

# **The History of Technology and Innovation in Modern American History**

## **Course Syllabus**

This course is a study of the historical facts regarding the development and governance of the United States from the end of Reconstruction the present with special emphasis given to the inventions and ideas that made modern America. We will also examine the social, economic, and ever-changing political arena that these inventions and ideas impact. Through the course of the semester, we will focus on a number of trends, events, and personalities as we investigate the following topics: the industrial revolution; the development of a truly national economy; imperialism; the US as a world power; World Wars I and II; the Cold War; Korea; Vietnam; and the modern era.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor: Dr. James L. Newsom

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Office: CAS 130

Phone: No office phone, call Ada Bravo at (903) 566-7371 for assistance.

### **Class Information:**

Class Time: 2:30-3:55 Monday; Hybrid Videos on Wednesday

Classroom: RBN 2011

Class Zoom Login: 955-9502-4363 Passcode: 630989

### **Textbook:**

Oakes, James, et al. *Of the People: A History of the United States*. (4th Ed., Vol. 2). ISBN: 9780190910211.

### **Office Hours:**

11:30-1:15 MW; 5:00-6:00 M; Other times by appointment. All office hours will be held on Zoom. During the above times—I will, to the best of my ability, be online and available for you. If you come in person to my office—you must wear a mask per University rules.

Zoom Office Hours: 974-581-2321 Access Code: 2021Fall

**Major Learning Outcomes:** Based on the National Standards for History (1994)

- I. The student will describe the impact of industrialization, mechanized farming, immigration, and increasing cultural diversity on the American people in the late nineteenth century.
- II. The student will describe the changing role of the United States government in domestic and world affairs in the early twentieth century.
- III. The student will explain the problems of unregulated economic growth and the associated issue of distribution of wealth.
- IV. The student will trace the course of World War II and its reshaping of the U.S. role in world affairs.
- V. The student will describe how the Cold War and conflicts in Korea and Vietnam influenced domestic and international politics.

**Methods of Instruction:** This class is a hybrid class and videos and lecture are the primary teaching methods; however, class discussions, outside projects, and outside reading will be used. Wednesday classes are always video; however, Monday classes are face-to-face; however, due to the COVID crisis, I am allowing a virtual option as well. Each face-to-face class will be recorded with Zoom and then posted to Canvas for those who want to see it again. By necessity these recordings will be posted a few hours after the class ends--the recordings are not a substitute for attending either in person or virtually--they are for your note taking convenience and review. Class participation will be based upon class attendance or viewing of the Zoom lecture. One or the other is required. Additionally, I will make every effort to respond to emails within a 24-48 hour period. My personal belief—and I hope I am wrong—is that within the first month or so of the semester, we will have an outbreak of COVID on campus and/or around the state and once again, all classes will be forced to transition to a totally online model. If this should happen, I will continue with the Zoom sessions; however, since I live in a rural area, my internet connection is not always the best for live Zoom. I may record the videos at home and post them for you to watch and/or I may post lecture videos from past classes that cover the topic. You will be advised as to the mode of delivery if this should become necessary.

**Methods of Evaluation:** The student's mastery of the subject material will be determined through exams. An exam will be given on each scheduled test day. All exams will be online. The first four exams will each be worth 15% of your final grade. The final exam is worth 25% of your grade. It will be given on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The remaining 15% of your grade is based upon class participation. I determine this grade based upon class attendance and my evaluation of your participation in class through quizzes both online and in person. Every absence after the

second grace absence (the equivalent of one week of class time) is worth 10 points deducted from your class participation grade. Not watching the required videos may result in a lowered participation grade. Each exam will be based upon the content of lectures, discussions, and your readings. Test format will be discussed prior to the first exam.

**Attendance:** All students are expected to attend every class meeting whether face-to-face or virtual. Failure to attend in person or watch the videos in a timely manner (within in the week) online is an absence.

**Behavior:** All students will maintain respect and courtesy for their classmates and for the instructor. Do not use pagers, cell phones, communicators, signal fires, or other disruptive communicative devices during class. Turn off such annoying hindrances to the learning process before class begins. Frequent violations of this rule will result in a lowered class participation grade and egregious violations may result in the instructor lowering the student's semester grade. No profanity, sleeping, talking that interrupts the instructor, lewd, rude, or socially unacceptable

behavior (and even some socially acceptable behavior may not be allowed in class). "Free love" should not be practiced in this class—hands off others and yourself. Remember, although the United States practices democracy in the form of a representative constitutional republic, this class is a benevolent dictatorship. If student conduct becomes unacceptable, the instructor will ask the student to leave and not return. Especially in this year of COVID—mute your microphone if you are watching the class via Zoom.

Calendar of Instruction	Format	Readings
Aug. 23, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Discussion of Course and Syllabus	None
Aug. 25, Wednesday	Video: Newsom Biography Video: Module 01 Lecture 01 Transcontinental Railroads	OTP Ch. 16
Aug. 30, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Old West and Gilded Age Tech	
Sept. 01, Wednesday	Video: Module 01 Lecture 02 Politics of the Gilded Age 01 Video: Module 01 Lecture 03 Politics of the Gilded Age 02	OTP Ch. 17 OTP Ch. 18
Sept. 06, Monday	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)</b>	
Sept. 08, Wednesday	Video: Module 01 Lecture 04 Politics of the Gilded Age 03 Video: Module 01 Lecture 04 Politics of the Gilded Age 04	OTP Ch. 18 to pg. 576
Sept. 13, Monday	<b>Exam #1 for Module 01</b>	
Sept. 15, Wednesday	Video: Module 02 Lecture 01 Stirrings of Empire 01 Video: Module 02 Lecture 02 Stirrings of Empire 02 Video: Module 02 Lecture 03 Stirrings of Empire 03 Video: Module 02 Lecture 04 Stirrings of Empire 04	OTP Ch. 18 from pg. 576
Sept. 20, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Technology of Imperialism	
Sept. 22, Wednesday	Video: Module 02 Lecture 05 Progressivism 01 Video: Module 02 Lecture 06 Progressivism 02 Video: Module 02 Lecture 07 Progressivism 03	OTP Ch. 19
Sept. 27, Monday	<b>Exam #2 for Module 02</b>	
Sept. 29, Wednesday	Video: Module 03 Lecture 01 World War I 01 Video: Module 03 Lecture 02 World War I 02 Video: Module 03 Lecture 03 World War I 03	OTP Ch. 20
Oct. 04, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Technology of World War I	
Oct. 06, Wednesday	Video: Module 03 Lecture 04 Roaring Twenties 01 Video: Module 03 Lecture 05 Roaring Twenties 02 Video: Module 03 Lecture 06 Roaring Twenties 03 Video: Module 03 Lecture 07 Great Depression	OTP Ch. 21 OTP Ch. 22
Oct. 11, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: The Rise of Consumerism	
Oct. 13, Wednesday	Video: Module 03 Lecture 08 World War II 01 Video: Module 03 Lecture 09 World War II 02 Video: Module 03 Lecture 10 World War II 03 Video: Module 03 Lecture 11 World War II 04 Video: Module 03 Lecture 12 World War II 05	OTP Ch. 23
Oct. 18, Monday	<b>Exam #3 for Module 03</b>	
Oct. 20, Wednesday	Video: Module 04 Lecture 01 Origins of the Cold War 01 Video: Module 04 Lecture 02 Origins of the Cold War 02 Video: Module 04 Lecture 03 Korean War	OTP Ch. 24

Oct. 25, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: The Space Race	
Oct. 27, Wednesday	Video: Module 04 Lecture 04 Eisenhower and the Affluent Society	OTP Ch. 25
	Video: Module 04 Lecture 05 Eisenhower's Foreign Policy	OTP Ch. 26
	Video: Module 04 Lecture 06 The New Frontier	
Nov. 01, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Technology of the Vietnam War	
Nov. 03, Wednesday	Video: Module 04 Lecture 07 The Great Society	
	Video: Module 04 Lecture 08 Vietnam 01	
	Video: Module 04 Lecture 09 Vietnam 02	
Nov. 08, Monday	<b>Exam #4 for Module 04</b>	
Nov. 10, Wednesday	Video: Module 05 Lecture 01 Nixon and Watergate	OTP Ch. 27
	Video: Module 05 Lecture 02 Ford and Carter	
Nov. 15, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Technological Revolution	
Nov. 17, Wednesday	Video: Module 05 Lecture 03 Reagan Revolution	
	Video: Module 05 Lecture 04 G. H. W. Bush and Desert Storm	OTP Ch. 28
Nov. 22, Monday	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>	
Nov. 24, Wednesday	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASS)</b>	
Nov. 29, Monday	Face-to-Face/Live Zoom: Barbarians at the Gates	
Dec. 01, Wednesday	Video: Module 05 Lecture 05 The Clinton Years	OTP Ch. 29
	Video: Module 05 Lecture 06 The George W. Bush Years	OTP Ch. 30
Dec. 06, Monday	<b>STUDY DAY: NO CLASS</b>	
Dec. 08, Wednesday (2:45-4:45)	<b>Final Exam for Module 05</b>	