner in which we will handle it.
2. While in class you are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful manner toward your fellow students and the instructor. This would include, but is not limited to:
   A. Refraining from individual discussions. There will be time allotted for discussing the relevant materials.
   B. Avoid using your cell phone. Please turn it OFF at the outset of class. If you are observed using your phone, I will ask you to surrender it for the remainder of the class period and not bring it to class again.
   C. You may use a laptop to take class notes. YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR LAPTOP FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. If you are using your laptop, I may periodically ask you to show me the screen. If you are using your laptop inappropriately, I will ask you to turn it off and not bring it back to class again.
3. Plagiarism and Cheating: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of this course. Engaging in any conduct related to class credit
that is prohibited by the instructor will be considered cheating and result in no credit for that activity. Possession or use of any electronic device during a test is specifically prohibited. The consequences will be a zero on that activity. Many of you may be confused concerning what is and what is not plagiarism. For your information, I refer you to the following web sites: http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html.

4. Assignments are due at the class period on the date that they are due. I do not accept assignments submitted via email.
Schedule of class meetings and assigned materials
Class #1 08/21 Introduction to class. Chapter 18 is assigned.
Class #2 08/23 Chapter 19
Class #3 08/28 Chapter 20
Class #4 08/30 Chapter 21
Class #5 09/04 Chapter 22
Class #6 09/06 Chapter 23
Class #7 09/11 Position Paper Due 50 pts.
Class #8 09/13 First Quarter Examination. Chapters 18-23
Class #9 09/18 Chapter 24
Class #10 09/20 Chapter 25
Class #11 09/25 Chapter 26
Class #12 09/27 Chapter 27
Class #13 10/02 Chapter 28
Class #14 10/04 Position Paper Due 50 pts.
Class #15 10/09 Mid Term Examination Chapters 24-28
Class #16 10/11 Chapter 29
Class #17 10/16 Chapter 30
Class #18 10/18 Chapter 31
Class #19 10/23 Chapter 32
Class #20 10/25 Chapter 33
Class #21 10/30 Position Paper Due 50 pts
Class #22 11/01 Third Quarter Examination. Chapters 29-33
Class #23 11/06
Class #24 11/08 Chapter 34
Class #25 11/13
Class #26 11/15 Chapter 35
Class #27 11/20
Class #28 11/27 Chapter 36
Class #29 12/02 Chapter 37
Class #30 12/4 Position Paper Due 50 pts.
Final Examination 12/06 The final examination will include all of the material covered in the class.
PRINT OUT THIS PAGE AND TURN IT IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR. YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN ANY CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN FULLY COMPLETED AND TURNED IN

By signing this form, I certify that I have read Mr. Gibson’s Syllabus for U.S. History and understand the provisions regarding my responsibilities pursuant to this syllabus.

LAST NAME: ______________________________________ (please print)

FIRST NAME: ______________________________________ (please print)

SIGNATURE: ______________________________________  DATE: ________