**The Indiana Academy**

**SOC 204 (HIST 202)**

**American History, 1877-Present (Spring 2024)**

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Office: B009D Elliot

Class Time: MWF 10, 11, 12

Office Hours: MF 1-4, TR 9-11 and by appointment

*Course Description:*

This course surveys the American historical experience since 1877. Students will examine key events, ideas, personalities, and movements since the end of Reconstruction. This course is available for dual credit as BSU HIST 202.

Students who are enrolled in the course may receive dual credit through Ball State University for 3 credit hours in HIST 202: US 1877-Present. Students are not required to have taken HIST 201 for dual credit in order to receive dual credit for HIST 202. For more information, please consult the Academy course catalog.

*Required Texts:*

*The American Yawp* (Y) **Note: This is an open source, collaborative textbook that is available both online and as a pdf. I will post both the link and the pdf on Canvas.**

*Goals for and Obligations of Students:*

1. The first goal of the class is for students to gain an interpretive awareness of the major themes in US history since 1877. All students are obligated to complete all assigned readings before class. This is imperative because this course relies heavily on class discussion. Class sessions will only succeed if you put in the time to read the assignments.
2. The second goal of the class is for students to become comfortable participating in class. Students are obligated to participate in all class sessions.
3. The third goal of the class is for students to learn how to make a historical argument and to support that argument using evidence. All written assignments are designed with this goal in mind.
4. The fourth, and most important, goal of the class is to improve students’ critical thinking skills.

*Course Requirements:*

1. Essays: You are required to complete three essays that will test your ability to construct an argument and to defend that argument with evidence from class readings. More information will be forthcoming. Each essay is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points.
2. Final Essay: You are required to write a comprehensive final essay that will be due at the end of the semester. As with the regular essays, you are expected to construct an argument and defend it with evidence. More information will be forthcoming. The final essay is worth 60 points.
3. Participation/Labs: Most of our class sessions will consist of seminar discussions. These seminars may either be open conversations or led by a student discussion leader. I hope to convey to you the importance of collegial discussion. I consider a seminar to be a “team activity,” therefore there will be a class “baseline grade” for the seminar. However, if you do not participate, your score will be adjusted accordingly. I will be providing documents on Canvas to help you prepare for the seminars. Excused absences will not harm your seminar grade. The second part of your participation grade will be the history lab sessions. You will be provided a number of documents to work with and will produce a 1-2 page report on the primary sources. Specific instructions will be given. I will score you daily on these activities and will average the scores at the time of each exam. Each grading period will be worth 20 points, for a total of 60 points.
4. Reading Journals: Each student will submit a daily journal on the assigned readings. The journals will be posted to Canvas. These journals are designed to give you an opportunity to prepare for the discussion and should be two full paragraphs long. The only requirement is that you provide enough detail from the reading to show that you read the assignment. As with the participation score, I will average the daily journal scores and enter them at the time of each exam. Each grading period will be worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

*Grade Distribution:*

Essays: 50% (150 points)

Final Essay: 20% (60 points)

Participation/Labs: 20% (60 points)

Reading Journals: 10% (30 points)

Percentage of total points earned:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: Below 70%

(Note: plus/minus may be used at my discretion)

*Late Policy:*

All major written assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Reading Journals are due by class time on the due date. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 5% for every 2 days the assignment is late (up to a 50% penalty). Extensions will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. No extension will be granted because a student is extremely busy. I will accept late assignments until noon on Friday, May 10.

*Attendance and Tardies:*

Attendance is required, per Academy policy. Unexcused absences will result in a grade deduction in participation. Late arrivals may be counted tardy, with late arrivals of more than ten minutes subject to being counted absent for the day.

*Artificial Intelligence:*

The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course.

*Academic Dishonesty:*

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be subject to the Academy’s policies on academic dishonesty. For a full discussion of this process and possible sanctions, please refer to the student handbook.

*Behavior and Computer/Electronic Device Policy:*

This class is expected to be a positive learning experience based on open communication and respect. You are expected to be collegial and to respect the rights of the other seminar participants. On that note, I expect you to be engaged with the class conversation, with no behavior that distracts from other participants. Doing so will lead to a significant reduction of your seminar grade, as well as a potential unexcused absence. Furthermore, although you may use computers and electronic devices to access documents and your journal, using computers for non-academic purposes could lead to a banning of computers for all students. Continued disruptive activity can lead to removal from class (which would be an unexcused absence) and the sending of an APR.

*Canvas:*

Reading assignments and handouts will be posted on the class Canvas site. It is imperative that you check this regularly. You will also submit all written work via Canvas.

*Diversity Statement:*

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

*Content Statement:*

As with many history classes (and social science), the lectures, readings, and discussions [in this course] will include a range of topics that may be triggering, emotionally distressing, and difficult for some students. Engaging with topics such as slavery and human suffering is essential to this discipline. History seeks to understand the experiences and thought processes of former generations, whether for good or ill. Sometimes the language and word choices used by people in the past may be insensitive or politically incorrect today. Nevertheless, the goal of history is to understand the past within its own context and time. If a reading, image shown in class, or discussion is truly troubling to anyone, please do not hesitate to talk to your instructor. In some circumstances, an alternative reading can be assigned.

*Disclaimer:*

I reserve the right to make changes to the course calendar at my discretion. I will give notice to the class as soon as possible after making any change.

*Course Calendar:*

January 5: Introduction to the Class

January 8: TBA

January 10: Class and Labor, (Y) Chapter 16 & Documents

January 12: History Lab: The Homestead Strike **Report Due 1/17**

January 15: MLK Day: No Class

January 17: The West: (Y) Chapter 17 & Documents

January 19: History Lab: Carlisle Indian Industrial School **Report Due 1/22**

January 22: Immigration & Urbanization: (Y) Chapter 18, Sections I-III & Documents

January 24: The New South: (Y) Chapter 18, Sections IV-VI & Documents

January 26: History Lab: TBA **Report Due 1/29**

January 29: Imperialism: (Y) Chapter 19, Sections I-IV & Documents

January 31: Immigration: (Y) Chapter 19, Sections V-VII & Documents

February 2: History Lab: Spanish-American War **Report Due 2/7**

February 5: Extended Weekend: No Class

February 7: Progressive Era: (Y) Chapter20 & Documents

February 9: **Essay #1 Due**

February 12: World War I: (Y) Chapter 21, Sections I-V & Documents

February 14: Aftermath of the War: (Y) Chapter 21, Sections VI-X & Documents

February 16: History Lab: Chicago Race Riots of 1919 **Report Due 2/19**

February 19: Consumption in the 1920s: (Y) Chapter 22, Sections I-V & Documents

February 21: Reaction in the 1920s: (Y) Chapter 22, Sections VI-X & Documents

February 23: History Lab: BSU History Conference **Report Due 2/26**

February 26: The Great Depression: (Y) Chapter 23, Sections I-VI & Document

February 28: The New Deal: (Y) Chapter 23, Sections VII-XIV & Documents

March 1: History Lab: Social Security **Report Due 3/13**

March 4-8: Spring Break: No Class

March 11: TBA

March 13: World War II: (Y) Chapter 24 & Documents

March 15: History Lab: Japanese Internment **Report Due 3/18**

March 18: The Cold War: (Y) Chapter 25, Sections I-III & Documents

March 20: The Second Red Scare: (Y) Chapter 25, sections IV-VI & Documents

March 22: **Essay #2 Due**

March 25: Suburbanization & Race in the Affluent Society: (Y) Chapter 26, Sections I-IV & Documents

March 27: Gender, Culture, & Politics in the Affluent Society: (Y) Chapter 26, Sections V-VII & Documents

March 29: History Lab: Little Rock Nine **Report Due 4/3**

April 1: Extended Weekend: No Class

April 3: The Sixties: (Y) Chapter 27 & Documents

April 5: History Lab: The Great Society **Report Due 4/8**

April 8: Nixon: Chapter 28, Sections I-V & Documents

April 10: Deindustrialization: Chapter 28, Sections VI-IX & Documents

April 12: History Lab: TBA **Report Due 4/15**

April 15: The Rise of the New Right: (Y) Chapter 29, Sections I-VI & Documents

April 17: Reagan’s America: (Y) Chapter 29, Sections VII-XI & Documents

April 19: **Essay #3 Due**

April 22: TBA

April 24: TBA

April 26: Extended Weekend: No Class

April 29: Politics & Issues of the 1990s: (Y) Chapter 30, Sections I-II & Documents

May 1: September 11 & the Bush Years: (Y) Chapter 30, Sections III-V & Documents

May 3: History Lab: Hurricane Katrina **Report Due 5/6**

May 8: **Final Essay Due**