

HIST 1302.460: United States History II (Online)

University of Texas at Tyler
Summer II 2025 (July 7-August 9)

Instructor: Prof. Stith
Email: mstith@uttyler.edu
Office: CAS 127 (UT-Tyler)
Office Hours: By Appointment

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.” ~Albert Einstein

Course Description:

We will explore American history from the beginning of Reconstruction (1865) to the end of the Vietnam War and beyond. In doing so, we will examine social, political, environmental, cultural, diplomatic, and military history and how each together shaped the course of American history.

Content Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a strong understanding of the development of the United States in both a domestic and global context.
2. Develop analytical skills through thinking deeply, reading actively, and writing carefully about American history.
3. Gain a strong sense of scholarly skepticism by balancing everything with hefty amounts of context and perspective.
4. Appreciate and understand that accurate interpretations can only rest on ample and sturdy evidence.

Important Note:

I encourage you to meet with me regularly to discuss or clarify lecture, discussion, or reading—or to talk about American history in general. My job (and satisfaction) is as much to work with students on an individual basis as it is to lecture and facilitate discussion. Please keep this in mind throughout the semester.

Another Important Note:

When you finish this course, my goal is for you to have a strong understanding of the major themes, characters, and connections in the story of America, and I hope you will recognize how enormously impactful this period has been (and remains) in our world today—politically, militarily, environmentally, diplomatically, socially, culturally, and so on. To fully understand and appreciate any story, it is imperative that you know the characters and events in that story. So, you must commit to memory a lot of material (characters and events) for this class. What class/subject does not require that you remember things? This said, I recognize and appreciate that specific names, events, etc., fade in time. They fade for me, too. That’s okay. This stuff is the scaffolding. Like scaffolding for any structure, real or perceived, it is important early on, but it is not meant to stay forever—just long enough so that the finished product emerges in all its glory and remains for the ages. Simply put, the finished product for this course is your general understanding and appreciation for the American past—an understanding and appreciation that I hope will remain long after the details fade.

Required Reading:

- Textbook: Joseph Locke and Ben Wright, *American Yamp*, Vol. 2 (Stanford University Press, 2019)
 - o Free Open Education Resource—Full PDF Available in Canvas or at:

- (Read Chapter 15 ONLY): https://www.americanyawp.com/text/wp-content/uploads/Locke_American-Yawp_V1.pdf
 - (Volume 2): https://www.americanyawp.com/text/wp-content/uploads/Locke_American-Yawp_V2.pdf
- Primary Sources: Interviews with Marvin Mathiak and Gonzalo Baltazar, The Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University.
- Free at <https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu>. Full-Text available on Canvas.

Quizzes:

There will be FIVE short multiple choice/true-false quizzes worth 10 points each. There are ten questions on each quiz. You will have ten minutes to finish the quiz. Quizzes are designed to help familiarize you with at least some of the important material that will be on the exams. You will have TWO chances to take each quiz, and the highest score will be recorded. All quizzes will be posted by noon on Tuesdays and will be due by 11:59pm on Friday nights. See the below schedule for specific due dates.

Exams:

There will be TWO exams each consisting of 30 multiple-choice questions and one short essay question over the brief video lectures, textbook, and/or module notes for each module. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Vietnam Essay:

Using the two transcribed interviews from Texas Tech University's Online Vietnam Center and Archive (Full-Text Available in Canvas), write a 1,300-word, double-spaced essay about any theme or idea that most intrigues you—from soldier experience in combat to the natural environment, etc. Detailed instructions will be distributed early in the semester. The assignment is worth 50 points. See schedule below for the due date.

Point Breakdown:

Quizzes (5 x 10 pts):	50 pts
Exams (2x100):	200 pts
<u>Vietnam Essay:</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
Total:	300 pts

Grade Scale:

270-300 = A
240-269 = B
210-239 = C
180-209 = D
000-179 = F

Online Classroom Conduct/Decorum:

Practice decorum and decency in all discussion posts and communication with fellow students and the instructor.

Make-up Policy:

I will work with you on an individual basis with regard to any missed exams, assignments, or other deadlines.

Academic Honesty *****IMPORTANT*****

Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, will result in immediate failure of the class and possibly further sanctions from the University of Texas at Tyler. Plagiarism, put simply, is using another's work as your own without proper citation or usage. This includes everything from copying and pasting from the Internet to failing to cite an idea from another source that you put in your own words. Please carefully read the university policy for cheating and academic dishonesty at the following website: <http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php>

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) is not permitted in this course. All work students submit for this course should be their own. Using ChatGPT or any other AI tools for any stage of the work process is expressly forbidden. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values and will lead to a failure of the class.

Schedule/Topic Outline:

Unit 1: Reconstruction and America's Gilded Age

- Week 1 (July 7-11)
 - o Reading/Watching: Outline; Lecture Notes; Locke and Wright, *American Yawp*, chaps. 15-17
 - o **Quiz 1** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, July 7)

Unit 2: Imperialism and Progressivism

- Week 2 (July 14-18)
 - o Reading/Watching: Outline; Lecture Notes; Locke and Wright, *American Yawp*, chaps. 18-20
 - o **Quiz 2** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, July 18)

Unit 3: War, Prosperity, Depression, and the New Deal

- Week 3 (July 21-25)
 - o Reading/Watching: Outline; Lecture Notes; Oakes, Locke and Wright, *American Yawp*, chaps. 21-23
 - o **Quiz 3** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, July 25)
 - o **Exam I** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, July 27)

Unit 4: World War II, the Cold War, and Consumer Society

- Week 4 (July 28-August 1)
 - o Reading/Watching: Outline; Lecture Notes; Locke and Wright, *American Yawp*, chaps. 24-26
 - o **Quiz 4** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, August 1)

Unit 5: Civil Rights and Vietnam

- Week 5 (August 4-8)
 - o Reading/Watching: Outline; Lecture Notes; Locke and Wright, *American Yawp*, chaps. 27-29
 - o **Quiz 5** (Due by 11:59pm, Friday, August 8)
 - o **Exam II** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, August 10)
 - o **Vietnam Essay** (Due by 11:59pm, Sunday, August 10)