HISTORY 4461
THE GILDED AGE & PROGRESSIVE ERA
or
VICTORIAN AMERICA

Instructor: Dr. Kay Reeve
Office: 4102 SS Classroom Bldg.
Phone: 770-423-6143
Office Hrs: T–Th 10:30am – 12:00pm
And By Appointment

Contact Information:
Emails: For Course related contact, please use course email for contact.
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CLASS MEETINGS: T-TH: 3:30 -4:45pm
SS 3021

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: An examination of the expansion, industrialization, and urbanization of the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and of the era’s cultural, political, economic, intellectual and social issues. NOTE: The readings assignments will be particularly numerous and long in this course. The era is complex and cannot be appropriately studied without dedication to reading a substantial amount of material.

TEXTS: DeSantis, The Shaping of Modern America: 1877-1920 (3rd ed.) Chapters 1-12 (or possible 13).

Thomas J. Schlereth, Victorian America: Transformations in Everyday Life, 1876-1915

Additional Course Readings Posted on GAVIEW Course Site; Materials will be in folders by topic and weeks to be addressed. Students should expect to need to print out most of these readings.

OTHER NON-NEGOCIABLE REQUIREMENTS:
1) Familiarity with library databases and search procedures
2) The ability to correctly use Turabian or Chicago Manual of Style citation form.
3) Written expression & analytical abilities appropriate for an advanced (4000) level history course.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Approx. Dates of Exam: TBA
Spring Break: March 3-9 (no class)
Last Day to Drop w/out Penalty: March 12
Last Day of Class: April 26
Final Exam: May 1: 3:30 – 5:30

COURSE ORGANIZATION: The course follows a blended chronological and topical approach. Classes will consist of lectures, discussion of assigned reading (texts and additional readings), and group and individual in class activities focused on the readings. Students are expected to read the assigned text material, online articles and primary materials BEFORE coming to class. Class discussion that results in valid content acquisition cannot occur if the students are unprepared. Class attendance & participation = 10% of the course grade. Quizzes, class assignments, etc. = 20% of grade, thus 1/3 of your grade is dependent on your dedication to being prepared and fully participating in the workload of the course.
OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will increase both their “factual” knowledge of general events and developments of the period and gain and demonstrate a deeper knowledge of additional more specific elements related to U.S. history & and its peoples in Victorian Era, 1876 -1914. (Focus of the exams, quizzes & other assignments.)

2. Students will increase their ability to gain information and draw conclusions based on the reading of both primary documents and interpretive essay and demonstrate that skill. (Focus of readings, class discussions.)

3. Demonstrate the ability to recognize and be able to analytically discuss interpretations of historical events and topics, and express their understanding in oral and written expression suitable for formal history papers and presentations. (Focus of calls assignments, discussion, papers.)

4. Students will practice and demonstrate competence in the written expression of their knowledge of all the above in a direct, observable manner as demonstrated in independent work appropriate to historians in training. (Focus of the papers.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING BASIS:
Students will demonstrate their individual level of mastery the above objectives by successful completion of the following:

EXAMS: Totals 40% of course grade.
1. There will be two exams, one in class (with a possible take home section) during the semester and a comprehensive Final Exam.

2. Exams will consist of a mix of objective questions, identification questions, short essays, and essay questions requiring greater length and interpretation.

QUIZZES and OTHER CLASS ASSIGNMENTS: Totals 30% of the course grade.
1. There will be a series of short quizzes and assignments on the required reading. The specific number of quizzes will to be determined as the course progresses. Quizzes will be both announced and unannounced. You will also “research” and present on a “Victorian era” website. Students should ALWAYS be prepared to discuss the assigned topics or readings. Participation in class activities “counts” both here and in the participation grade.

2. The quizzes and all in and out of class activities & assignments will provide the chance to raise (or lower) your course grade a substantial amount. Keep up, do your reading, learn more material and make a better grade.

PAPER: Totals 20% of course grade.

This will be a formal history paper in nature. Your paper will review and compare two articles in the style of a “Taking Sides” format. You will read several of these “Yes or No” formatted essays for the class. For example, one such reading asks the question “Was City Government in the Gilded Age a Failure?” This is NOT a research paper. It will follow the same approach as the Taking Sides papers you will read, especially the introductions, and will require that you analyze scholarly articles written about a topic and draw and
support a conclusion. Fuller specific details for the paper, due dates AND required paper related activities will be provided in separate web postings for the assignment.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Totals 10% of the course grade.
Students who arrive late, leave early, miss a substantial part of the class for any reason are considered absent for 1/2 class meeting. Students who are absent cannot participate, thus absences = lowered grade.

GRADING SCALE:
AVERAGE: 100-90=A 80-89=B 70-79=C 60-69=D Below 60 = F

CLASS POLICIES:
- THE COURSE WEBSITE AS A COMMUNICATION & ASSIGNMENT TOOL: Keep up to date. Please check the course webpage and email each day once a day. As well, you are expected to know how to access materials on the website. Become familiar with it by the second class meeting.

- Please turn cell phones off when you enter the classroom. No texting, etc. during class. If you can’t commit to be fully engaged in the class each day, consider taking another class.

- Laptops are to be used for note taking. If you are using a laptop you may be asked to “share” those notes. Be sure you are using the technology for class purposes, not for entertainment. Students who distract the instructor or their classmates by using laptops to check Facebook, browse the web, etc., will be asked to leave class. They receive a grade reduction as noted in the below. As well, in the future they will NOT be allowed to use their laptop for any purpose.

- Commitment to learning, preparation for class, thoughtful participation and engagement in the activities of the class, and respectful treatment of your peers is expected. You will be asked to leave the class if your behavior or attitude interferes with the ability of others to have a full opportunity to learn. You are expected to be in class on time and prepared for each day’s topic. Please respect your professor and fellow students. Talking in class while others are talking is prohibited and may result in your dismissal from the class.

- There will be ample opportunities to do well on assignments; there is no “extra credit” and the grading scale is set, unless lack of attendance or disruptive class behavior lowers your grade.

- Students with more than two absences are liable to have their course grade reduced one letter grade.

- Academic honesty is required of all KSU students, as in following the class policies. Students are expected to report breeches of the code and the policies by themselves of others. Please report student who can not adhere to both the code of academic honesty found on the KSU website and below. As well, unless otherwise instructed, all work is to be completed individually and without the use of non-course related materials (i.e Wikipedia, etc.)

From Section II A of the KSU Student Code of Conduct, modified for Fall semester 2011):
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 (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating.
Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

- Changes in the Syllabus: It is possible that we will have to make changes in this syllabus, especially the schedule. Any such changes will be for good cause and will be announced in class (if possible) and through the email function of GaView/Vista.

Course Schedule: Please see the course site for a full (approximate) course schedule. The instructor reserves to right to adjust the schedule as needed.

WEEK ONE: Jan. 10 & 12: Introduction & Overview (Reading assignment in Week One Folder on course site.)

  T – Introduction to the Course
  Th – Overview of the Era (Lecture & PPT course site)

WEEK TWO: Jan. 17 & 19: Industrial Giants in the Gilded Age (Readings in Week Two Folder)

  T - The Captains of Industry: Men & Methods  (Note: First TS reading and discussion included)
  Th -Growth of Industrial Giants: Industries & RRs

If you are having any difficulties regarding this class, please make an appointment so that we can talk about them. (Because of the need for flexibility in arranging advising duties, office hours are limited, but I am available at some point most days.) The sooner we can resolve problems, the better for all concerned.

Disabilities
A number of services are available to help disabled students with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services students must visit the Office of Disabled Student Support Services (770-423-6443) and arrange an individual assistance plan. In some cases, certification of disability is required.