

HIST 4389 (60) – US Since 1945

Fall 2021

Dr. Mary Linehan

Contact: Because of ADA accommodations, I do not live in Texas anymore. But, I believe in being super responsive to my students. If you do not receive a reply in 24 hours complain, loudly. It is best that you use canvas messaging and not uttyler email (less competition from junk mail). I also can be reached by phone at 419-205-7422 (voice mail). Feel free to text too, but include your name. I get an unbelievable amount of anonymous texts!!!

How to do well in this class

1. Read everything that is required. This includes the text, the intros to the modules, the instructions, the comments that are returned with every essay, and the group messages I send the class. I am really trying to help.
2. Remember that history is not now. The US in 1945 or 1965 or 1985 is not the US we have today. People believed and acted differently in the past.

Basics

1. Read the syllabus, read the module introductions, read the comments that will be included on every returned essay, read the book (!), and read every message sent to the class. You will be responsible for all this information. If there is a video posted for a particular week, that is also a required part of the instruction in this course.
2. There will be a 50-point essay due every Friday, beginning on August 30th.
3. Each student will complete 10 (and only 10) of the quizzes. Chapters 1,2, 5, and 7 are required. Also, check out chapter 14 early. You will be glad you did.
4. Each essay is worth 50 points, so there are 500 points available. You will need to earn 450 for an A, 400 for a B, and 350 for a C.
5. All the instructions for the essays are included in the “Essay Instructions” in the “getting Started” module. The instructions are the same for all of the essays.
6. There will be extra credit, but you will need to look for it (in plain sight). See week 0 for starters
7. I am a very hands-on professor and I will be communicating with you a lot. Read!!!

Required Text

Zaretsky, et al, *Major Problems in American History Since 1945* (4th ed)

Objectives

•Students will describe the impact of WWII and the Cold War on American civic life and world affairs.

- Students will describe the changing roles of gender, race, class, religion, and sexuality since 1945
- Students will explain the problems of economic growth and the associated issues of unequal distribution of wealth in the creation of modern America.
- Students will evaluate Great Society policies and reforms and the turn against New Deal Liberalism by the 1970s.
- Students will describe how US hegemony influenced domestic and global politics

Course Outline

There will be an essay due each Friday. The instructions are posted in the modules and will remain the same for all of the quizzes. You may skip 4 quizzes. You may not skip chapters 1,2,5, or 7. These chapters are not more significant than the others. They just coincide with dates faculty need to report attendance or grades.

August 29: Chapter 0, Tyler in 1955 – EXTRA CREDIT

September 5: Chapter 1, Origins of the Cold War, CANNOT SKIP

September 12: Chapter 2, The Consumer's Republic – CANNOT SKIP

September 19: Chapter 3, To the Brink

September 26: Chapter 4, Equality, Freedom, Power

October 3: Chapter 5, The Great Society and Liberal Reform – CANNOT SKIP

October 10: Chapter 6, The New Radicalism of the 1960s

October 17: Chapter 7, From the Feminine Mystique to Women's Liberation – CANNOT SKIP

October 24: Chapter 8, Vietnam and the Crisis of American Power

October 31: Chapter 9, A New Age of Limits

November 7: Chapter 10, The Politics and Popular Culture of the 1980s

November 14: Chapter 11, Late Capitalism and the Rise of Globalization

November 21: Chapter 12, The 1990s and Post Cold War Priorities

December 5: Chapter 13, A Post Racial America or a New Jim Crow

December 5: Chapter 14, The US in the World Since 9/11 – this chapter opens 11/1

Methodology

If you have not taken History for a while, the writing methodology for History takes time to develop. That's why I encourage rough drafts. Be patient with yourself, but be proactive. Read the comments on every essay, ask questions, read the intro to each module, look at the first few model essays, submit rough drafts. I promise it gets much easier. Often, the best essays in class are NOT

written by History majors. Indeed, more than half of you are not historians (though I am hopeful you will come over to our side).

Rough Drafts

I encourage, and am happy to read, rough drafts. I view this as an essential (though not required) aspect of improving your skills in History. I also strongly believe individualized instruction and, in a large class, this is as close as we can come. Rough drafts are due by 10am on Thursdays. I can't predict your grade, but I can tell you if you have interpreted the question correctly, if your answer is complete, or if you overlooked something key. Often, just doing drafts for the first couple of essays gives you the practice and confidence you need to soar to As on all the future essays.

Extra Credit

In addition to Chapter 0, I sometimes throw out little 5-point bonuses to see who is paying attention. You will find them if you read everything you are required to read.

Communication

One last thing about communication. It is very important to me and I want to answer your messages. However, you need to be careful to **change the subject line of a canvas message to your own name**. If you just reply or use something common (like first essay) your message will be added to a thread. Canvas only tells us the first person alphabetically to respond to the thread and ALL their messages will be placed ahead of the second person's. I become very confused by this and am not always able to tell there are new messages from different students. Also, if all messages have your name in the subject line it is a million times easier to find what you send in and to be responsive.

Historians of Tyler

Some of you still may remember Facebook? I run a Facebook group called Historians of Tyler (this week, look for a cute white dog), which I encourage you to join. Most of the members are UT History alums and local historians. I am trying to forge connections and relationships that will be useful to your professional life. I also try to post things (and encourage you to do so) that will spark conversation of history. We are in a "quiet phase" right now, so your contributions are especially welcome. This is a way for you to stay connected so I can write you an amazing letter of recommendation that shows I know you (much better than a generic lor). Finally, as you may know, the field of History is not as well-known and appreciated as other Liberal Arts majors (even though we get the highest salaries). I use the things you submit to HOTTIES (Historians of Tyler) to brag on you with the administration and remind them that our graduates are all employed and doing amazing things in the world. Please check us out!!!!

