UNITED STATES HISTORY: 1865-PRESENT

HIST 1493-030, Fall 2014
Physical Science Center #201
Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:30pm-1:20pm

Professor Andrew Porwancher
porwancher@ou.edu
Office Hours:
Carnegie #219, Mondays from 3:00-4:00pm & Wednesdays from 10:30am-11:30am
& by appointment

Course Description

This course covers the major themes of American history from 1865 to the modern era. We are not just interested in dates and places but in the human drama of history that gives meaning to historical figures, their triumphs, and their failures. We will bear witness to tales of murder, heartache, and scandal, asking always what these narratives reveal about the historical context in which they transpired. Our subject matter ranges from presidents to laborers, from those who exercised power to those who struggled against it, from the most renowned stories to the least conspicuous.

In weekly sections with your teaching assistants (TAs), you will discuss primary and secondary sources related to the central themes of US history. Additionally, your TAs will teach you how to produce research papers consistent with the standards of both the discipline of history and the University of Oklahoma.

Course Objectives

This course seeks to give students a solid grounding in the last 150 years of American history while cultivating a core set of skills that are vital to both engaged citizenship and professional success. These skills include the ability to analyze an argument; to build one’s own using both primary and secondary sources; to write with force and clarity; to situate events, people, and ideas in context; to recognize patterns; and to draw meaningful connections between seemingly disparate phenomena.

Assessment

Paper #1: 150 pts (draft = 50 pts; final essay = 100 pts)
Paper #2: 250 pts (thesis paragraph=25 pts; paper=225 pts)
Research Topic: 10 pts
Primary Source Scavenger Hunt: 20 pts
Secondary Source Scavenger Hunt: 20 pts
Midterm: 150 pts
Final: 300 pts
Participation: 100 pts
Please note that participation means making informed comments that reflect engagement with the assigned readings. Students must print and bring hard copies of the readings to class.

**Technology Policy**

Computers, cell phones, and all other electronic devices are not allowed in either lecture or section, unless unique circumstances require you to have a computer (in which case you should speak to the professor or teaching assistant and inform him/her). If you bring an electronic device to class, it must be put away for the duration of the class. You are free to take handwritten notes.

**Absences**

Attendance is strictly required. It is the student’s obligation to inform his/her TA of absences prior to the absence, including those justified by religious observance, legally-required, or provost-approved university-sponsored activity.

- Students who accrue three unexcused absences will receive a penalty of one full letter grade for the semester. Students who accrue six unexcused absences will receive a penalty of two full letter grades for the semester. Students who accrue nine unexcused absences will receive a penalty of three full letter grades.
- Lectures and sections will begin promptly at their allotted times. Students who arrive late or leave early for an unexcused reason will receive a half-absence for the day.
- For designated extra credit events that a student attends, one unexcused absence will be removed from his/her record. Extra credit events usually involve attendance at a guest lecture outside normal class time, including the question-and-answer period following the lecture. A student who arrives late to or leaves early from an extra credit event will have one-half absence, rather than a full absence, removed from his/her record.

**Academic integrity and honesty**

Integrity is presumed and required on the part of students in the course. In writing for this course, you must give proper credit through the use of quotation marks and by footnoting or other citation for any ideas or words of others that you rely on in your written work. Use of the work of others is positively encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, then that is plagiarism. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties can be severe. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult your TA or professor.
Religious Observance

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays.

Accommodation

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact his/her TA or the professor as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Codes and Policies of Behavior

Each student should acquaint him- or herself with the University’s codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct, grievances, sexual and ethnic harassment, and discrimination based on physical handicap.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Matthew Pearce  
Matthew.A.Pearce-1@ou.edu  
Office Hours: Dale Hall Tower #411, Mondays from 9:30am-11:30am and Wednesdays from 2:30pm-4:30pm  
Sections: 1493-31 W 9:30-10:20 Sarkeys Energy Center P0203  
1493-33 W 10:30-11:20 Carson Energy Center 441  
1493-35 F 9:30-10:20 Gould Hall 155  
1493-37 F 11:30-12:20 Phys Science Center 115

Jimmy Del Rio Cabral  
jdelriocabral@ou.edu  
Office Hours: Bookmark Café (basement of Bizzell Library), Mondays from 5-7pm, Tuesdays from 6-8 pm & by appointment  
Sections: 1493-32 W 10:30-11:20 Price Hall 2010  
1493-38 F 11:30-12:20 Phys Science Center 416

Courtney Kennedy  
courtney.kennedy@ou.edu  
Office Hours: Dale Hall Tower 306 (3rd floor). Mondays 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesdays 10-11 a.m., and by appointment.  
1493-34 F 9:30-10:20 Zarrow Hall 120  
1493-36 F 10:30-11:20 Zarrow Hall 120
(the schedule below is subject to change)

**WEEK ONE**

Monday August 18

Introduction

Wednesday August 20

The Dukes-Nutt Saga, Part I

Section

Review Writing Guidelines

**WEEK TWO**

Monday August 25

The Dukes-Nutt Saga, Part II

Wednesday August 27

America in the Gilded Age & Progressive Era

Section

View “Working the Evidence” Video (view in advance)
Discuss Primary Sources for Essay One (read in advance)
Explain ACE Evidence Card Homework

**WEEK THREE**

Monday September 1

Labor Day—NO CLASS

Wednesday September 3

The Story of Ida Wells

Section

View “Thesis” Video (view in advance)
Workshop: A-C-E Card Group Work
Seminar: What Makes a Strong Thesis?

**WEEK FOUR**

Monday September 8

The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction

Wednesday September 10

The Last “Wild” Man in America

**Essay One Draft DUE in Discussion Section**
Workshop: Introduction Peer Review
Seminar: Topic Sentences and Bridge Sentences
View “Paragraphing” Video (view in advance)

**WEEK FIVE**

Monday September 15

The Justice and the Dean

Wednesday September 17

The Ivory Tower

Discuss Anna Stubblefield, “‘Beyond the Pale’: Tainted Whiteness, Cognitive Disability, and Eugenic Sterilization,” *Hypatia* 22 (Spring 2007): 162-181. (read in advance—available on D2L)
WEEK SIX

Monday September 22

The Monkey Trial

Wednesday September 24

Public Enemy #1

Section

**Essay One DUE in Discussion Section**

Seminar: Library Research

WEEK SEVEN

Monday September 29

Blood & Steel

Wednesday October 1

The Great Depression

Section

Read “Guymon Prepares to Shame Grapes” AND Martin Staples Shockley, “The Reception of the Grapes of Wrath in Oklahoma” (read in advance—both sources available under “Great Depression #3 John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath in Oklahoma” at http://explorehistory.ou.edu/history-1493/sources-for-hist-1493-paper-two/)

WEEK EIGHT

Monday October 6

Midterm

Wednesday October 8

Guest Lecture, Matt Pearce, “Cowboys, Conservationists, and the Contested History of the Western Range.”

Section

**DUE: Research Topic (Source Pairings or approved alternative)**

**WEEK NINE**

Monday October 13

Guest Lecture: Kai Hebel, University of Oxford

Wednesday October 15

World War II

Section

Seminar: Following the Footnote Trail  
Workshop: Reading for the Argument

**DUE: Secondary Source Scavenger Hunt**

**WEEK TEN**

Monday October 20

The 1950s

Wednesday October 22

The Cold War

Section

**DUE: Primary Source Scavenger Hunt**

War #1 Asymmetric Conflict and the Cold War” at http://explorehistory.ou.edu/history-1493/sources-for-hist-1493-paper-two

WEEK ELEVEN

Monday October 27
The Cuban Missile Crisis

Wednesday October 29
A Town Divided

Section

Read: Brown v Board of Education of Topeka decision AND Mary Dzudziak, “Brown as a Cold War Case” (read in advance—both sources available Civil Rights #1 Civil Rights and the Cold War at http://explorehistory.ou.edu/history-1493/sources-for-hist-1493-paper-two)

WEEK TWELVE

Monday November 3
The Civil Rights Movement

Wednesday November 5
The Story of Louis Lamphere

Section

View “Introductions” Tutorial
Explanation of “Thesis Paragraph” Assignment

Read: Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail AND Joseph Kip Kosek, “Richard Gregg, Mohandas Gandhi, and the Strategy of Nonviolence,” (read in advance—both sources are available under “Civil Rights #3 Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement” at http://explorehistory.ou.edu/history-1493/sources-for-hist-1493-paper-two)
WEEK THIRTEEN

Monday November 10
Guest lecture: Kiran Bhatraju, “Mud Creek Medicine”

Wednesday November 12
The My Lai Massacre

Section

**Due: Thesis Paragraph**
Seminar: The Research Introduction.

WEEK FOURTEEN

Monday November 17
The Modern Era

Wednesday November 19
The “American Century” in Retrospect, Part I

Section

Workshop: ACE evidence cards

WEEK FIFTEEN

Monday November 24
The “American Century” in Retrospect, Part II
Due: Research Paper (in lecture)

Wednesday November 26
Thanksgiving—NO CLASS

Section

Thanksgiving—NO SECTIONS
WEEK SIXTEEN

December 1

Student evaluations
The Uses of History, Part I

December 3

The Uses of History, Part II
Section
Review

WEEK SEVENTEEN

December 9

Final Exam (1:30pm-3:30pm)