

Spring Semester 2009**Office:** 533 Harris Hall**Office Hours:** M+W 11:00-12:15, T+Th. 9:30-10:45
W 2:00-5:00, and by appointment**Email:** mjeffries@netc.edu**Telephone:** 921-1453

Overview: This course is an introductory overview of the major themes that have shaped the United States, its peoples, and its place in the world community from 1877 through the present. While the basic format of the course will involve lectures and some discussions, we will use a variety of documents, readings, photography, films, and music to explore the ways in which we understand and interpret our nation's past.

In accordance with the goals of Northeastern Technical College, this course will help students to identify, conceptualize, and evaluate:

Social and political processes and structures using quantitative and qualitative data

Key primary sources related to American history, political solutions, and society

The nature and development of the intellectual concepts that structure American politics

The history and operation of American democratic institutions, culture, society, and involvement in world affairs, and

To convey knowledge and understanding of ethnicity in the United States, helping students learn about the opportunities and responsibilities they have as citizens in an increasingly multicultural nation.

Furthermore, in the spirit of the traditions of a liberal arts education, we will all work together on the expression of ideas in both writing assignments and classroom discussions.

As we proceed through the content of this course, I wish for students to consider the importance of change and continuity over time. I offer two quotes as guideposts for the issues we will study, and to assess how the meaning of these arguments provides perspective on historical ideas, events, and characters.

"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of its barbarous ancestors."

Thomas Jefferson, "Letter to Samuel Kercheval," 12 July 1816, in David Mayer, *The Constitutional Thought Of Thomas Jefferson* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1994), pgs. 295-296.

"O, let America be America again – The land that never has been yet – And yet must be-the land where every man is free. The land that's mine-the poor man's land, Indian's, Negro's, ME – Who made America, Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain, Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain, Must bring back our mighty dream again."

Langston Hughes, "Let America Be America Again," in Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005), pgs. 404-405.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the professor.

Book: David Goldfield, et al., *The American Journey: A History of the United States: Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition*, Brief 5th Edition, Vol. 2 (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson / Prentice Hall, 2009).

Supplementary Reading (Not Required Text): Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492-Present* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005).

Readings and Writing Assignments: Students will have reading assignments for each week's meetings. Each reading assignment will involve primary and secondary sources of different types.

Registration for this Course: Students are responsible for registering for this class and for verifying their class schedule on the College's Web-site. Students are responsible for observing NETC registration deadlines, to which no exceptions can be made. The deadline for registration for this course is January 9, 2009 with instructor / departmental signature. The last day to drop this course without receiving a "W" grade is April 17, 2009. There are no exceptions to these dates.

Course Requirements: Grades in this course will be determined by their performance in the following areas:

1. First Examination (25%, based on examination score)
2. Second Examination (25%, based on examination score)
3. Final Examination (25%, based on examination score)
4. Attendance, Quizzes, Writing Assignments, Discussion, and Participation (25%, based on the average of these scores)

Also, please take the time to create a Moodle account. This is extremely important as there will be supplementary material (readings, media, assignments...etc.) placed on the internet site for the course. You may access Moodle at the following web-site: <http://netc.remote-learner.net/login/index.php> or by visiting college's web-site at: www.netc.edu and clicking the "current students" tab then clicking the "Moodle" tab on the left side of the computer screen.

All work will be graded on a scale of 0-100, with 90-100 being "A," 80-89 being "B," etc... I will provide written explanations for the grades on all written work.

The examinations will be essay in format, must be written in blue or black ink, and be written in a "Blue Book" that each student is responsible for purchasing. Failure to comply with these directions will result in a grade of "0" for the exam. I will not give study guides. Students should utilize all of the course materials, readings, quizzes, and writing assignments as their study guide.

All quizzes and in class writing assignments must be written in blue or black ink, other outside of class writing assignments must be typed and double spaced. If these rules are not followed a "0" will be given for the assignment.

I would like to have the opportunity to interact with every student, thus I request that each student come to my office hours at some point during the semester to introduce themselves to me.

Honor Code: I expect all students to abide by the Northeastern Technical College Honor Code. As a student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with the Code and with plagiarism, and by signing into this course you are agreeing to uphold the Code. I insist that all work that you present be your own original work, no exceptions will be made. Information about the Honor System at NETC may be found in the NETC Course Catalogue and Student Handbook, also found on the internet at <http://www.netc.edu/Pathways.html> as a linked, downloadable Adobe Reader .pdf file. All work that students submit for this course, including writing assignments and examinations, must contain your signature and printed name.

Attendance and Assignments: Presence at all class meetings is necessary for students to participate in discussions and debates, to take quizzes, turn in assignments, and to obtain a working knowledge of material for which students will be held responsible. Attendance is mandatory and absences will count against the student's final grade. I will take attendance at the beginning of every class meeting, past classroom experiences demonstrate that poor attendance will result in low scores on assignments and examinations, ultimately lowering the student's final grade average. Therefore, *students should be present for all lectures and take thorough notes on lectures and class discussions*. I will not provide lecture notes if students are absent, so do not ask me to do so. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for every class meeting, quiz, examination, and assignment. If the student misses seven class meetings for the semester they will be dropped from the course with a grade of "F" for the entire course. The instructor reserves the right to change, update, or alter assignments, quizzes, and examinations at anytime.

I expect that you will have completed all readings prior to coming to class and that you will be prepared to discuss such readings. Work should be handed in as indicated to you. Late work will *NOT* be accepted, and there are no make-ups for missed assignments, including examinations. There are **NO EXCPETIONS** to this policy except in the most extreme of circumstances, with proper documentation. All missed work will result in the grade of "0."

Students who have any scheduling conflicts with any assignments should discuss conflicts with me at the earliest date possible. I will deny any and all requests to change the dates or times of assignments at the last minute.

Classroom Etiquette: In order that all students contribute to discussions and a positive classroom environment, I insist that all students demonstrate respect toward one another and toward the instructor at all times. I **WILL NOT** tolerate any inconsiderate student behavior. Failure to follow classroom etiquette will result in lowered grades and immediate dismissal from class, be considerate of others at all times.

Each week will feature specific cultural, social, and ethnic information dealing with the United States and its peoples including but not limited to music, artifacts, arts, crafts, food, health and medicine, social programs, environment, exploitation, capitalistic endeavors, portrayal, representation, politics, policies, stereotypes...etc. and their relationship to the United States, its peoples and government, during the certain time period.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: <i>January 12</i>	Post Reconstruction: The New South Goldfield, Ch. 17
Week 2: <i>Jan. 19</i>	Post Reconstruction: Immigration, Urbanization, & the North Goldfield, Ch. 18
Week 3: <i>Jan. 26</i>	Post Reconstruction: Transforming the West Goldfield, Ch. 19
Week 4: <i>February 2</i>	Politics and Government of the Gilded Age Goldfield, Ch. 20
Week 5: <i>Feb. 9</i> (EXAM #1)	New Reform: The Progressive Era Goldfield, Ch. 21
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Week 6: <i>Feb. 16</i>	Building an Empire: American Imperialism Goldfield, Ch. 22
Week 7: <i>Feb. 23</i>	“The Great War”: World War I Goldfield, Ch. 23
Week 8: <i>March 2</i>	The “Roaring 20s”: America in the 1920s Goldfield, Ch. 24
Week 9: <i>Mar. 9</i>	The Great Depression, FDR, and the New Deal Goldfield, Ch. 25
Week 10: <i>Mar. 16</i> (EXAM #2)	America and the World: The Beginnings of World War II Goldfield, Ch. 26
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Week 11: <i>Mar. 23</i>	World War II: War and Peace Goldfield, Ch. 26 continued
Week 12: <i>Mar. 30</i>	Capitalism, Communism, and the Two World Powers: The Emergence of the Cold War Goldfield, Ch. 27
Week 13: <i>April 13</i>	Social Change: Movements Toward Equality Goldfield, Ch. 28
Week 14: <i>April 20</i>	Violence and Politics: Vietnam Goldfield, Ch. 29
Week 15: <i>April 27</i> (EXAM #3)	The 80s, the 90s, and the New Millennium Goldfield, Chs. 30-31