

Lamar State College Orange

HIST 1302: The History of the United States Since 1877



Office Hours & Communication

- **Instructor:** Charlie H. Davis
- **Office:** AB 105.6
- **Hours:** MTWR: 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM (*also available by appointment*)
- **Virtual Hours:** Held via Blackboard Collaborate by appointment.
- **Communication Requirement:** To ensure a prompt and accurate response, please include your **name, course, and section number** in all emails.



Course Description

This course offers a survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present. HIST 1302 examines crucial historical shifts, including industrialization, immigration, world wars, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War eras. Key themes include American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological and economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and U.S. foreign policy.



Textbook & Required Materials

- **Optional Textbook:** Locke, Joseph, and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp*. Vol. 2. Stanford University Press, 2020. Available free at americanyawp.com.
- **Technology Requirements:** This course requires regular internet access and a general proficiency with web browsers (Firefox or Google Chrome) and Microsoft Word. LSCO provides computer labs and internet access at various campus locations if needed.
- **Testing Equipment:** Online exams require **Respondus LockDown Browser** (provided in Blackboard) and a **webcam**.



Note: If you prefer not to purchase a webcam, you may take your exams in the campus Testing Center. Please inform me in advance so I can make the necessary arrangements.



Grading & Evaluation Method

All students begin the semester with zero (0) points. Your grade improves as you successfully accumulate points based on the assignments below.

Note: The final grade column in Blackboard is for informational purposes only. I calculate all official course grades by hand to ensure absolute accuracy.

Assignment Weights

Assignment	Point Value	Percentage of Final Grade
Unit Examinations (4)	70 points each	56%
Course Project (1)	100 points	20%
Final Exam / Reflection	120 points	24%
Total	500 Points	100%

Grading Scale

Points Accumulated Letter Grade

450 to 500 points	A
400 to 445 points	B
350 to 395 points	C
300 to 345 points	D
000 to 295 points	F



Overview of Major Assignments

The standard course relies on two primary types of assessment.

- **Unit Examinations:** Four formal assessments that test your mastery of unit concepts.
- **Final Exam:** A comprehensive examination measuring basic historical knowledge alongside your ability to analyze the social, political, cultural, intellectual, and global forces shaping modern U.S. history.

Depending on the semester's focus, I will select one major project from the options below. Check Blackboard for explicit instructions regarding your assigned project.

- **Decades Project:** Teams select a specific decade within the scope of this course and construct a historical newspaper exploring the political, economic, and foreign policy events of that era.
- **Interview Project:** Students interview a historical subject, record the interaction, write a brief introduction, and justify their selection of the interviewee.

- **Book Review:** An analytical review of a history book of your choice, evaluating the author's core historical argument and use of sources.
- **Memory Quest:** A local fieldwork project where students locate community historical markers and analyze the events that shaped local history.

Course Workload & Expectations

Your time commitment scales depending on the length of the academic term:

- **Standard 16-Week Course:** Expect to spend roughly 3 to 4 hours per week studying and completing assignments outside of class, totaling a minimum of 330 minutes (5.5 hours) of dedicated course engagement per week.
- **Condensed 8-Week Course:** This track condenses a full semester of material into a short timeframe. Expect a significantly higher weekly volume of reading and assignments. Plan to spend at least **660 minutes (11 hours) per week** on the course. *Essentially, you must complete twice the work in half the time.*

Course Policies

1. Attendance & Deadlines

- **Participation:** You must actively participate in course activities and submit assignments on time to earn course credit.
- **Late Projects:** I do **not** accept late submissions for Book Reviews, Projects, or Term Papers. Check the Blackboard calendar closely for exact deadlines.

2. Exam Rescheduling

- **Face-to-Face / Hybrid Classes:** If you cannot attend class on a scheduled exam day, you must contact me **before** the exam starts to arrange a makeup window. Missing an exam without prior communication results in an automatic zero.
- **Online Classes:** If a scheduling conflict or technical issue prevents you from taking an online exam, you have **three (3) calendar days** from the due date to contact me and request a reset. Unexcused missed exams cannot be made up.
- **Exam Review:** I do not review exams during regular class time. To review your performance, please schedule an appointment to meet during my posted office hours.

3. Grade Review Policy

If you wish to dispute or review a grade, you must contact me within **three (3) calendar days** of receiving it. If you do not receive a timely response, you may escalate the matter to my immediate supervisor, Mr. Eric Owens, Chair of Communications and Liberal Arts (eric.owens@lsco.edu).

Academic Honesty & AI Policy

Faculty members will enforce strict academic penalties for violations involving cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or the abuse of resource materials. This syllabus stands as your official notification of your right to appeal an academic penalty.

When testing online, the proctoring software logs student behavior. The instructor considers the following actions as direct evidence of cheating or a violation of academic integrity:

- Failure to present a valid photo ID at the start of an exam.
- Failure to properly record your testing environment when prompted.
- Disabling, blocking, or obscuring the camera or microphone.
- Deliberately moving your face out of the camera's field of view or frequently looking away from the screen.
- Reading exam questions aloud (which can signal an active electronic recording device or hidden assistant).
- **Utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms to generate answers to test questions.**
- Possessing prohibited items (notes, books, cheat sheets, cell phones, or secondary devices).
- Testing in an environment with active background noise, music, or conversation.

*Any flagged incident report from the proctoring service may result in an immediate academic penalty or an administrative drop from the course with an **F**.*

(Policy framework adapted from the syllabus of Dr. Matthew McClure)

Course Topical Outline

Unit One: A Nation in Transition, 1870 to 1900

- **Module 01.01:** Business Practices and Political Corruption, 1870 to 1900
- **Module 01.02:** The Old West, 1870 to 1900
- **Module 01.03:** The Indian Wars, 1860 to 1870
- **Module 01.04:** American Imperialism, 1890 to 1907
- **Module 01.05:** New Political Movements, 1870 to 1912
- **Module 01.06:** America and the Great War, 1912 to 1920

Unit Two: The Interwar Period, 1920 to 1941

- **Module 02.01:** The Return to Normalcy, 1920 to 1928

- **Module 02.02:** The Roaring '20s
- **Module 02.03:** The Great Depression, 1926 to 1941
- **Module 02.04:** The New Deal, 1932 to 1939
- **Module 02.05:** American Foreign Policy, 1920 to 1940

Unit Three: The Second World War, 1939 to 1945

- **Module 03.01:** The Road to War, 1935 to 1941
- **Module 03.02:** The United States Joins the Allies, 1941 to 1942
- **Module 03.03:** The Homefront, 1941 to 1945
- **Module 03.04:** Allied Victory in Europe, 1943 to 1945
- **Module 03.05:** Island Hopping, 1943 to 1945

Unit Four: The Cold War and Global Influence, 1945 to 1989

- **Module 04.01:** Truman and the Origins of the Cold War, 1945 to 1953
- **Module 04.02:** American Culture, 1945 to 1959
- **Module 04.03:** Reform and Protest, 1954 to 1970
- **Module 04.04:** The Cold War Heats Up, 1953 to 1962
- **Module 04.05:** The Vietnam Conflict, 1955 to 1975
- **Module 04.06:** Malaise and Conservative Resurgence, 1975 to 1989

Alignment of Course Learning Objectives

The matrix below maps out how specific classroom tasks align with college-wide institutional goals.

Course Learning Objective	Core Educational Objective	Aligned Assignments & Activities
1. Craft historical arguments based on evidence.	• Communication	• Book Review
	• Critical Thinking	• Decades Project
	• Empirical & Quantitative Skills	• Interview Project
2. Analyze both primary and secondary documents.	• Communication	• Book Review
	• Critical Thinking	• Decades Project
		• Interview Project

Course Learning Objective	Core Educational Objective	Aligned Assignments & Activities
3. Identify major historical events, people, and locations.	• Critical Thinking • Empirical & Quantitative Skills	• Unit Examinations • Lecture Quizzes • Decades / Interview Projects
4. Analyze the social, political, economic, cultural, and international factors shaping U.S. History since 1877.	• Teamwork • Communication • Critical Thinking • Personal & Social Responsibility	• Unit Examinations • Lecture Quizzes • Decades / Interview Projects
5. Examine the history of the United States in a global context.	• Communication • Critical Thinking • Empirical & Quantitative Skills	• Unit Examinations • Lecture Quizzes • Decades / Interview Projects

Institutional Resources

- **MyGator Portal:** Ensure your access to the [MyGator Portal](#) remains active to access your student email, Blackboard, and office applications.
- **Privacy Rights:** Read the full [LSCO Privacy Policy](#) for details on student records data protection.