

This is a draft edition and subject to change.

Spring 2011

HIS 152: U.S. History – 1877 to Present

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WTHR 320
MWF 12:30 – 1:20

Teaching Assistant

Dorothee Bouquet

Office/Hours

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Welcome to History 152! In this course we will explore the major themes and problems in the history of the United States since 1877. Part of our task will be to map a chronological and geographical history. Beyond the “what happened and when?” we shall seek to interpret historical processes by exploring the “why?” and the “how?” of American History. We will explore history from different viewpoints and different voices through time.

Course Texts

These texts are available at the University Bookstore. Readings preceded by (PS) are on the textbook website [see directions for access below] and the readings preceded with (BB) are posted on Blackboard.

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation: A Concise History of the American People*, **VOL 2, 6th edition**. (McGraw Hill, 2010).
ISBN - 9780077286361

(BB) Available on the course BlackBoard website under “Readings Marked (BB) on the Course Syllabus.”

(PS) Primary Sources- designated on the syllabus as **(PS)**

Primary Sources are available on the web at:

https://paris.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073385522/student_view0/index.html

Directions for access:

Go to menu on left of above website > select the corresponding chapter > choose “Primary Sources” > find correct title.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THESE DOCUMENTS. THEY WILL APPEAR ON QUIZZES AND EXAMS AND WILL BE DISCUSSED IN LECTURES.

Blue/Green Books – You will need at least four large, 16 pg exam books. I reserve the right to inspect these books before each exam.

Course Expectations and Evaluation

You are expected to attend class every day. You should complete the reading for each day before class and be prepared to ask questions about the issues it raises. I encourage you to take a critical approach to the readings, to ask questions, and to probe issues. It is imperative to maintain an open

environment and respect each others' ideas, comments, and concerns, even if you do not agree with your colleagues or me. Please remain respectful.

Grade Breakdown:

Midterm Exam #1.....	20%
Midterm Exam #2.....	30%
Final Exam.....	35%
4 Quizzes	(5% ea –drop one) 15%

Exams constitute a significant portion of your grade. In order to perform well on exams, you must attend class lectures and read the assigned texts. Exams will include a multiple choice component, fill-in-the-blanks and short answer. Make-up exams will only be scheduled with a documented emergency. Be prepared to submit documentation. Notify me immediately, preferably before the missed exam.

Quizzes test your content knowledge and ability to apply that knowledge. They are usually multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. You will take four quizzes and drop your lowest or missed quiz score. If you miss a quiz you will not be allowed a make-up quiz without documentation. If you arrive late to class, your quiz time will be reduced.

THERE ARE NO EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS. You have enough to worry about with the scheduled assignments.

Teaching Assistant

Dorothee Bouquet is our teaching assistant in HIS 152. She has extensive training in history and with working with undergraduates. Please use her resources during her office hours or set up an appointment if you have questions about class material or exams. She will also be doing much of the class grading. If you have a question about grades or evaluation, please see her before you bring the issue to me.

Grading Scale

I use a straight grading scale with pluses and minuses. I do not use a curve. There is no predetermined grade distribution.

A = 93 – 100 B+ = 87 – 89 C+ = 77 – 79 D+ = 67 – 69 F = anything below 60

A- =90-92 B = 83 – 86 C = 73 – 76 D = 63 - 66

B- = 82 – 80 C- = 72 – 70 D- 60 – 62

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require modification of seating, class requirements or whatever, please see me as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements. I will keep all discussions confidential as long as the situation permits. Please note that, in order for Purdue University to accommodate your needs, you will need to provide appropriate written documentation for your disability and have it on file with Adaptive Services.

Cheating and Plagiarism (Hint - Don't Do it!!)

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. At the very least it will earn a failing grade on the assignment and depending on my judgment of the level of severity, failure of the entire class.

Instances of plagiarism may be pursued through higher academic and administrative channels. If you turn in a plagiarized case brief, plan on failing the class. Another hint: Do not test my tolerance on this issue.

No phones, computers, or electronic devices of any kind may be used during exams. If you are caught using one (unless it is properly documented as needed for a disability), I will assume you are cheating. For information on what constitutes plagiarism see and how to avoid it, see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

UNIVERSITY EMERGENCY POLICY

In the event of a cataclysmic or simply a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email. Also, check the university website at purdue.edu.

Pandemic Policy:

University officials and I request that you do not come to class if you have a fever, influenza symptoms, or any contagious illness. Contact me preferably before the missed class about missed course material.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

You must read thoroughly the assignment before class and be prepared to discuss it on the date that the reading appears. Readings available on the class Blackboard website are designated with (BB) preceding them. YOU are responsible for locating the assigned readings.

** I reserve the right to make additions, deletions, or changes to this syllabus.

Date	Reading	Assignments
Week One		
1-10	Introduction, Syllabus	
1-12	Brinkley, Ch 15, pgs 380 - 391	
1-14	(PS) Charles Otkin on Sharecropping; (PS) 13 th , 14 th , 15 th Amendments; (BB) Redeemers	
Week Two		
1-17	No Class – Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
1-19	Brinkley, Ch. 16, pgs. 401-426	
1-21	(PS) Atlanta Constitution (BB) Widney, “The Chinese Question”	
Week Three		
1-24	Brinkley, Ch. 17, pgs. 427 - 450	
1-26	(PS) Andrew Carnegie; (BB) George, The Crime of Poverty (1885)	Quiz #1
1-28		

Remainder of reading schedule forthcoming in class.