

VALENCIA COLLEGE

U.S. History: 1877 to Present

AMH 2020, CRN 27173

Spring Semester, 2022

Instructor: Bryan Peterson

Email: bpeterson26@valenciacollege.edu

Office Hours:

Mondays: 3pm-4pm (Virtual)

Tuesdays: 1pm-2pm (DT Campus)

Thursdays: 12pm-4pm (Virtual)

Fridays: 12pm-4pm (Virtual)

Class Day: Tuesdays

Class Time: 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Location: UnionWest, Room 303

Office: DPAC, 451

COVID Guidelines

Throughout the COVID pandemic, Valencia College has been primarily focused on the health and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff. This continues to be our priority as we return to more face-to-face classes, and college policy continues to be guided by science and the guidelines issued by the CDC and our partners at Orlando Health. I urge all students who are able to do so to get vaccinated, wear masks, and encourage friends and family to do so as well.

Should you become ill with COVID, please inform me and your professors and coworkers both for our safety, and the safety of our Valencia community. I will do what I can to assist you in completing successfully our coursework. Please inform our COVID liaison Tanya Mahan (COVIDillness@valenciacollege.edu) as well, so she can support you in this process. We are in this together!

For more information, please consult: <https://valenciacollege.edu/about/coronavirus/>

Course Description

Survey of United States history from the Gilded Age to the present, emphasizing political, social, and economic developments. Examines such topics as expansion, Populist and Progressive movements, the Great Depression, the World Wars, reform and dissent in the 1960's, and the Vietnam conflict.

Valencia Core Competencies

The faculty of Valencia College have established four core competencies that define the learning outcomes for a Valencia graduate. These competencies are essential to student success in a variety of contexts and you will have opportunities to practice them throughout this class. They are:

Think: think clearly, critically, and creatively analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry

Value: make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

Act: act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly

Communicate: communicate with different audiences used varied means

Course Objectives & Learning Outcomes

- I. Students will identify the principal persons, places, and events from the chronological framework of this course.
- II. Students will analyze the thematic historical influences that shaped the modern history of the United States.
- III. Students will illustrate the impact of the individual, regardless of socioeconomic position, as participants in the making of history.
- IV. Students will describe how diversity influenced the modern history of the United States.
- V. Students will connect lessons, patterns, or characteristics from historical events to current events.
- VI. Students will interpret historical events by using appropriate historical methods
- VII. Students will demonstrate competency in civics literacy.
- VIII. Students will demonstrate college-level writing skills.

Required Texts

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

ISBN: 9781503606883.

Supplemental Readings

In addition to the required textbook, the instructor will assign various online and electronic file readings and will distribute them via Canvas. See Course Schedule below for the reading schedule.

Course Organization

This is a mixed mode course, meaning that learning will be divided evenly between face-to-face class meetings and online learning activities. Class meetings will generally consist of lectures, group discussions, activities, presentations, etc. Canvas will be used in this course for all online lessons and activities as well as for submitting assignments and course communication. Canvas will be organized into weekly modules, outlining course content and required assignments. Students must regularly sign in to Canvas and check their Valencia email to successfully complete this course. Checking both daily is highly recommended.

Grading

All of the assignments in this course will be based on a 100-point scale. Grades will adhere to the following grading scale:

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
D	69-60
F	59-0

Assignments

Attendance	5%
Participation	5%
Discussion Questions	10%
Journal Article Review #1	10%
Journal Article Review #2	10%
History Film Critique	5%
Google Maps Project	5%
Art Presentation	10%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%

Assignment Breakdown

Full directions and guidelines for all assignments will be available to access and download on Canvas. See the relevant Canvas modules.

Attendance and Participation: Interacting with your fellow students and instructors is a crucial part of learning. Therefore, students are encouraged to participate as much as possible during each class meeting. Students must prepare for each class meeting by completing all assigned readings, attending class regularly, participating in class activities, making comments, asking questions, sharing ideas and opinions, and being generally engaged in that day's topic in order to do well.

Discussion Questions: Each week, students will complete a discussion board activity on Canvas. These questions will cover material from the textbook, reading excerpts posted to Canvas, or material covered during class meetings. Each discussion will consist of two (2) posts: an initial post answering the assigned question(s) and a classmate response, each with their own deadlines and minimum word count.

Journal Article Reviews: Students will write two (2) journal article reviews. Scholarly journal articles pertaining to US history will be posted to Canvas. You will choose one (1) journal article for each essay assignment. These essays will resemble a standard academic book review.

Students will write essays that examine the central thesis/argument of the author, assess their sources and evidence, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their conclusions. Reviews will be 2 to 3 full double-spaced pages in length.

History Film Critique: Students will choose a film from a list provided by the instructor. The goal of this assignment is to critique the film and analyze how it exhibits one or more of the historical themes discussed during class and covered in assigned readings. A historical film critique is more than an expression of your personal feelings about the film or a summary of its contents. It aims to contextualize and evaluate the events depicted in the film, assess the points of view and motivations of the filmmakers, and consider whether sociocultural, political, religious, or other factors influenced the creation or content of the film. Film critiques will be 2 full double-spaced pages in length.

Google Maps Project: Students will create a digital presentation using Google Earth's Projects feature. This presentation will focus on the architectural achievements made in the United States between 1877 and the present day. Students will select several examples of American architecture and create a presentation mapping the location of these structures using Google Earth. At each "stop" of the tour, students will answer a series of questions pertaining to the historical significance of the structure and its current status.

Art Presentation: Students will create a PowerPoint presentation focusing on American visual art created between 1877 and the present day. These presentations will center on individual artists or art movements. A list of preapproved options will be provided in advance. The goal of this assignment is to explore how these artists or art movements developed upon or challenged artistic norms and conventions of their time period. Students will provide several examples of an artist's work, evaluate its historical significance and audience, and compare/contrast it to other forms of art created during the same time period.

Exams: Students will have two (2) exams, a Midterm and a Final Exam. These exams will consist of multiple choice, multiple answer, and true/false questions. Both exams will be based on material covered in class and from the textbook. Review sheets will be provided as a study guide. Both the Midterm and Final will be online exams, completed on Canvas. These exams must be completed by the stated deadlines located in the course schedule in one sitting/attempt, timed at 150 minutes. All students must complete both exams in order to successfully complete this course.

Course Policies

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures of this course, which are outlined below.

Grading Policy

Grades and feedback on assigned work will be returned within one week of an assignment's deadline. Grades and feedback for essays will be returned within twelve (12) days after their due date.

Attendance

In order to successfully complete this course, students must attend class meetings regularly, complete all assignments by their designated due dates, and participate in class on a regular basis. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting and attendance will factor into a portion of the student's grade. Frequent absences will negatively impact the student's final grade. Persistent absences will result in failing the course. If a student misses class, it is their responsibility to make up all missed work and assigned readings.

However, unforeseen circumstances may arise over the course of the semester. For that reason, two (2) unexcused absences will be allowed before your grade will be negatively impacted.

Tardiness Policy

Students must be prepared to attend every class meeting. It is disrespectful to fellow students and to the instructor when students arrive late or leave early. Persistent tardiness will negatively impact a student's grade. The student will not be penalized the first two (2) times they are tardy. After the second time, points will be deducted from the Attendance grade.

Drop/Refund Deadline

The deadline to drop this course and receive a full refund is **Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 by 11:59pm.**

Withdrawal Policy

Per Valencia policy, a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of 'W.' A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline.

The withdrawal deadline for the Spring semester is **Friday, March 25th, 2022 by 11:59pm.**

Late Work Policy

On Late Assignments

Late work will be accepted only if students provide official written documentation indicating that they have experienced an unforeseen medical emergency or ongoing medical condition that is submitted on the first day of the student's return to the course. What constitutes an emergency or an "ongoing medical condition" is at the sole discretion of the instructor. If you do not meet this criteria, no late work will be accepted.

All assignments must be submitted by the stipulated deadline date unless prior arrangement with the professor has been established. Late submission of work, without this prior arrangement (and barring a true, well-documented and unforeseeable emergency) will not be accepted and a zero score will be allocated. This means it is very important to keep up with all work in this class.

On Examinations

This same policy applies to the Midterm Examination. If you miss the Midterm Exam and believe that you have a true, well-documented and unforeseeable emergency, you must contact

the instructor to request a make-up and provide him with the documentation within 24 hours of the missed exam. Failure to do so will result in an automatic zero grade on the exam.

The Final Examination cannot be made up late nor can extensions be provided. The Final Exam is mandatory. You must complete it in order to successfully complete this course.

College Student Conduct Policy

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but also to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. As a registered student, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to Valencia's learning community and that does not impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the college as described in the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Classroom Etiquette

Common courtesy is essential to a learning environment. It is important that the classroom provides an atmosphere or all student's voices and points of view to be shared without fear of insult or attack. Therefore, students should be respectful of each other, especially when disagreeing with one another.

Cell phones must be silenced and texting is prohibited for the duration of each class meeting. Headphones and AirPods must be put away for the duration of each class meeting. Additionally, students should not be engaged in any activity not directly pertaining to this class. This includes (but is not limited to) doing work for other classes; accessing websites, chat programs, apps, or playing video games; sleeping; disruptive behavior or speaking in an uncivil manner to either the instructor or to fellow students; and conversing with classmates while the instructor is lecturing.

Engaging in such actions are inappropriate in a classroom environment and are disrespectful to your classmates. Students found to violate these etiquette standards shall be dismissed from the class that day and repeated infractions can result in failing the course. Repeated infractions could result in withdrawal from the class and severe cases could result in expulsion from the college.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, violating testing conditions, and complicity in dishonest behavior are all serious breaches in the expectations of Valencia College and are subject to immediate disciplinary action. Depending on the severity of the infraction, this can result in failing the course and even expulsion from the college. All work that a student submits in this class must be their own and all sources must be properly cited. It is never acceptable to claim the work of others as your own or to turn in the same work for credit in multiple classes.

Plagiarism can include:

- Turning in and claiming another person's work as your own.
- Turning in work submitted for a grade in another class.
- Copying the work or writing of a classmate.
- Copying and pasting text from websites, articles, books, etc.
- Using another person's words without properly citing them.

All written work in this course is run through a plagiarism checker. Any instances of academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment with no opportunity to resubmit the assignment for a grade.

Learning Support Services

Valencia College provides all learning and student support services for all students in need of assistance outside of the classroom, whether on campus or online.

Distance Tutoring

Learning Support Services provides students with academic support through distance tutoring, face-to-face tutoring at the campuses, writing consultations, library services, and resources. Tutoring is offered in most academic disciplines including math, science, foreign languages, English for academic purposes (EAP), computer programming, and writing assistance for any course. Assistance with library research can be accessed online through Atlas or the tutoring LibGuide. For more information on how to access tutoring and library research assistance, please visit the college-wide [Learning Support Services LibGuide](#).

Brainfuse Online Tutoring

All Valencia students have free 24/7 access to Brainfuse, an online tutoring and learning hub. This service is best used as a back-up to Valencia's Distance Tutoring service, not as a replacement. Brainfuse is accessible through Canvas or visiting the [Brainfuse LibGuide](#).

Writing Center

Visit the Writing Center for one-on-one assistance in developing your writing skills. Whether you need help with brainstorming ideas for a paper, creating outlines, formatting Word documents, or feedback and advice on a completed draft, the Writing Center is available to all students free of charge.

To schedule an appointment at the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center Webpage](#).

Learning Support Center

Valencia also offers its students free tutoring sessions in its Learning Support Centers, found on each campus. Tutoring is provided for many of the courses offered at Valencia College, and computers and other materials are available to check out as well.

To see the tutoring schedule and find out more about services offered, visit the [Learning Support Center webpage](#).

Valencia Libraries

At each campus library, librarians and other qualified staff can assist students with searching and finding items and information, citations, and technologies. The library provides a variety of books, eBooks, online articles, textbooks, DVDs, and streaming videos to support course-related

research and other learning needs. View the [Library website](#) for more information, as well as the [tutorials](#) below:

- [How to Connect to the Library Online](#)
- [How to Request Books from College and University Libraries](#)
- [How to Access eBooks at Valencia Library](#)
- [What is a Database and How Do I Use It](#)
- [How to Access Databases & Articles](#)

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

For more information, visit the [Office for Students with Disabilities webpage](#).

VC Baycare Behavioral Health Assistance Program

Valencia is committed to making sure all of our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia Students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship programs, dealing with school, home or work. Students have 24-hour unlimited access to the [Baycare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program \(SAP\)](#). Services are free to all Valencia students and are available 24 hours a day by calling **(800) 878-5470**. If needed, the counselor may refer the student to appropriate resources or to speak face-to-face with a licensed counselor.

Recording Lectures

Students may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a planned presentation by a college faculty member or instructor, during a scheduled class, delivered for the purpose of transmitting knowledge or information that is reasonably related to the pedagogical objective of the course in which the student is enrolled. Recording class activities other than class lectures—including but not limited to class discussions, student presentations, labs, academic exercises involving student participation, and private conversations—is strictly prohibited. Recordings may not include the image or voice of other students in the class, may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the College's Student Code of Conduct.

Technology Requirements and Skills

Students should verify [computer software and hardware requirements](#) to ensure coursework can be submitted successfully. Since all assignments are submitted through Canvas (unless

otherwise noted), access to a computer is required for this course. Students have free access to computers at all Valencia campuses.

Canvas lists [minimum computer specifications](#) and [supported browsers](#) to ensure compatibility. The [Chrome](#) browser is recommended.

Students are also encouraged to install the **Canvas app** on their [Android](#) or [iPhone](#) in order to receive mobile notifications and to access your courses via your mobile device.

Technical Skills

Students should consider the [basic computer skills](#) needed to be successful in this course, which include:

- Reading and responding to emails
- Software application skills (PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Office 365, etc.)
- Internet and library database browsing
- Copying and pasting
- Saving files in different formats
- Working with attachments
- File management

[Canvas 101](#) is a free self-paced course available for students to learn more about using the Canvas learning management system used for this course.

Disclaimer

At the discretion of the instructor, the policies, procedures, assignments, and due dates in this syllabus may be changed at any time. Should this occur, students will be notified beforehand through Canvas Announcements and Valencia College email.