COURSE SYLLABUS

AMH 2020
US History Since 1877

Fall Semester, B Session, 2025
CRN: 84555 • Online • Semester Hours: 3 • Prerequisites: None
Semester Dates: 8/18/25 – 10/8/25

Instructor Information:
Robert Saunders, Jr., PhD
BA, History, Salisbury University
MS, History, Salisbury University
PhD, History, Auburn University

Instructor's office phone: (850) 872-3826
Instructor's email: rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu

Division Chair Information:
Dr. Robert Saunders, Jr., Chair
Social Sciences Division
211 SS Bldg.
Gulf Coast State College
850-872-3826
rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu

Social Sciences Senior Administrative Assistant:
Ms. Jody Walton
Social Sciences 210
850-872-3825
jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu

Required Textbook:

The textbook for this course, titled *U.S. History*, is a completely free, online, and downloadable textbook. Click the following link for the text: https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history

Catalog/Course Description and Broad Goals:

- In this course, students will trace the history of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction Era to the contemporary era. Topics will 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, issues of civil and minority rights, the Cold War, and the United States since 1989.

- This course is primarily lecture and reading based.

- The broad goals of the course include students learning and retaining a significant amount of historical information; developing critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; and, improving communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- Students will describe the factual details of the substantive historical episodes under study.
- Students will identify and analyze foundational developments that shaped American history from before European contact to 1877 using critical thinking skills.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped United States history.
- Students will demonstrate competency in civic literacy.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- Students enrolled in this section of AMH 2020 will learn the basic, chronological order of the major events that shaped American history from 1877 to the near present;

- be well versed in the major eras and movements that have played an integral role in ushering in major shifts in American history; and,

- be able to explain many of the details and nuances of Reconstruction, the rise of big business, developments in the western US, the Populist and Progressive Eras, American imperialism; the rise of the Imperial Presidency, America and World War I, America during the 1920s, The Great Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and major changes that fundamentally impacted the United States from the 1970s.

6A-10.02413-1 Civics Literacy Competency

Prior to the award of an associate in arts, associate in science, or a baccalaureate degree, first-time-in-college students entering a Florida College System institution in the 2021-2022 school

year, and thereafter, must demonstrate competency in civics literacy <u>by completing (a) and (b)</u> prior to graduation:

(a) Successfully passing AMH 2010, AMH 2020, or POS 2041 American. Each of the courses must include the following competencies:

(1) Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government;

(2) An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application;

(3) Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government; and

(4) An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

(b) Achieving the standard score on <u>one</u> of the following assessments:

Assessment:	Standard Score:
AP Government and Politics, US	3
AP United States History	4
CLEP: American Government	50
Florida Civics Literacy Exam	60

Expectations Statements:

- Students enrolled in this section of AMH 2020 can expect a comprehensive, highly detailed, and balanced study of American history from 1877 to the near present.

- I serve as the Chair of the Social Sciences Division at Gulf Coast and am into my thirty-sixth year of teaching at the college level. I've taught American history courses at five different universities and colleges, including Salisbury University, Auburn University, and Auburn University Montgomery. I served as a faculty member and administrator at Troy University from 1997-2019. Let me know of problems or issues as soon as possible. I am always open to questions and to handling any problems you are experiencing with the course.

- This online course is organized into weekly modules, each consisting of reading assignments, digital lecture links, terms lists, and films/documentaries relevant to the material within each module.

- Students can expect to receive replies to emails to the professor within 24 hours—48 hours on weekends.

- Students enrolled in this section of AMH 2020 are expected to use Canvas, the OpenStax textbook website, and their GCSC email address for accessing the learning materials for this course and for all internet-based communication.

- The primary learning activities in this course will be watching and taking thorough notes on each of the lectures and on all of the assigned pages within the textbook.

- Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

  - Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each Learning Module—I cannot overstress the importance of the digital lectures;

  - Read all of the textbook pages assigned within each Learning Module;

  - Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule in Canvas).

  - Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

Social Sciences Policies
AY 2025-2026

The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences.

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion in the student's records.

- "**Cheating**" includes but is not limited to the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework.
- "**Plagiarism**" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of another person's published or unpublished work without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects.
- "**Self-plagiarism**" occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.
- **The use of AI software** in any form to create class assignments may violate GCSC's Academic Integrity Policy. Before employing AI technology in any manner and to any degree, students should consult with their professors for all courses offered through the Social Sciences Division.

Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If aspects of this course's instruction or design hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Before receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - Under federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the student(s) paying damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the GCSC Student Handbook: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may or may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- Submit a written request to the instructor before the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.
- Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.

Instruments of assessment for AMH 2020 include:

Exam # 1
Exam # 2
Exam # 3
Exam # 4
Biosketch Essay

Assignment of Grades: All examination and assignments grades will appear in the student's gradebook in Canvas. Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	59% and below