



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American History from 1877 - Section Syllabus

AMH 2020 - P1005

Spring 2025, Session A

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian R. Rucker

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**Office Hours:** M: 11-12 (M), 1-2 (P); T: 9:30-11, 1-2, 3-5 (P); W: 11-12 (M), 1-2 (P); R: 9:30-11 (P)

**Department Head:** Mr. Scott Schackmann

**Department Head Phone:** (850) 484 - 1118

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**Final Exam Date:** TBD

**Last Date of Drop/Add:** January 16, 2025

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** April 7, 2025

**Course Description:** A survey of the history of the American experience from 1877 to present. Emphasizes the growth of American industry and business and the social and economic reforms connected with that growth. Also emphasizes the emergence of the United States as a world power during the 20th century and the ramifications that rise has had on foreign and domestic policy.

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 12:30-1:45

**Class Location:** Pensacola Building 14, ROOM 1466

**Credits:** 3 cc

**Prerequisites:** Grade of C or better in ENC 1101C.

**Offered:** FA, SP, SU.

**Distribution:** Meets AA General Education Core, Social Sciences requirement. A writing emphasis course. Satisfies the State of Florida civic literacy requirement.

**Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:** America Volume 2; David Shi; 9780393878325; 12th; Norton; 2022

**Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials:** None

**Special Requirements:**

Writing Emphasis Requirement: A minimum of three fully developed, multi-paragraph, evaluated writing assignments, not including a final examination, are required.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for each evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before submission of the next evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Only individual student work may count toward the minimum three evaluated writing assignments.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Grading rubrics will be used for each evaluated writing assignment. These rubrics will be shared with each student.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

<b>Grading Calculation</b>	
EXAMS (3)	70%
RESEARCH PAPERS (3)	30%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

**[Method of Evaluation:** 3 Essay Exams (23.33% each); and three two-page course topic reports (graded for grammar, content, and style, and counting 10% each)

- EXAMS:** A. There will be three exams, including the final, each counting 23.33
- B. All three exams will be essay-style exams in which 10 terms must be thoroughly identified in paragraph style answers. In a well-written manner the student, using critical thinking skills, will identify the test terms by utilizing the following material -- who, what, where, when, and why.
- C. Reviews before each exam may be scheduled if the need arises.
- D. The final exam will not be cumulative.
- E. If you miss an exam you must have an administration official's excuse in order to take a make-up.

**Student Expectations:** Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;

5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

**Communication:** The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.

**Cultural Literacy:** The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture and its diversity.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify the key events in American history from the end of the Civil War to the present, including western expansion, the age of industry, the world conflicts of the 20th century, the Cold War, and the making of modern America.
2. Identify the individuals, groups, and various peoples who were instrumental in the growth and development of this country from the end of the Civil War to the present.
3. Trace the ideas, forces, and movements which made the United States a world power by the 20<sup>th</sup> century and explain how the United States responded to and participated in the global conflicts of the 20th century.
4. Analyze the problems Americans experienced in western expansion, the rise of industry, immigration, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Cold War, and the problems modern America faces.
5. Evaluate and compare the key events from this period in American history, especially as relates to cause and effect, and apply those lessons learned.
6. Communicate, using critical thinking skills, the key events and players in this period of American history.
7. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
8. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
9. Develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.

10. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course.

**Student Email Accounts:**

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

**Flexibility:**

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

**ADA Statement:**

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

**Equity Statement:** Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

**Security Statement:**

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

**Emergency Statement:**

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

**[COURSE CALENDAR/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: ]**

August 20-September 19, UNIT ONE (Reconstruction, Western Expansion, Rise of Industry, Labor Movement, the Progressive Era, World War 1); pages 610-918 in textbook

September 26-October 29, UNIT TWO (1920s, the Great Depression, World War 2); pages 918-1081 in textbook

November 5-December 5, UNIT THREE (Cold War, Civil Rights Movement, the 1960s, Modern America); pages 1085-1421 in textbook

Tuesday, August 20: First day of class

Friday, August 23: Drop/Add ends

Tuesday, September 24: **FIRST EXAM**

Thursday, September 26: **FIRST PAPER DUE**

Thursday, October 31: **SECOND EXAM**

Monday, November 4: **SECOND PAPER DUE**

Tuesday, November 5: Last day to withdraw

Thursday, November 28: NO CLASS -- HOLIDAY

Tuesday, December 3: **THIRD PAPER DUE**

Thursday, December 5: Last regular class

**Tuesday, December 10 (8:00-10:00): FINAL EXAM**

This is a basic level survey course which will expose students to the broad themes, movements, institutions, and experience in American history from the aftermath of the Civil War to the present. By the end of the term, students will be able to critically analyze and understand the forces and events which shaped modern America: Reconstruction, western expansion, the rise of industry and labor, the Progressive Era, World War 1, the 1920s, the Great Depression, World War 2, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Era, the 1960s, and the emergence of the modern age. The lectures of the course will be supplemented by various readings from the assigned textbook. Material in the examinations will be taken from the class lectures and the assigned reading from the textbook. Thus, diligent note-taking, faithful attendance in class, and reading are highly encouraged.