HIST 1493: 020-028: U.S., 1865-Present (F/2013)
david.wrobel@ou.edu

Professor: David Wrobel
Office: DHT 419, (PH: 405-325-6024)
Class Location: Nielson 0270
Hours: M, 8am-12pm & 1-2pm, or by appt.
Credit Hours: 3; prereq/none

Time: T/R, 1:30-2:20PM

Section Instructor  Sections/Times  E mail
Adam Eastman (PhD)  021 (W/9:30); 024 (F/9:30)  aeastman@ou.edu
                      026 (F/10:30); 027 (F/11:30)
James Dupree (MA)   023 (W/10:30); 028 (F/11:30)  jdupree@ou.edu
Alexandria Gough (MA) 022 (W/10:30); 025 (F/9:30)  alexandria.gough@ou.edu

Course Overview: HIST 1493 covers political, economic, social and cultural developments in the U.S. from 1865 to present. We will examine the Reconstruction, Gilded Age and Progressive eras, World War I, the 1920s, Great Depression/New Deal, World War II, Cold War, culture and politics in the 1950s to 1970s, Civil Rights, Vietnam War, the Reagan years, and post-Cold-War and Post-9/11 America, and conclude with the topic of mass incarceration. Course lectures, readings and discussions emphasize the impact of ideas and beliefs—including: conservatism, liberalism, radicalism, race, religion and regionalism—on human action. The past and present are compared and contrasted throughout the course.

Course Objectives: A fuller appreciation of the last 150 years of US history will make you a better-informed citizen, better able to understand the interconnectedness of events in the present and past, and thus see how your life and world are related to those of previous generations. The course is also designed to help develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills.


Required pdf Readings: available on the D2L site and the research paper portal.


A Note on the Readings: Tim O’Brien’s *Things They Carried* is a collection of stories (some true!) about the author’s experience in the Vietnam War. Discussion of the book is on W/F, Nov 20/22; you will write an essay on it as part of the final exam (Dec 11). Each week you are required to read one or more scholarly articles, essays, or book chapters that are each paired with one or more primary documents. All of these readings are provided as pdfs; they will serve as the starting point for your research essay (paper 2). Lastly, while *America, Empire of Liberty* is a recommended rather than a required reading, it is highly recommended, and the pertinent pages are listed in the syllabus under weekly readings.
Requirements & Grading:

1000 Points Total

1st midterm, in-class (50 minutes): 15% (150 points)
2nd midterm, in-class (50 minutes): 15% (150 points)
Final exam: in-class (two hours): 20% (200 points)
Paper 1: Primary Sources (1,000 words) 10% (100 points)
Paper 2: Research Essay (2,000 words): 20% (200 points)
Attendance/Discussion: 20% (200 points)

The +/- grading system will be used for all assignments (not for final grades); the scale is:

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Exams: The exams are not intended primarily as tests of your memorization skills; rather, they are designed to gauge your understanding of the main themes and readings. The exams are tied very closely to course readings, lectures, and discussions, it is essential that you attend class, read the assigned materials carefully, and participate in discussion. If you read carefully, come to class, take good notes and regularly review and rewrite them, you will be well prepared for exams. Make-up exams will be given only in rare circumstances and only if you have a genuine, verifiable, and important excuse.

The 1st and 2nd midterms: 50-minute in-class exams, 150 points: two parts: A) 2 Triads: 50 points each (100 total). B) 25 multiple-choice questions: 2 points each (50 total).

The 2-hour non-comprehensive final, 200 points: three parts: A) 2 Triads: 50 points each (100 total). B) 25 multiple choice: 2 points each (50 total). C) Essay: 50 points.

Study guides for each exam will be available on D2L a full two weeks prior to the date.

Extra Credit: A range of extra credit opportunities will be offered this semester. You may complete up to five assignments, each worth up to 10 points (a total of 50 points).

Effective Reading: Read the assigned materials actively, not passively: if you do not understand a particular point then ask about it in the next discussion section or lecture. You will find it extremely helpful to write a brief summary and analysis of each primary document and secondary work, and should do the same for The Things They Carried.

Schedule & Assistance: T/R class sessions are lectures. Discussion sections are on W/F. Please complete all reading assignments before your discussion section. I encourage you to come to my office hours to introduce yourself and discuss matters relating to the course. You can also contact me via phone, E-mail, or the D2L site. Please also draw on the expertise of the course TA’s.
Attendance: is required in lectures and discussion sections. Absences will lower your grade because:
1. the three in-class exams (50% of your grade) draw on course lectures and readings;
2. discussion and attendance counts for 20% of your grade;
3. we will discuss the course papers (30% of your grade) in lectures and discussion;
4. You may miss a total of three classes (2 lectures and 1 discussion) without penalty or explanation; thereafter ten points are deducted for each unexcused absence.
5. you may be administratively dropped from the course if you have more than six unexcused absences from class (two weeks’ worth of class time).

D2L: Course materials including the syllabus, course calendar, lecture outlines, exam study guides, additional readings, film clips and other visual materials (e.g. maps, charts, photographs and other illustrations), and links to useful websites are available on the course D2L site. The site is easily accessible and directions will be provided on the first day of class; everyone must be signed onto the D2L site by the end of the first week of class. Please note that the site is designed to augment attendance in the class; it is not a virtual experience that can substitute for the classroom experience.

Academic Integrity: [link to website] Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language (Cleveland, 1964) states that plagiarism is “to take and pass off as one's own the ideas, writings, etc. of another.” Plagiarism is easy to spot; more importantly, it is ethically unsound. Plagiarism on the research paper (this includes purchasing a paper), turning in work that has been previously submitted for another class, or cheating on exams will result in an “F” for the assignment, notification of the Student Conduct Office and possibly an “F” for the class and further disciplinary action. All exams are closed book. Sign the integrity pledge for the essays (website address above).

Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. The Disability Resource Center provides support services to students with disabilities: see www.ou.edu/drc, or please contact Director Suzette Dyer at drc@ou.edu, 325-3852 voice, or 325-4173 TDD.

Religious Accommodations: It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Students involved in OU official extra-curricular activities should inform me at the beginning of the semester of any known scheduling conflicts.

Classroom Etiquette: Please, during class time, do not text, take phone calls, or use laptops, I-pads, tablets, or other electronic devices for anything other than class related purposes. Laptops, etc., may be used for note taking. Please do not arrive late for class, and do not leave class early without informing your TA or me of a special circumstance.
**PART ONE: 1865-1914**

**Wk 1:** T, Aug 20: Lecture 1: Course Intro + War & Reconstruction: Overview  
R, Aug 22 Lecture 2: Legacies & Changing Views of Reconstruction  
W/F, Aug 21/23: Discussion 1: Reconstruction  

*Required Reading:* Blight, “Reconstruction and Reconciliation” (2001); Reconstruction documents (for Paper 1: Primary Source Analysis)  
*Recommended Reading:* Reynolds, *America: Empire of Liberty*, Ch.8

**Wk 2:** T, Aug 27: Lecture 3: National Growth: Urban, Industrial, Demographic  
R, Aug 29: Lecture 4: World of Clashing Darwinisms/Conservatism & Liberalism  
W/F, Aug 28/30: Discussion 2: Late 19th-Century Ideas & Legacies  

*Required Reading:* Witt, “Crippled Workmen, Destitute Widows…” (2006); Sumner, “What the Social Classes Owe to Each Other”; Ward, “Mind as a Dynamic Factor”  
*Recommended Reading:* *Reynolds, America: Empire of Liberty*, Ch.9

**Wk 3:** T, Sept 3: Lecture 5: Geographic Expansion & Agrarian Revolt  
R, Sept 5: Lecture 6: War and Empire  
W/F, Sept 4/6: Discussion 3: Expansion & Empire  

*Required Reading:* Baird and Goble, “The Promised Land” (2008); “An Interview with Mr. William Powell” (1937); and “The Omaha Platform” (1892)  
*Recommended Reading:* *Reynolds, America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.10, 237-43

**Wk 4:** T, Sept 10: Lecture 7: Progressivism: Ideology, Biography, Geography  

*Required Reading:* Jones, “The March of the Mill Children” (1903); Gorn, “The March of the Mill Children” (2001); Addams, “Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements” (1892)  
*Recommended Reading:* *Reynolds, America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.10, 221-37

**Wk 5:** T, Sept 17: Lecture 9: Progressivism, National Level: Election of 1912 & Wilson  
R, Sept 19: 1st Midterm Exam (50 minutes)  
W/F, Sept 18/20: Discussion 5: Revising & Researching. 1st Paper returned  

*Required Reading:* review guidelines for 1st Paper rewrite and for 2nd Paper

**PART TWO: 1914-1945**

**Wk 6:** T, Sept, 24: Lecture 10: World War I: Avoidance, Involvement & Aftermath  
R, Sept 26: Lecture 11: The 1920s, I: Politics, Economics, & Cultural Conflict  

*1st Midterm Exam returned. 1st Paper Rewrite due*  

*Required Reading:* Espionage Act (May 1918); Kennedy, “Prologue: Spring 1917; Evans, “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism” (1926); Levy, “The Rise and Fall and Rise and Fall of Edwin ‘Daddy’ DeBarr” (2010)  
*Recommended Reading:* *Reynolds, America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.11; Blee, “The KKK in Indiana”
Wk 7: T, Oct 1: Lecture 12: Great Depression Causes & Early Responses/Hoover  
W/F, Oct 2/4: Discussion 7: Role of Government. **Topic for 2nd Paper due**  
**Required Reading:** Franklin Roosevelt, First Inaugural (March 4, 1933), and first fireside chat (on banking crisis) (March 12, 1933); Steinbeck, “Three Families,” from “The Harvest Gypsies” (1936); FSA Dust Bowl photographs (1934-37); Bird, “The Nation Confronts the Great Depression” (1966)  
**Recommended Reading:** Reynolds, *America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.12, 273-283

Wk 8: T, Oct 8: Lecture 14: The Second New Deal, 1935-1938, and New Deal Demise  
R, Oct 10: No Class (Research Day)  
W/F, Oct 9/11: No Discussion Section on W or F—Friday is Texas Day  
No Reading

R, Oct 17: Lecture 16: World War II: Involvement—Home Front  
W/F, Oct 16/18: Discussion 8: World War II  
**Required Reading:** Executive Order 9066 (Feb 19, 1942); Hersey, *Hiroshima*, excerpt, (1946); Kennedy, “The Cauldron of the Home Front” (1999)  
**Recommended Reading:** Reynolds, *America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.12, 283-304

Wk 10: T, Oct 22: Lecture 17: World War II: Involvement—Theaters of War  
R, Oct 24: 2nd Midterm Exam (50 minutes)  
W/F, Oct 23-25: Discussion 9: Historical Research & Writing  
**Required Reading:** Review again the guidelines for Paper 2

**PART THREE: 1945-PRESENT**

W/F, Oct 30/Nov 1: Discussion 10: Cold War. **2nd Midterm Exam returned**  
**Paper 2: Introduction/Overview (500 words) + Annotated Bibliography due**  
**Required Reading:** Truman, “The Truman Doctrine” (March 12, 1947); Chase Smith, “Declaration of Conscience” (1950); Halberstam. Ch. Three, *The Fifties* (1993)  
**Recommended Reading:** Reynolds, *America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.13

R, Nov 7: Lecture 21: The Counterculture & the Rights Revolution  
W/F, Nov 6/8: Discussion 11: Democracy & Dissent  
**Introduction/Overview/Annotated Bibliography returned**  
**Required Reading:** Brown V Board of Education, Topeka, KS (1954); Dzudziak, “Brown as a Cold War Case” (2004); King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (April 16, 1963)  
**Recommended Reading:** Reynolds, *America, Empire of Liberty*, Ch.14, 335-55

R, Nov 14: Lecture 23: 1968: Conservative Turn?  
TH/F, Nov 13/15: Discussion 12: Great Society/Entitlement State?
Required Reading: King, “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” (April 3, 1968); Chappell, “Legalizing the Legacy” (2013); begin reading O’Brien, The Things They Carried

Recommended Reading: Reynolds, America, Empire of Liberty, Ch.14, 355-360

Wk 14: T, Nov 19: Lecture 24: America’s Longest War: Vietnam in History & Memory
W/F, Nov 20/22: Discussion 13: The Things They Carried

Required Reading: O’Brien, The Things They Carried
Recommended Reading: Reynolds, America, Empire of Liberty, Ch.’s 15 & 16; Rome, “The Genius of Earth Day” (2010)

Wk 15: T, Nov 26: Lecture 26: Restoring American Exceptionalism. 2nd Paper due
W-F, Nov 27-29: Thanksgiving Holiday
No Reading

Wk 16: T, Dec 3: Lecture 27: Post-Cold War & Post 9/11 America
W/F, Dec 4/6: Discussion 14: Recent America/Exam Review.

2nd Paper returned

Recommended Reading: Reynolds, America, Ch.’s 17, 18; & Conclusion

W, Dec 11, 1:30-3:30PM: Two Hour Final Exam (closed book, no notes)