**AMH 2020-U.S. History to 1877 (TR) Spring 2014 Professor Mark J. Smith, Ph.D.**

***Course Description***: (3 credit hours) Survey of U.S. history from the Gilded Age to the present, emphasizing political, social, and economic developments. Examines such topics as expansion, Populist and Progressive movements, Great Depression, the World Wars, reform and dissent in the 1960s and the Vietnam conflict.

***Course Objectives:*** This course seeks to reinforce the Valencia Student Core Competencies by helping students develop their abilities to think, value, communicate, and act. Details on these student core competencies can be found online at http://www.valenciacollege.edu/competencies/default.cfm. Through lectures, discussions, writing exercises, and independent study students will be given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the period under study, their perspective on the past, and their ability to apply the skills of historical thinking.

**Communication and Office Hours:** Email to the professor should be through ***Atlas email only.***

**Email**: msmith01@mail.valenciacollege.edu or use the “Send an Email” link within Blackboard.

**West Campus Office Hours (Rm. 11-346):**  MW 8-10 am and 11:15-11:45 am

**Virtual (Email) Office Hours:** TR 10-11 am and F 8-11 am

**Phone:** 407-582-1843 (Call ONLY during on-campus office hours)

**Technology Issues:** You will need to be able to open MS Word (.doc or .docx) and .pdf files. **You may submit exams ONLY in one of the accepted formats: .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .odt. DO NOT SUBMIT IN .PDF.** If you do not have MS Word, you may obtain free software that will allow you to open these files at: <http://www.openoffice.org/> . Technical issues regarding the internet, websites, your computer, Valencia’s systems, or Blackboard are generally not sufficient reason for missing deadlines or failing to submit complete tasks. If a website is down, its link broken, or is otherwise not accessible, contact me well in advance of the deadline for a Word version or alternate source. The student is solely responsible for insuring that work is submitted properly.

Technical assistance: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8191>

**Texts:** All materials are available online as HTML files, web pages, MS Word documents, or PDF files. No published textbook is required. If you feel that you need background on the topics addressed in this course, or if you would like greater detail on the historical context, you may go to the online textbook offered by [Digital History](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=1&smtID=2).

**Course Components and Assessment:** To be eligible for a passing course grade you must complete at least twelve journal entries on time and both exams.

**•** Journals (50%): You will write a one-paragraph comment on each chapter of the text. Journal entries are typed or pasted into your journal on Blackboard. Grades are posted twice during the term.

**•** Classwork (10%): You will participate in class discussions.

**•** Exams (40%): A Midterm and Final exam are submitted as an attached files on Blackboard.

*--Grading Policy:* Final course grades are determined by the total points earned based on the scale: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-60%=D; <60%=F . There is no extra credit.

*--Late or Missed Written Work:* Each missed or late journal entry lowers the grade by three points. Submitting the Midterm Exam late reduces the grade by five points for each calendar day late. The Final Exam is not accepted late.

*--Withdrawal Policy:*  Students may withdraw on Atlas until the Withdrawal Deadline of March 27 and receive a ‘W’. No withdrawals will be given by the instructor.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is required. For each missed class you must contact the professor on your next day of attendance to discuss makeup work, if any. Failure to do so results in a Classwork grade reduction of two points. Missing more than six classes results in a course grade of ‘F’. ***The reason for your absence is a private matter and should not be discussed with the professor.***

***N.B.*** A few modules in this course include material that may be disturbing to some people. By participating in this course you may encounter material that refers to rape, lynching, warfare, sexuality, or other topics that may make some students uncomfortable. If you are concerned about this, see the professor at the beginning of the term.

**Disclaimer**: This syllabus is a guideline for the course and not a contract. Its terms may be altered when doing so is, in the opinion of the instructor, in the best interests of the class or of individual students.

**Course Outline & Schedule**

T, 1/13 Introduction

R, 1/15 Read “How to Write History” and the Prologue essay.

T, 1/20 The Gilded Age

R, 1/22 Ch. 1. The Industrial Workforce - *Submit Ch. 1 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 1/27 Ch 2. Urbanization - *Submit Ch. 2 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 1/29 Ch. 3. Immigrants - *Submit Ch. 3 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 2/3 Ch. 4. African Americans - *Submit Ch. 4 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 2/5 Ch. 5. Reform and Populism - *Submit Ch. 5 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 2/10 Ch. 6. Progressive Era - *Submit Ch. 6 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 2/12 Ch. 7. Becoming a World Power - *Submit Ch. 7 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 2/17 Ch. 8. World War I *- Submit Ch. 8 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 2/19 Ch. 9. The Twenties - *Submit Ch. 9 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 2/24 Ch. 10. The Twenties - *Submit Ch. 10 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 2/26 Discussion: U.S. from the 1870s to 1929 – *No journal entry due*.

T, 3/3 No class – Work on Midterm Exam\*

R, 3/5 **No class *– Submit* *Midterm Exam Due By 11:59 pm*\***

T, 3/17 Ch. 11. The Thirties - *Submit Ch. 11 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 3/19 Ch. 12. The Thirties - *Submit Ch. 12 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 3/24 Ch. 13. Era of World War II - *Submit Ch. 13 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 3/26 Ch. 14. Era of World War II - *Submit Ch. 14 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 3/31 Ch. 15. The Postwar Years - *Submit Ch.15 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 42 Ch. 16. Civil Rights - *Submit Ch. 16 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 4/7 Ch. 17. Social Activism - *Submit Ch. 17 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 4/9 Ch. 18 Cold War II - *Submit Ch. 18 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 4/14 Ch. 19. The 70s and 80s - *Submit Ch. 19 Journal Entry by 6 am*

R, 4/16 Ch. 20. The US since 1989 - *Submit Ch. 20 Journal Entry by 6 am*

T, 4/21 Discussion: U.S. from 1929 to Present – *No journal entry due*.

R, 4/23 No class – Work on Final Essay\*

**R, 4/30 No class - *Submit Final Exam by 9:30 am* 🡄NOTE TIME. *Late exams not accepted!***

\*There is no class on these days, but I will be in my office during regular class time for consultation.

**Originality of Submissions and Academic Dishonesty**: *All parts of all written material submitted for this class must be the original words, ideas, and organization of the student, unless the source is specifically indicated and the passage is enclosed in quotation marks.* The submission of any written work that includes any material not the words, ideas, or organization of the student without acknowledging the source will result in a failing grade for the assignment or the course. It also may be reported as academic dishonesty as described in the Code of Student Conduct. This class requires that students adhere to the VCC Code of Student Conduct. Work may be submitted through **SafeAssign**™ plagiarism prevention service.

**Notice:** Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor form from the Office for Students with Disabilities and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Contact: West Campus SSB, Rm. 102 Ph: 407-582-1523 Fax: 407-582-1326 TTY: 407-582-1222

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| **Standards for Journals: *Late or missed entries lower the journal grade by 3 points.*** | | |
| **Superior**  --Thorough and well-developed.  --Often perceptive, thoughtful, or original.  --Generally goes well beyond the requirements for length and use of sources, as specified in the guidelines. | **Satisfactory**  --Generally follows the guidelines.  --Generally meets the requirements for length and use of sources, as specified in the guidelines. | **Unsatisfactory**  --Generally fails to follow the guidelines.  --Generally fails to meet the requirements on length and use of sources as specified in the guidelines. |

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| **Standards for Exam Essays: *Late Midterms reduce the grade by five points for each calendar day late.*** ***Missing or submitting late the Final Exam will result in a course grade of ‘F’*** | | |
| **Superior:**  --Very well developed ; balanced chronological coverage of the period.  --Begins with a clear, complex, focused thesis or premise.  --Shows an insightful or original understanding of the issue and period in question.  --Uses primary sources plentifully and to very good effect.  --Cites all sources as called for in the guidelines.  --Effectively uses ample short quotations from a range of primary sources.  --Precisely follows all guidelines in “How to Write History.” | **Satisfactory:**  --Sufficiently developed; clearly organized chronologically.  --Begins with a clear, focused thesis or premise.  --Shows a basic or conventional understanding of the issue and period in question.  --Uses primary sources sufficiently and effectively.  --Cites sources as called for in the guidelines.  --Adequately uses sufficient short quotations from various primary sources.  --Generally follows the guidelines in “How to Write History.” | **Unsatisfactory:**  --Insufficiently developed; poorly organized or not chronological.  --Begins with a vague, unfocused, or simplistic thesis.  --Shows insufficient or superficial understanding of the issue and period in question.  --Fails to use primary sources sufficiently and/or effectively.  --Fails to cites sources as called for in the guidelines.  --Fails to use sufficient short quotations from various primary sources.  --Fails to follow the guidelines in “How to Write History.” |