

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#) [Edit](#)

Course Logistics and Instructor Contact Information

Course Title: **A History of Technology and Innovation in U.S. Society since 1865**
Course Number and Section: **HIST 1303.001 (21110)**
Scheduled Class Days and Times: **Monday and Wednesday, 2:30-3:55 in Arts and Sciences 104**

Instructor Name: **Dr. Jeffrey Owens**
Office Location: No physical office at UT-Tyler.
Phone Number: 903-510-2448
Email: jowens@uttyler.edu
Best way to contact: Email

Office Hours: I can stay up to 20 minutes after class at UT-Tyler (till 4:15) to answer questions, or you can come to my physical office at Tyler Junior College, Jenkins Hall 115, until 6:00.

Course Information

Textbook:

McGerr, Michael, et. al. **Of the People: A History of the United States**. (5th 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.

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

a. **For this course, AI is not permitted at all.**

Example 1: I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

- b. Example 2: To best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment.
- c. Example 3: The work submitted by students in this course will be generated by themselves. This includes all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, editing, and final products. This extends to group assignments where students must create collaboratively create the project. Any instance of the following constitutes a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code: a student has another person/entity do any portion of a graded assignment, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, using a previously submitted assignment and/or using AI tools (such as ChatGPT).

Each exam (1st, 2nd, and Final) has 100 points, and each exam counts 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 in advance of the exam date, and we will go over them in class 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 is worth 100 points, and will count as 25% of the course grade. It is not optional or extra credit. The paper will report on a visit to an industrial facility that you scheduled and made during this semester. Your paper 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 larger than twelve, written in your own words with minimal quotations, and no shorter than five to six full pages. Choose a location to visit by the end of March and email me the name 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. I will use videos to highlight the inventions and technology aspect of the course.

There may 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 some form of 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 being discussed).

Week One, Jan. 13 & 15. Getting acquainted, syllabus review, Recap of the Civil War & Reconstruction. Chapter 15

Week Two, Jan. 22. The 20th is the MLK holiday and Inauguration Day, but we meet on the 22nd. We'll look at Gilded Age politics, entrepreneurs and industrialists. Chapter 16

Week Three, Jan. 27 & 29. Labor and immigration, Cleveland & Harrison. New Democrats and "the party of sympathy." Chapters 17 & 18

Week Four, Feb. 3 & 5. Imperialism and the Spanish-American War. Chapter 18

Week Five, Feb. 10 & 12. First Exam, then Theodore Roosevelt & Progressivism. Chapter 19

Week Six, Feb. 17 & 19. Wilson's administration and the background of WWI. Chapter 20

Week Seven, Feb. 24 & 26. Aspects of WWI & its technology, "Normalcy." Chapter 20

Week Eight, March 3 & 5. The Roaring Twenties and Hoover's Depression. Chapters 21 & 22

Week Nine, March 10 & 12. Franklin Roosevelt & the New Deal. Second Exam. Chapter 22

Spring Break is March 17-21.

Week Ten, March 24 & 26. Context and Background of World War II. Chapter 23

Week Eleven, March 31 & April 2. WWII, its end, its manufacturing, and its impact on the USA. Chapter 23

Week Twelve, April 7 & 9. The Cold War, the Truman Doctrine, origins of globalization. Chapters 24 & 25

Week Thirteen, April 14 & 16. Civil Rights and the Sixties--Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon. Chapters 26 & 27

Week Fourteen: April 21 & 23. Reagan to Trump--Recent History of the USA, with resurgent nationalism in a global context, with transformational inventions. Chapters 29 & 30

The AI policy for this course is that it will not be used in any capacity for the production of graded assignments. Test essays will be hand-written during an in-person testing

period. Makeup exams must be arranged with me and taken in person. The site-visit paper will be your own original work.

The purchase of the textbook is encouraged. Approximately 12-15 points on all three exams will be based on textbook questions, about which I will not lecture. Only students who read the chapters would know the answers. Therefore, it is not possible to make an "A" in the course without reading the chapters. There will be two chapters assigned from the textbook for each of the three exams.

[Student Resources](#)

[University Policies and Information](#)

Course Summary:

Date	Details
	Assignment Final Exam
	Assignment First Exam
	Assignment Industrial Site Visit Paper
	Assignment Second Exam