History 134.005 -- U.S. History Survey, 1877-Present

Syllabus, Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Troy Davis
Department: History
Office: 309, Liberal Arts North
Office Hours: MW 9:00-9:50 a.m., 2:00-3:00 p.m.; TR 9:30-10:20; and by appointment
Office Phone: 468-2229 or 468-3802
E-Mail: TDavis@sfasu.edu
Class Meeting Time and Place: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m., Ferguson 472
SI Leader: Deborah Crown
SI meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00-7:50 p.m. in Lumberjack Landing Room 139H


Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family, by Yoshiko Uchida

Course description for History 134 from SFA General Bulletin: Comprehensive survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Meets Texas state requirements for all graduates.

Course grade: Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on four equally weighted exams. The fourth exam will be administered during finals week, but it will be non-cumulative. Each exam will be a combination of objective questions and short essay questions.

Attendance policy: Regular attendance is an important part of the educational experience in any university-level course. Accordingly, your final average in this course will be dropped three percentage points for each absence beyond six. In addition, in order to discourage excessive tardiness, which is distracting to both the instructor and other students, two tardies will be treated as the equivalent of one absence. (If you have to leave any class meeting early for some legitimate reason, please notify Dr. Davis of that fact before the class period begins. Otherwise, you will be counted absent for that class period.)

Makeup policy: Makeup exams will be allowed only in documented cases of emergency. If you fail to show up for an exam without having consulted with Dr. Davis beforehand (or without having called the History Department beforehand in an attempt to consult with Dr. Davis), you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. Makeup exams that are allowed will be administered during the last week of classes and will follow an all-essay format.

Policy on cheating: Cheating is an extremely serious offense and will not be tolerated in this course. Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. A full description of university procedures in response to cheating and plagiarism can be found on-line at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/. Click on Policy 4.1 “Student Academic Dishonesty.”
Students with disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disability services/.

Cell phones: Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices before coming to class.

Classroom conduct: Unprofessional or inappropriate behavior, especially any that might distract or demoralize other students or interfere with their learning (side conversations, texting, sleeping in class, etc.), may result in your being asked to leave the classroom.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Topic 1 — The Gilded Age. Tindall and Shi, chapter 21.

Topic 2 — American Imperialism. Tindall and Shi, chapter 22.

Topic 3 — Progressivism. Tindall and Shi, chapter 23.

Topic 4 — The United States and the Great War. Tindall and Shi, chapter 24. (Also, have Honest Graft completed by the date of the first exam.)

February 17 — First exam: Will cover Topics 1-4, plus Honest Graft.


Topic 6 — FDR and the New Deal. Tindall and Shi, chapter 27.

Topic 7 — American Isolationism and World Crisis. Tindall and Shi, first half of chapter 28.

March 21 — Second Exam: Will cover Topics 5-7.

Topic 8 — The United States in World War II. Tindall and Shi, second half of chapter 28.


Topic 10 — The Eisenhower Years. Tindall and Shi, chapter 30. (Also, have Desert Exile completed by the date of the third exam.)

April 20 — Third Exam: Will cover Topics 8-10, plus Desert Exile.


Topic 13 — Into a New Millennium: Recent Developments in American History. Tindall and Shi, chapter 34.

Monday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Fourth Exam: Will cover Topics 11-13.
Additional Information on Learning Outcomes and University Policies Relevant to this Course

Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
HIS 134 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives towards both the general goals of the core and the specific objectives for classes designated for inclusion in the American History Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Courses in this Foundational Component Area focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States.

Courses in this area, such as HIS 134, include instruction in the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

In addition to learning the above, students in HIS 134 will demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information about this period of history.
- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written and visual communication.
- Gain intercultural competence, a knowledge of civic responsibility, and an awareness of how humans in the past have engaged effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical decisions.

General Education Core Curriculum
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Academic Integrity (A-9.I)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades (Semester Grades Policy, A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.