Instructor:
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Graduate teaching assistant:
Professor Kristen Walker
MA in American Studies program

Required materials. We will use the following textbook throughout the course. Purchase or rent the correct edition, as older editions have a different chapter organization.

- George Tindall and David Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, volume 2, brief 9\textsuperscript{th} edition, W.W. Norton.

Other assigned reading materials will be available on the internet or through our D2L course site.

Other purchases (optional): Headphones will help tremendously when you’re watching and listening to the course lectures.

Prerequisites: None.

Course summary: HIST2112 examines the major themes of American history since 1890, the multicultural nature of contemporary U.S. civilization, and the nation’s role in the global arena.

HIST2112 has three major objectives that are established by the Department of History and Philosophy:

1. The student will be able to articulate facts about and assemble a chronology of major patterns and events in U.S. social, cultural, economic, and political history from 1890 to 1980.
2. The student will be able to identify significant persons and groups in connection to major events in U.S. history from 1890 to 1980.
3. The student will be able to connect and evaluate factors of causation and consequence to major events in U.S. history from 1890 to 1980.
Each week you'll participate in activities that help you achieve these objectives, including completing textbook readings, listening to brief lectures, reading primary historical documents, engaging in discussion about those primary documents, and completing practice quizzes. We’ll formally assess your understanding in discussion and in three tests.

**General Education at KSU:** HIST 2112 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements, the US Perspectives learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students identify the historical, political, social, or institutional developments of the United States. For more information about KSU’s General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit [http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704)

**Delivery of the course:** This is an online course delivered through Desire2Learn (D2L). ***You are required to check our D2L site and check your KSU email daily.*** You can find out more about D2L at [https://web.kennesaw.edu/acs/pages/desire2learn/student-resources-d2l](https://web.kennesaw.edu/acs/pages/desire2learn/student-resources-d2l)

**Skills requirements:** You must have basic computer skills to successfully engage with the material in this course. You must be able to:
- Open a browser and locate a specific website
- Download video tutorials to your computer and watch/listen to them. Work with the IT help desk if you have any trouble downloading and watching/listening to files.

**Technology requirements:** You are required have regular access to:
- a high speed internet connection (otherwise you will not be able to hear/see the audio/video components)
- a web browser such as Firefox (with Java, Flash, RealPlayer and other components necessary for audio/video delivery)
- a PDF reader such as Adobe Acrobat

If you do not have access to this technology at home, I recommend that you use the university computer labs.

**Technology challenges:** If you have any problems with technology, including D2L, contact IT Services at [http://uits.kennesaw.edu/students/](http://uits.kennesaw.edu/students/), 470-578-3555, or studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu

**Communicating with me:** I am easily accessible through regular email and D2L. I will make every attempt to respond to you within 24 hours (M-F). If I expect to be away from communication devices for an extended period of time, I will let you know beforehand.

I expect your email/chat communications to utilize professional practices (e.g., correct grammar, fully and correctly spelled words) and adopt a professional tone.
If you would like to have a meeting on campus rather than by electronic means or phone, just let me know and we’ll arrange a mutually convenient day and time.

Communicating with others: I expect you to utilize professional practices (e.g., correct grammar, fully and correctly spelled words) and adopt a professional tone when communicating with other students in the class on email, the discussion board, or elsewhere. Here’s a good, brief guide to “netiquette” that includes examples of formal and informal tone: [http://www.kennesaw.edu/elearning/netiquette/index.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/elearning/netiquette/index.html)

“Ack! I’m having trouble with this course!” If you are struggling with the material, activities, or major assignments in this course, contact me as soon as possible. I am glad to talk to you by Skype, chat, email, phone, or face-to-face.

**HOW THE COURSE IS ORGANIZED**

This course is organized into modules. Each module includes a number of different activities, such as a reading, an exercise, a practice quiz, participation on the discussion board, or a “real” test. You can find the modules on D2L.

Our module “weeks” begin and end on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. There are 14 modules in the course. Since this class is delivered in the summer 8-week session, you will complete TWO modules per week (or one module and a test).

Since this is a summer course delivered in the 8-week session, you should expect to spend at least 12 hours a week on this course. Some of you may want or need to commit more time to the course.

You are expected to complete the week’s modules by the following Tuesday at 5 p.m., and I will frequently prevent participation in some course components after the due date/time has passed.

I intentionally control the pace of this course so that the entire class will be reading and discussing the same material during the same week. You may have experienced some online classes in which the instructors give you immediate access to all materials for the semester and allow you to work around your own schedule. **This class is not organized in that way.** I rarely post the modules more than one week in advance. This means you won’t be able to work very far ahead in this course. Some modules require interaction with other students (online), so it’s imperative that you keep up with the week-to-week activities.

What to expect in each module:
Each module includes a number of different activities that you are required to complete, even if the activity does not have a grade associated with it.
**America readings:** Readings from our textbook *America: A Narrative History* will provide you with a survey overview of the theme or era we’re discussing each week.

**Lectures:** In many weeks, short audio-video lectures will augment the textbook readings. The lectures do not replace the textbook readings; rather, they provide more information on and delve deeper into particular topics. They do not survey or regurgitate the assigned reading and cannot be used as a replacement for the assigned reading.

**Primary source readings:** In many weeks, you’ll also read historical documents from the period under study. Analyzing primary sources helps you develop close reading and critical thinking skills. Additionally, studies have shown that primary source analysis encourages deeper historical understanding.

**Discussion board postings:** In the weeks in which we read primary sources or view films, you’ll complete discussion board postings that ask you to do such things as: analyze the documents/film, place documents in conversation with each other, and/or place documents or the film in context. You’ll also respond to each other’s postings. By engaging in conversation with your colleagues on historical topics, you’ll deepen your learning, enhance and practice your communication skills, and better understand differing points of view. Read the discussion guide/rubric for more details about what constitutes substantive discussion. Be aware that questions about the discussion itself (not just the documents/films you’re analyzing!) will appear on the tests.

**Practice quizzes:** Practice quizzes allow you to test yourself on reading and lecture comprehension without penalty to your grade. The questions in the practice quizzes are similar to questions you’ll confront in your tests. You can take the practice quizzes as many times as you like, but you and I will be able to see the score of your **first attempt** in the gradebook. The “grade” won’t count for or against your final grade as such, but it lets me know that you’ve participated in this learning activity.

These activities deliver content and help you sort through and understand historical events. You are not graded on these activities as such but you are required to participate in this work and complete these activities. Thus, we have a participation policy:

**Participation policy:** You are required to be prepared for and participate in all online activities. Your final grade will be penalized up to 2 percentage points for each module in which you fail to participate in activities in a substantive way. In other words, you start off the course with a 100% (A) for participation; it’s up to you to maintain your A!
I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused participation. If you know you will have to miss module activities for some reason (e.g., planned surgery), be aware that your final grade will be penalized according to the participation policy. If you alert me to scheduling issues ahead of time, I may be able to leave modules open for your participation or otherwise accommodate you.

**Markers of substantive participation:** By “substantive way” I mean that you should respond thoughtfully to questions and in a way that demonstrates that you have completed readings, read or listened to lectures, participated in discussion, and/or engaged in other assigned activities. If there’s a practice quiz available, you’ve taken it. If there’s a discussion posting, you’ve responded in a way that demonstrates a thorough reading or engagement with the material at hand. Mind you, you don’t always have to be correct in your responses to practice quizzes and module exercises. Rather, these interactions and exercises help you better understand and retain material and allow me to identify areas of competency and areas in need of more class discussion or individual assistance.

**Markers of insufficient or poor participation:** You’ve made no attempt at a practice quiz. You have not participated in discussions at all, or have responded in a way that indicates that you did not complete the required readings, tutorials, or other material.

Your participation grade/penalty will be updated at least once every two weeks.

**Graded Assessments:**

**Tests:** Three tests covering lectures, the textbook, supplemental readings, discussions, movies, primary resource exercises, and any other material delivered will be given to assess content knowledge and understanding. The tests may include multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and/or essay questions. Tests may also include questions that ask you to place historical events in chronological order. You will be expected not simply to regurgitate information, but to use the information you’ve learned to, for example, analyze historical political cartoons or compare current events to events past. All tests and assignments are cumulative. That is, you are expected to retain and use all material delivered throughout the course.

The tests are open book, open note, open anything. However, you may not consult other people while taking the test.

The tests are timed. As such, if you have not prepared (i.e., studied) ahead of time, you will not be able to complete the exam in the allotted time.

The tests will be completed online and are only available during the module week in which they are given. Test dates are shown in the D2L calendar and the calendar file on our D2L homepage. You cannot take tests after the module week in which they are given and there are no make-up tests.
Grade breakdown:
TEST1 30%
TEST2 35%
TEST3 35%
TOTAL 100%*

* Minus any penalties for non-participation as described in the participation policy above

Exam grades will be posted within 1 week of the closing of the exam.

Grade scale:  90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F