

**HISTORY H106**  
**THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1877**  
IPFW/Warsaw – Spring 2004  
Wednesday/Friday (8:30 - 9:45 A.M.)

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the history of the United States from 1877 to present. It is designed to introduce students to the study of American History and is an overview. Lectures, discussions and the textbooks will provide a broad picture of that history and specific analyses of significant events and people. Students are challenged and encouraged to be analytical, critical, and creative in their reading, in classroom discussion and lectures, in examinations, and other written assignments.

### **STUDENT OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be better able to:

1. Have a coherent general understanding of major events and developments in U.S. history from the Civil War to present.
2. Grasp the relationship between events (cause and effect, etc.).
3. Synthesize information into a coherent overview.
4. Appreciate and respect the diversity of American experiences.
5. Develop a historical consciousness, including awareness of the different ways of life and value systems of people in the past.
6. Improve skills such as reading for content and for thesis, effective listening and note taking, and clear writing, which are important for future learning and are broadly applicable to a wide variety of disciplines and careers.
7. Demonstrate the ability to clearly express and defend one's views on studied material through verbal communication before peers.
8. Distinguish fact, interpretation based on fact, and opinion.
9. Develop a basic appreciation of the historical method.

Assessment of the first six outcomes is primarily through examinations; the instructor will determine outcome seven via class discussion; and the paper will assess the final two outcomes.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Four examinations, each counting 1/6 of the course grade will be given. Examinations are multiple choice, short answer and essay. A good essay should respond clearly and directly to the question;

should display sound reasoning, or interpretation; should support the major points with evidence or explanation; should be consistent with the facts available to you; and should answer the question as thoroughly as time permits.

2. One paper based on one of the chapters listed on this syllabus from Wheeler and Becker, Discovering the American Past, vol 2, counts 1/6 of the course grade. This paper will be due NLT beginning of class April 16, 2004.

3. Periodic short quizzes and class discussions will make up remaining 1/6 of the course grade. The quizzes may deal with material found in Divine's American Past and Present, vol 2, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Wheeler and Becker's Discovering the American Past, vol 2, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. or material provided by the instructor. Quizzes will cover only material assigned for this day. The two lowest quizzes will be dropped. Discussion points will be determined by the instructor based on the participation and displayed knowledge of the student during each class.

### READING ASSIGNMENTS

Robert Divine et al, American Past and Present, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. vol 2. (D)

William Wheeler and Susan Becker, Discovering the American Past, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. vol 2. (W&B)

January 14

Introduction

January 16

(D) Chapter 16

(W&B) Chapter 1

January 21

(D) Chapter 17

(W&B) Chapter 2

January 23/28

(D) Chapter 18

(W&B) Chapter 3

January 30

(D) Chapter 19

February 4/6

(D) Chapter 20

February 11

Examination

February 13/18

(D) Chapter 21

(W&B) Chapter 4

February 20

(D) Chapter 22

February 25

(D) Chapter 23

February 27/March 3

(D) Chapter 24

(W&B) Chapter 5

March 5

Examination

March 10/12

Spring Break

March 17

(D) Chapter 25

(W&B) Chapter 6

March 19

(D) Chapter 26

March 24/26

(D) Chapter 27

(W&B) Chapter 8

March 31/April 2  
(D) Chapter 28

April 7  
Examination

April 9  
(D) Chapter 29  
(W&B) Chapter 9

April 14/16  
(D) Chapter 30  
(W&B) Chapter 10  
Paper due April 16

April 21  
(D) Chapter 31

April 23  
(D) Chapter 32

April 28/30  
(D) Chapter 33  
(W&B) Chapter 11

May 5  
Examination

## PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Students must complete one typed, double -spaced 5-8 page paper using no font size smaller than 10 or larger than 12 to produce the paper. The content of this paper must be an essay answer to the central question(s) posed in one of the chapters of the Wheeler & Becker book, Discovering the American Past. This paper will be due April 16. Wheeler and Becker should be the main source for the paper but information from Divine's American Past and Present may also be used. One additional primary source must be used and a copy of that source attached to the paper. Weigh all the evidence presented in you selections, consider all the questions posed by Wheeler and Becker in the chapter chosen, and then, in your essay, answer the central question(s) of the chapter. **Note: The central question(s) of the chapter are NOT normally found in the "Questions to Consider" section of the chapter. Any paper that only answers these "Questions to Consider" does not meet the requirements of the assignment.** For each session this paper is late, one letter grade will be deducted.

Following are some helpful hints for your paper. First, acquaint yourself with the background and context of the issue by reading thoughtfully the sections of the chapter entitled "the Problem" and "The Background." Your textbook may also prove helpful. Look carefully at the sections entitled "The Method" and "Questions to Consider" to get a better idea of how to analyze the evidence. You will find there are several questions that you need to ask of the evidence in order to write a good analysis of the main topic question. Perhaps you think of questions and issues on your own, in addition to those raised in the book, and your additional primary source may help in this regard. Read "The Evidence" section of the chapter carefully, and draw your conclusions. Fit together your answers to all the conclusion about the main topic question. "The Evidence" is your main source for this paper.

Your paper should include several things: First, a brief introduction that states the issue your paper will address and puts the issue in its historical context. This section should be short. Second, analyses in which you set forth your conclusions and show how you reached those conclusions and why you think they are correct. This is the major part of the paper, and should occupy most of the paper's length. It is important that you don't just assert your conclusions – give evidence to prove they are correct. Evidence should come from "The Evidence" in the chapter, textbook and you additional primary source, and may take the form of quotations or references. Be sure to explain what the evidence proves. Quotations or references must be followed by the page number of the source from which you are referring, i.e., (W&B -25), if information came from Wheeler and Becker, page 25. Formal footnotes are not required since all of your references will come from the two textbooks plus the additional primary source you will provide as an attachment.

All direct quotations, even short ones, must be placed in quotation marks and the source given. Failures to do so is plagiarism. If you put a passage in your own words instead of quoting, put it entirely in your own words. Changing one word to two in a sentence is an unacceptable close paraphrase, and is also considered plagiarism. References to evidence that do not include a quotation also need a note indicating the source.

Third, the paper should include a final summary that pulls together your conclusions. Differing interpretations of the evidence are to be expected. Papers will be graded on the soundness and insightfulness of the conclusions, the use of the evidence to support the conclusions, the organization of the paper and the writing style, including grammar and spelling.

### **PLAGIARISM AND OTHER INFORMATION**

Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment in question, and in such cases the course grade will be computed on a solely numerical average. University regulations require a course grade of F for unauthorized withdrawal. If a student stays in the course through the final examination and fails to complete one or more course requirements, excluding quizzes, grades of zero will be given for the uncompleted requirements and the course grade computed on a solely numerical average. The History Department does not allow the use of tape recorders in the classroom. The instructor will make exceptions for students with disabilities. Permission of the instructor is required before use.