



SYLLABUS

American History to 1877

AMH 2020 – P1005

Spring 2026, Session A

Instructor	Dr. Brian R. Rucker
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Final Exam Date(s)	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Wednesday, May 6
Last Date of Drop/Add	Jan 15
Last Date for Student to Withdraw	Apr 6
Class Meeting Time	M_W 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM
Class Location	4962
Prerequisite(s)	Grade of C or better in ENC 1101
Course Description	In this course, students will trace the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction Era to the Contemporary Era. Topics include, but are not limited to the rise of industrialization, the United States' emergence as an actor on the world stage, constitutional amendments and their impact, the Progressive Era, World War I, the Great Depression and New Deal, World War II, the Civil Rights Era, the Cold War, and the United States since 1989.
Credits	3 credit hours
Semester(s) Offered	Fall, Spring, Summer
Course Designation(s)	College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Humanities requirement.
General Education Core Course Standard	Per Florida Statute 1007.25 , "Humanities courses must afford students the ability to think critically through the mastering of subjects concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music, and philosophy, and must include selections from the Western canon."

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials	America Volume 1 (Brief); David Shi; 9780393882537; 12th; Norton; 2022	
	All opinions represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of Pensacola State College or the instructor.	
General Education Student Learning Outcomes	1. Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions. 2. Communication: The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas. 3. Cultural Literacy: Demonstrate an understanding of human culture.	
Course Learning Outcomes:	1. Identify the key events in American history from the end of the Civil War to the present, including western expansion, the age of industry, the world conflicts of the 20th century, the Cold War, and the making of modern America. 2. Identify the individuals, groups, and various peoples who were instrumental in the growth and development of this country from the end of the Civil War to the present. 3. Trace the ideas, forces, and movements which made the United States a world power by the 20 th century, and explain how the United States responded to and participated in the global conflicts of the 20th century. 4. Analyze the problems Americans experienced in western expansion, the rise of industry, immigration, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Cold War, and the problems modern America faces. 5. Evaluate and compare the key events from this period in American history, especially as relates to cause and effect, and apply those lessons learned. 6. Communicate, using critical thinking skills, the key events and players in this period of American history. 7. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government. 8. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application. 9. Develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance. 1. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.	
EXAMS (3)		70%
RESEARCH PAPERS (3)		30%
Total		100%
Grading Scale	90%-100%	A
	87%-89%	B+
	80%-86%	B

	77%-79%	C+
	70%-76%	C
	67%-69%	D+
	60%-66%	D
	0%-59%	F
Student Expectations	Students enrolled in this course can expect the following: 1. clearly identified course objectives; 2. productive class meetings; 3. a positive learning environment; 4. opportunities for appropriate student participation; 5. effective instruction; 6. positive and appropriate interactions; 7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours; 8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; 9. clear and well-organized instruction.	
AI Statement for Writing Emphasis Courses	Because writing emphasis courses focus on the foundational skills of critical thinking, rhetorical awareness, and information literacy, the work presented by students must be original. As such, the use of generative AI for graded assignments is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to assign a failing grade to an assignment determined to exhibit markers of generative AI use. In such instances, the student may challenge the failing grade and is responsible for demonstrating the originality of a submitted text. Continued registration in the course will be understood as acceptance of this policy.	
Academic Dishonesty Statement	Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: Academic Integrity	
ADA Statement	Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act Amendments Act of 2008 or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss academic accommodations. Appropriate academic accommodations are determined on an individual basis with careful consideration of the course learning outcomes and the documentation of the disability. For more information, students should visit the Student Resource Center for ADA Services on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603; call 850-484-1637; email ADAservices@pensacolastate.edu; or complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the MyPSC apps dashboard.	
Emergency Statement	In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.	

Flexibility	It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.
Non-Discrimination Statement	Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex (as defined by applicable federal and state law), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or marital status in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Officer at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.
Security Statement	Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.
Student Email Account Statement	Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.