

HIST 4388: America During the World Wars

Introduction:

This course is the study of American history from 1917 to 1945, which includes America's responses to the challenges of World War I, the social conflicts of the 1920s, the causes and effects of the Great Depression, and American involvement in World War II.

Instructor: Dr. M. Rhys Dotson

Email: mdotson@uttyler.edu

Office: CAS 117

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-9:00 **or** by appointment

Note on emails: If you reach out to me during the week, I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. If you contact me on the weekend **or** during a scheduled university break, I will do my **best** to respond to you within 48 hours.

Suggested Text:

Locke, Joseph L., and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Vol. 2, Since 1877*. Stanford University Press, 2019.

Course Objectives:

Upon finishing this course, students will be able to:

- Highlight shifts in governmental and public sentiment in responses to major global conflicts between 1917 and 1945
- Examine the social dynamics and cultural movements that emerged between 1917 and 1945
- Evaluate the economic fluctuations and challenges faced between 1917 and 1945, considering their impact on various groups and the national landscape

Expectations and Etiquette:

Everyone, including the professor, in this course is expected to demonstrate mutual respect for one another. I encourage you to develop your own ideas and viewpoints on topics discussed in class; however, it's essential to understand that not everyone will share your perspective. Disagreements are permitted, as long as they are communicated respectfully and thoughtfully.

Should the professor deem your conduct inappropriate, you will be referred to the appropriate campus administrator and/or campus police.

Methods of Evaluation:

Attendance (15%) – Class attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every class meeting. If students are *more* than 10 minutes late to class, they will be counted as absent. To account for emergencies and/or illnesses, each student will receive *six* excused absences. If a student will miss a class due to a university-sponsored event, they *must* notify the instructor *in advance*. Missing class for a university-sponsored event does *not* count towards the excused absences.

Following a missed class, students are *not* required to provide the professor with a doctor's note and/or any other forms of documentation.

Short Answer Responses (20%) – Throughout the semester you will read and consider a series of primary documents. After reading these documents, you will complete a series of short answer responses, which should be *at a minimum* of three sentences, but should not *exceed* ten sentences.

Group Project (25%) – At the beginning of the semester, the professor will divide students into groups and they will be tasked with researching a specific topic. Each group will produce a physical, visual representation of their work, which the group will formally present to their peers.

Exams (40%) – There will be two major exams in this course: a midterm and a final. Both exams will include a variety of question formats, including but not limited to, short answer, true/false, multiple-choice, and essay.

Grade Scale:

A: ≥ 89.5
 B: 79.5 - 89.4
 C: 69.5 - 79.4
 D: 59.5 - 69.4
 F: $59.4 \leq$

Key Dates:

August 24:	First Day of Class
September 7:	Labor Day/No Class
November 6:	Group Projects Due
November 23-27:	Thanksgiving Break
December 7:	Final Exam

Note: At the end of the semester, final grades will not be rounded up.

Class Schedule at a Glance:

Week 1 – August 24 – Course Introductions & America on the Eve of War

Week 2 – August 31 – Mobilizing for War

Week 3 – September 7 – The Homefront: Labor and Migration

Week 4 – September 14 – Dissent and Repression

Week 5 – September 21 – The Fractured Peace: Race, Fear, and Backlash

Week 6 – September 28 – The New Era: Consumer Culture and Modernity

Week 7 – October 5 – The Harlem Renaissance and Black Political Thought

Week 8 – October 12 – Nativism, Religion, and the Politics of Identity

Week 9 – October 19 – Crash and Crisis: The Social Meaning of Collapse

Week 10 – October 26 – FDR and the Political Realignment of the New Deal

Week 11 – November 2 – The New Deal Continues

Week 12 – November 9 – Depression-Era Culture and the “People”

Week 13 – November 16 – The Homefront and War: Identity Remade

Week 14 – November 23 – Thanksgiving Break - Campus Closed

Week 15 – November 30 – Legacies: The War’s Social and Political Aftermath

Week 16 – December 7 – Final Exam Week

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & This Course:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools’ ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler’s Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy.

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