

Texas A&M University Central Texas

Department of Humanities

Spring 2022

“General Readings in US History: 1877-Present”

HIST: 5326 Readings in US History Since 1877

Meeting Room: Virtual via Webex and Canvas

Time: Tuesday 6-9PM

Instructor: Dr. Timothy C. Hemmis

Office: Heritage Hall 216H

E-Mail: themmis@tamuct.edu

Virtual Phone: 254 300-8418

Phone: 254-501-5931

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This class delves into the history of America from 1877-Present. As a reading seminar, this course will give you an in-depth understanding of Modern America and its historiography. Each week there will be readings that are paramount to your success. This course will strengthen your critical thinking, reading, discussion, and writing skills, and provide a foundation for understanding the modern America. You will demonstrate the ability to develop and focus on one topic in writing assignments and present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form. You will also demonstrate the ability to use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage. Lastly, you will hopefully leave this class with a better understanding of America's past and how it has shaped the present.

The course objectives:

- To draw connections between the past and the present.
- To understand historical debates in American History.
- To critically analyze a secondary source at a graduate level

Required Texts

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. 2015.

Monographs

See Course Schedule

There will be other articles and book chapters that the Professor will provide electronically each week.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Seminar Participation	250 points	All semester
Final Exam	250 points	TBA
Book Reviews (10)	500 points (50 points each)	See Schedule

Scoring:

Final Grades will be determined based upon the following scale:

A	=	900-1000 points
B	=	800-899 points
C	=	700-799 points
D	=	600-699 points
F	=	Below 600 points

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance and participation are crucial elements of the learning experience. Attendance is mandatory for Graduate Classes! Attendance will be taken daily. In addition, attendance means staying for the whole class. Do not leave early without speaking to me beforehand. Failure to regularly attend class will result in dire consequences such as failing the class. Please come to class prepared and ready to discuss the readings assigned for the day, if you do not you will be considered absent. Classes will be done via Webex and/or Canvas.

Exam

There will be one final exam in this class. The exam for this class will be cumulative, although they will reflect persistent themes, ideas, and terminology that run throughout American History. It will be similar to a written comprehensive exam.

Writing Assignments

Each paper will be a critical review of the monograph assigned. Each review will be 900-1100 words long and be modeled after critical reviews in academic journals such as the *American Historical Review* or *The William and Mary Quarterly*. A book review concentrates on identifying and critiquing on the author's thesis. What is the author trying to argue, what evidence do they use, and do you agree and disagree? It is not just a simple summary of the book.

Important Reminder

No late assignments will be accepted without valid reasons.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You must follow to honesty codes set forth in the student handbook. Plagiarism is a serious offense. This or any other violation of the university's Code of Student Conduct can result in penalties that can include failing the assignment, an F in the class and/or expulsion from the university. For the official definition of what constitutes plagiarism, see the Student Handbook.

All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

The instructor reserves the right to use electronic resources to detect plagiarism. **If you have any questions about this, please see me.**

Formatting

Essays must comply with the following formatting guidelines. Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. Essays must be submitted as Word documents via email to the professor before the class period it is due.

Your papers must be typewritten, with 12 pt. font in Times New Roman and double-spaced lines. The header of your paper should be single-spaced and in the following format:

Your Name

Paper, Course Name and Number

Dr. Timothy Hemmis

janedoe@tamuct.edu

Due Date

Your paper should have 1" margins on the top and bottom and 1.25" margins on the left right margins. Evidence must be cited using footnotes. Use of alternate forms of citation, such as the MLA format, is not acceptable. Finally, your essays must be stapled (no "dog ears," paper clips, or binders) and the pages numbered! If you have questions about the proper format of your essay, please see me during my office hours.

The essay must include evidence from the text, and you must cite that evidence using footnotes. Use the following examples as models:

First citation:

¹ Alfred F. Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party: Memory and the American Revolution* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 45.

Subsequent citations:

⁵ Young, *The Shoemaker and the Tea Party*, 74.

Unexcused/ Late Work or Absences from Exams:

The only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in a paper or homework on time are illnesses requiring medical care, required university activities, religious holidays, or a personal emergency of a serious nature. To be excused without penalty, documentation is required. In certain other circumstances, I will allow you to turn in an assignment early or take an exam in advance, but you must see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the last possible minute.

Below is the required University Information

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

You need to include information about Technology Requirements and Support. In addition, include a statement on the technology requirements for the successful completion of the course and when applicable, information on how to access these resources (for example, how to obtain a certain software through University site license).

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a

failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Spring 2022 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index)

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COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

Week 1 (JAN 18)**Introduction: Read the syllabus**

ROSEN, HANNAH. "Teaching Race and Reconstruction." *Journal of the Civil War Era* 7, no. 1 (2017): 67-95.

THOMAS, BROOK. "The Unfinished Task of Grounding Reconstruction's Promise." *Journal of the Civil War Era* 7, no. 1 (2017): 16-38. www.jstor.org/stable/26070488.

Week 2 (JAN 25) Reconstruction and the Lost Cause

Read: Domby, Adam H. *The False Cause: Fraud, Fabrication, and White Supremacy in Confederate Memory*. UVA Press, 2020.

Week 3 (Feb 1) The Gilded Age

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Beckert, Sven. *The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010.

Week 4 (FEB 8) American Food Ways

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Specht, Joshua. *Red Meat Republic A Hoof-to-Table History of How Beef Changed America*. Princeton University Press, 2020.

Week 5 (FEB 15) The Progressive Age

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McGerr, Michael. *A Fierce Discontent The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Week 6 (FEB 22) Consumerism

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Leach, William. *Land of Desire: Merchants, Power, and the Rise of a New American Culture*. New York: Vintage Books, 2001.

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Week 7 (MAR 1) FWW

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Neiberg, Michael S. *The Path to War: How the First World War Created Modern America*. Oxford: OUP, 2016.

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Week 8 (MAR 8) The Great Depression and the New Deal

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Cohen, Lizabeth. *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.

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No class March 15 Spring Break

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Week 9 (MAR 22) World War II and Diplomacy

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Neiberg, Michael S. *When France Fell The Vichy Crisis and the Fate of the Anglo-American Alliance*. 2021.

Week 10 (MAR 29) Post World War II America

Surgue, Thomas. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2014.

Week 11 (APR 5) Post War America

Vuic, Jason. *The Swamp Peddlers: How Lot Sellers, Land Scammers, and Retirees Built Modern Florida and Transformed the American Dream*. 2021.

Week 12 (APR 12) Civil Rights Movement

Sturkey, William. *Hattiesburg: An American City in Black and White*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019.

Week 13 (APR 19) American Society At War

Vuic, Kara Dixon. *The Girls Next Door: Bringing the Home Front to the Front Lines*. 2019.

Week 14 (APR 26) Pop Culture and the Cold War

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Ball, Blake Scott. *Charlie Brown's America The Popular Politics of Peanuts*. 2021.

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Week 15 (MAY 3) The Gulf War

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MOGER, J. TRAVIS. "THE GULF WAR AT 30." *Army History*, no. 118 (2021): 6–25. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26974759>.

Bacevich, Andrew J. "A Less Than Splendid Little War." *The Wilson Quarterly (1976-)* 38, no. 1 (2014). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/wilsonq.38.1.07>.

Jones, Toby Craig. "America, Oil, and War in the Middle East." *The Journal of American History* 99, no. 1 (2012): 208–18. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41510316>.

Week 16 (May 10) Final Exam

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