THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865 (HIST 2620-002)  
ESSC 255 | MWF, 9:00-9:50am | Spring 2011  

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Supplemental Instructor: Dong Ha  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course will explore the development of the United States from the end of the Civil War through the present day. Lectures and readings will concentrate on the broad political, economic, and social development of the United States, and how the threads of the last century have created the modern American nation. Course lectures and exams will emphasize critical thinking about historical issues, asking students to move beyond names and dates toward a broader understanding of the evolution of the United States.  

REQUIRED TEXTS  
The readings are essential to success in the course and will be indispensable for performing well on the exams. The readings in *American Legacies*, in particular, will be integral to answering questions on the exams.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Assignments and Grading:**

Exam 1: 25 percent  
Exam 2: 25 percent  
Exam 3: 25 percent  
Exam 4: 25 percent

- Grading on all assignments will be on a ten-point scale: an A is 90-100, B is 80-89, C is 70-79, D is 60-69, and below 60 is an F.
- The exam format will be discussed in class, although it will emphasize short answers and essays. We will also hold review sessions for each exam.

**Blackboard Vista** [webctvista.unt.edu](http://webctvista.unt.edu)

For this course, we will use our Blackboard site for two purposes:

1. All the PowerPoints for my lectures will be available there.
2. Any course announcements will be posted there, in addition to being announced during lecture.

**Course Objectives.** By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Identify, explain, and contextualize key trends in post-1865 United States history.
- Explain how the larger themes and trends in American history shaped the evolution of the country from the end of the Civil War through the modern day.
- Analyze historical information, evidence, and arguments.

**General Policies:**

- Attendance: Attending lectures is absolutely essential to attaining a good grade in the course, as exams draw heavily from lectures, and so you are expected to attend all classes. That said, absences will not directly affect your grade and we will take attendance solely for record-keeping purposes.
- “Make-up” tests will be given only at the discretion of the instructor. If you know in advance that you will be absent during a scheduled exam, contact me in advance to make arrangements.
- There will be absolutely no toleration for academic dishonesty or plagiarism.
- Student behavior that interferes with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct, which may be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).
Extra Assistance:
If you ever need extra assistance with any aspect of the course, your first stop should be
to see either myself or one of the TAs. In addition, there are several other resources
available to you:

- **Supplemental Instruction:** We are very fortunate to have Dong Ha as a
  supplemental instructor (SI) for this course. SI sessions are led by a student who
  has already mastered the course material and has been trained to facilitate group
  sessions where students can meet to compare notes, review and discuss course
  concepts, develop strategies for studying and preparing for exams. These sessions
  are free and voluntary, and I highly encourage you to attend. SI sessions begin
  the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session
  schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program, and
  session schedule/updates, visit: [http://learningcenter.unt.edu/](http://learningcenter.unt.edu/).

- **History Help Center:** The UNT department of history operates a History Help
  Center (HHC) located in Wooten Hall 220 (phone: 940-565-4772; hours are
  Monday through Thursday, 8am-8pm, and Fridays 8am to 5pm.). The HHC is
  staffed by graduate students in history and can provide help with studying for an
  exam, advice on how to study, take notes, and other such things.

- **UNT Writing Lab:** The UNT Writing Lab offers help with all aspects of writing
  and is a terrific resource. Tutors and advice can be had at multiple locations from
  9am to 10pm most every weekday. For more information, see

- **UNT Learning Center:** UNT maintains an excellent Learning Center geared
  entirely toward providing students with resources for improving classroom
  success, with specialized tutoring and programs on issues such as time
  management and test taking strategies. For more information, see

Disability Statement:
Any student with special circumstances covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act
should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA), Suite 322,
University Union Building (phone: 940-565-4323). Students who have registered with
ODA should also make an appointment to discuss their disabilities accommodation
requests with me during the first week of class. The University of North Texas is on
record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity
With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act
(ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on
providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: America in 1865 (January 19, 21)
- Introduction (or, “What on Earth Did You Get Yourself Into?”)

Week 2: Reconstruction (January 24, 26, 28)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 18; *American Legacies*, Ch. 1.

Week 3: Migration, Populism, Jim Crow (January 31, February 2, 4)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 19 & 22; *American Legacies*, Ch. 2-3, 5.

Week 4: Urbanization and Industrialization (February 7, 9, 11)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 20-21; *American Legacies*, Ch. 4.
- **EXAM 1 in class on February 11.**

Week 5: Progressives and War (February 14, 16, 18)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 24-25; *American Legacies*, Ch. 7, 10, 11.

Week 6: 1920s and the KKK (February 21, 23, 25)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 26-27; *American Legacies*, Ch. 9.

Week 7: Depression and New Deal (February 28, March 2, 4)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 28; *American Legacies*, Ch. 13-15.

Week 8: World War II (March 7, 9, 11)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 29-30; *American Legacies*, Ch. 16-17.
- **EXAM 2 in class on March 11.**

SPRING BREAK: March 13-18. No class!

Week 9: Postwar America and the 1950s (March 21, 23, 25)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 31-32; *American Legacies*, Ch. 18.

Week 10: Cold War (March 28, 30, April 1)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 33; *American Legacies*, Ch. 19.

Week 11: Civil Rights (April 4, 6, 8)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 34; *American Legacies*, Ch. 20.

Week 12: Vietnam, Hippies, and Revolution (April 11, 13, 15)
- Reading: *America*, Ch. 35.
- **EXAM 3 in class on April 15.**

Week 13: The Dismal 1970s (April 18, 20, 22)
- No reading.
Week 14: Reagan and the 1980s (April 25, 27, 29)
- Reading: America, Ch. 36.

Week 15: Modern America (May 2, 4)
- Reading: America, Ch. 37.
- May 6: No class on Reading Day.

THE FINAL EXAMINATION will be given on Wednesday, May 11, from 8:00am-10:00am, in ESSC 255.