

## **A HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN U.S. SOCIETY SINCE 1865**

**Course Description:** A survey of the ways technology and innovation have impacted and transformed the U.S.'s economic, political, and social development since the Civil War and Reconstruction.

### **Course Logistics and Instructor Contact Information:**

Course Number and Section: **HIST 1303.001** (21101)

Scheduled Class Days and Times: **MW 2:30-3:55, Arts & Sciences Building, Room 00104.**

The first class meeting is Wednesday, January 17. Final exam week runs April 29-May 3.

### **Instructor Name: Dr. Jeffrey Owens**

Phone Number: 903-510-2448

Email: [jowens@uttyler.edu](mailto:jowens@uttyler.edu)

Best way to contact: Email

Office hours: I can stay up to 20 minutes after class (till 4:15) to answer questions. My physical office is at Tyler Junior College, Jenkins Hall 115.

### **Course Information:**

#### **Textbook:**

McGerr, Michael, et. al . Of the People: A History of the United States. (5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press. Vol. 2). ISBN 978-0-19-758615-0.

#### **Methods of Evaluation:**

This is a lecture course, with assigned readings in the textbook. Attendance is crucial, because 85-90% of the point value of each exam is based on the lectures. Ten to 15% of the point value of exams is based on assigned readings in the textbook.

**The course grade will be the average of three exams and a paper based on a site visit.**

**Each exam (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Final) will count as 25% of the course grade.** An essay that you write during the test period will count as 50-60% of the test grade. You will have the essay questions well in advance of the exam date, and we will go over them in class, during lectures, to see how to answer the essay questions. Forty to 50% of the point value of each exam will be based on objective questions, such as matching, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, T/F, or short answer. The essay portion of each exam will be written in a blue book. The objective portion of each exam will be written on paper that I provide.

**The Site Visit paper will count as 25%.** The paper will report on your visit to an industrial facility, and will include your research into the products, history, and/or production processes of the business you visit. Use endnotes to cite your sources, which would include an interview or interviews at the plant. The paper will be typed, double-spaced, with a font size not less than twelve, written in your own words with minimal quotations, and no shorter than six full pages. Choose a location to visit by the first week of February and email me the name of the facility and of a contact person who will meet you there.

**Announcements, Handouts, Study Guides, and Course Materials will be posted in Canvas,** and may sometimes be distributed in class as paper copies. Essay questions will be used as lecture prompts. We will sometimes read aloud from, and discuss, lecture handouts. **I write on the board a great deal when**

**I teach, but seldom use PowerPoints for course content.** I may use PowerPoint slides and videos to highlight the inventions and technology aspect of the course. The historical narrative itself will be addressed during lectures, without PowerPoint.

There will be extra credit opportunities during the semester, but not for more than five points per exam. If a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to find out what was covered in the lectures missed. It's recommended that you introduce yourselves to each other and perhaps share contact information, in case you need help from classmates.

**Week by Week Schedule of Topics. The impact of inventions and technology will be woven into the larger political, economic, and social narrative of the era discussed.**

Week One: Getting acquainted, syllabus review, Recap of the Civil War & Reconstruction. Chapter 15

Week Two: Early Gilded Age politics, Entrepreneurs and Industrialists. Chapter 16

Week Three: Labor & immigration, Cleveland and Harrison. New Democrats & the "party of sympathy." Chapters 17 & 18

Week Four: Imperialism & the Spanish-American War. Chapter 18

Week Five: [Test One]. Then, Theodore Roosevelt & Progressivism. Chapter 19

Week Six: Wilson's administration and the background of WWI. Chapter 20

Week Seven: Aspects of WWI, Normalcy. Chapter 20

Week Eight: The Roaring Twenties and Hoover's Depression. Chapter 21 & 22

Week Nine: Franklin Roosevelt, & the New Deal. Chapter 22

Week Ten: [Test Two]. Then, Context and background of WWII. Chapter 23

Week Eleven: WWII, its end, and its impact on America. Chapter 23

Week Twelve: The Cold War, the Truman Doctrine, origins of globalization. Chapter 24 & 25

Week Thirteen: Civil Rights & the Sixties--Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon. Chapters 26 & 27

Week Fourteen: Reagan & Resurgent Nationalism. Chapter 28

Week Fifteen: Recent History of the USA in a Global Context. Chapters 29 & 30 [Final Exam]