Instructor: Dr. William C. Nicholson  
Office: Social Science Bldg, # 4121  
Office Hours: By appointment

Telephones: 770-423-6294 (History & Philosophy Department)  
E-mail: wnichol5@kennesaw.edu  
Textbooks:  
George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi. America: A Narrative History.  

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND ABIDING BY THE TERMS OF THIS SYLLABUS. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MY ATTENDANCE POLICY TO AVOID SIGNIFICANT GRADE REDUCTIONS AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.**

**Course Objectives:** The main objective of this course is to present a broad overview of American history from the late 19th century to the present. This goal will be accomplished by utilizing a textbook (which gives a general narrative account of American history) and a supplemental reader (which gives alternative viewpoints of familiar themes and events in American history). Traditional political, military, and diplomatic history will provide a general framework within which a number of social, cultural, and urban themes will also be explored. Due to the time period covered, lectures by necessity will be rather general in scope. Lectures will be enhanced and supplemented, however, by outside readings, student reports, class discussions and video excerpts which will provide more in-depth coverage and analysis of specific historical themes and events. It is crucial, therefore, that the assigned reading will be completed before class.

**Tests and Paper:** There will be FOUR, non-cumulative tests given during the semester, the lowest of which will be dropped. These tests will consist of 80 objective-type questions (multiple choice, true-false, etc.). In addition to the major tests, each student will complete an Historical Essay based on outside readings on a topic to be selected at the beginning of the semester. (See Web CT for more detailed instructions).

**Class Participation:** Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class. Student participation in class discussions makes for a far more interesting and lively class and enhances one's grasp of the material and its nuances, **BUT PLEASE DO NOT TALK WHILE OTHERS ARE TALKING. This is just common courtesy.** Class
participation and attendance will be taken into consideration at the end of the course in determining borderline grades.

**ALSO, PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF ME AND YOUR PEERS BY:**

1. TURNING OFF ALL CELL PHONES/PAGERS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.
2. TURNING OFF ALL LAPTOPS AND OTHER LIGHT-EMITTING DEVICES DURING VIDEOS SO AS NOT TO DISTRACT THOSE AROUND YOU.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE REQUESTS MAY RESULT IN YOUR EXPULSION FROM CLASS.

**Attendance:** Attendance is regulated by the University’s policy found in the University catalog. Students should recognize that classroom interaction, both among peers and between instructor and student, provides the best forum for learning and intellectual development in general. Therefore, regular class attendance is required and will be used in determining final grades in borderline cases. To be counted “present” for a class, students must be in class for more than half the class period. If you leave before the halfway point, you will be marked “absent.” Each student will be allowed THREE absences during the semester without penalty. For every absence over three, one point will be deducted from a student’s final grade. There are NO “excused” absences (no doctor’s notes or work excuses accepted). For students who achieve perfect attendance, however, TWO points will be added to their final average.

**Tardiness:** Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, please notify the instructor in advance if possible. Thank you.

**Grades:** Student grades will be determined as follows:
3 Tests-------------------------------75% (25% each)
1 Historical Essay/Oral Report-----25%
[Grades will be adjusted for attendance accordingly]

**Withdrawal from the Course:** Withdrawal before the midpoint of the semester (June 29th) entitles the student to receive the grade of "W" if performance up to that point has been satisfactory. A student doing failing work will receive the grade "WF" as well as students who withdraw after June 29th. Any exception must be approved by the Dean of Students.

**Academic Dishonesty:** This course adheres to the policy on cheating and plagiarism found in the University catalog. Simply put, DON'T DO EITHER. This instructor has ZERO TOLERANCE for both and plagiarized papers will receive a grade of “F” and 0 points.
Make-Ups: There are NO make-ups. If you are unable to attend class for any reason on the scheduled day for a test, that test will be used as your “drop.” NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SO DO NOT ASK.

Extra Credit Work: This instructor does NOT offer extra credit opportunities except in extreme cases with unusual extenuating circumstances … so do not ask!

Note: This syllabus is merely a guide to this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>6-2</td>
<td>Intro./Course Overview</td>
<td>Tindall Ch. 19</td>
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<td><em>The New South &amp; West</em></td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>“Red Eyes”</td>
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<td><em>Big Business</em></td>
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<td><em>Organized Labor</em></td>
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<td>6-9</td>
<td>“Land of Opportunity”</td>
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<td><em>Urbanization &amp; Immigration</em></td>
<td>Tindall Ch. 21</td>
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<td>6-14</td>
<td><em>Gilded Age Politics &amp; Agrarian Reform</em></td>
<td>Tindall Ch. 22</td>
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<td>6-16</td>
<td>TEST 1 (1st half of class)</td>
<td>[Tindall, Chs. 19-22, Loewen, Chs 4,7]</td>
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<td><em>The Course of Empire (2nd half of class)</em></td>
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<td>“Handicapped by History”</td>
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<td><em>The Great War I</em></td>
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<td>6-28</td>
<td><em>The Modern Temper</em></td>
<td>Tindall Ch. 26</td>
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<td>6-29</td>
<td>[Last day to Withdraw]</td>
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<td>6-30</td>
<td>TEST 2 (1st half of class)</td>
<td>[Tindall, Chs. 23-26]</td>
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Republican Resurgence & Reform (2nd half of class)  
Loewen, Ch. 1]

Tindall Ch. 27

7-5 New Deal America  
Tindall Ch. 28

7-7 From Isolation To Global War  
Tindall Ch. 29

7-12 The Second World War I  
Tindall Ch. 30

7-14 TEST 3 (1st half of class) [Tindall, Chs. 27-30]

Fair Deal & Containment (2nd half of class)  
Tindall Ch. 31

7-19 Society & Culture, 1945-60  
Tindall Ch. 32

7-21 Conflict & Deadlock: The Eisenhower Years  
Tindall Ch. 33

7-26 New Frontiers: Political/Social Change in the 1960s  
Tindall Ch. 34

7-28 The Vietnam War  
Tindall 33/34/35
"Down the Memory Hole"  
Loewen Ch. 9

TEST 4 (2nd half of class) (Last Day of Class) [Tindall, Chs. 31-35]  
Loewen, Chs. 9]

Note: The final exam is OPTIONAL. Students who wish to take a comprehensive final exam have the right to do so and should contact the professor accordingly.