AMH 2020-83754 WEB This is an ONLINE COURSE

US History Since 1877

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Brennan

Course Syllabus

A Session, Fall Semester, 2026

Term Dates: 08/17-10/12 2026

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students, via e-mail or Canvas announcement, when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

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Instructor Education:

BA, Theatre, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1993
MA, History, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, 1996
Ph.D., History, University of Missouri, Columbia, 2003
Ed.D., Organizational Leadership in Higher Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, 2018

Office Hours

Fall 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
11-12	9:30-11	11-12	9:30-11
2-3:30	1-3:00	2-3:30	

Credit hours: 3
Lecture hours: 3
Prerequisites: None

Technology Requirements for this Course: This section of AMH 2020 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable internet service. Computer problems happen, but they are not an excuse for late or missing work.

Technical Assistance:

Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.

Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday

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 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, the Civil Rights Era, the Cold War, and the United States since 1989.

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 since 1877 using critical thinking skills.

· Students will demonstrate an understanding of the primary ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped American history.

· Students will demonstrate competency in civic literacy

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

From the OpenStax website: *"U.S. History* is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). *U.S. History* covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender."

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6A-10.02413-1 Civics Literacy Competency

Civic Literacy, Course Competencies, and Outcomes: The State of Florida recently adopted a new rule regarding Civics Literacy. The old Civics Literacy rule required all students to successfully complete one of the two following courses, either AMH 2020 or POS 2041.

The new rule requires students to successfully pass AMH 2010, AMH 2020 or POS 2041 AND achieve a passing score on a Department of Education-approved civics exam--including the Florida Civics Literacy Exam (FCLE).

The new rule applies ONLY for students who entered college as "first-time-college-students" during Fall Semester 2021 and thereafter. If you were enrolled in college prior to Fall 2021, you will not need to complete the exam. This exemption does not, however, apply for dual-enrolled high school students.

There is a link within the FCLE module (at the top under Start Here and above Textbook) for you to register for the FCLE.

NOTE: the FCLE is not part of the grading schema for AMH 2010--it is entirely separate from your overall grade in our AMH 2010 course.

Student Expectation Statement: The student is expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, using the provided materials in each of the four modules to complete assignments and prepare for exams. In addition to the assignments, short quizzes, and readings within each module, students MUST complete the Pre-Modular Assignments.

Assignment of Grades: All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

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

Method of Evaluation:

Modular Exams (x 4 @ 15% each)	**60%**
Modular Assignments	**35%**
Pre-modular Assignments	**5%**

Make-Up Work Policy: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course.

At the end of the term, one day is set aside for making up or retaking exams. This is the only day for students to retake or make up a test. If a student wants to use this opportunity to submit or re-submit an assignment that is allowed. Students must choose one-an exam or an assignment to make-up, not both. This semester, the make-up date is December 3.

Course Outline:

Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- **Access the course materials in Canvas;**
- **Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;**
- **Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below);**
- **Complete all the assignments and any quizzes (if and when I assign them. Although there are currently none on the calendar, that is subject to change. If I create an assignment or a quiz, I will make an announcement in class as well as here, 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.**

Assessment Instruments: This course relies primarily on in class lectures.

Materials and Assessments are assigned to prepare students for the Major Exams (4).

Exams

- **The exams will be online and comprise multiple choice and true/false questions.**
- **Anyone needing to miss an exam for any reason, please plan to use the make-up date at the end of the term.**

Course Calendar for Learning Modules and exams.

Module 1- Aug 17 – Sept 11**.**

Read Chapters 16, 18, 17, and 19 in your textbook. This module will look at Reconstruction, business and invention, and Urban Migration during the Gilded Age.

Reading Assignments (Provided by your instructor and located in Canvas):

Carnegie, Andrew. "The Gospel of Wealth." 1889. In *US History II (OS Collection)*, LibreTexts. Public domain text provided by Wikisource. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Courses/Lumen_Learning/Book%3A_US_History_II_(OS_Collection)_(Lumen)/05%3A_Industrialization_and_the_Rise_of_Big_Business_1870-1900/05.7%3A_Primary_Source_Reading%3A_The_Gospel_of_Wealth.

Conwell, Russell H. *Acres of Diamonds*. Project Gutenberg, 2010. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/34258.

Lease, Mary Elizabeth. "Wall Street Owns the Country." Speech delivered circa 1890. Reprinted in *History Is a Weapon*. Accessed June 15, 2026. Wall_Street_Owns_The_Country.docx.pdf

International Working People's Association. *Pittsburgh Manifesto.* Pittsburgh Congress, October 1883. Reprinted in Wikisource. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Pittsburgh_Manifesto

Module 1 First Major Exam (20 %)
Open Friday September 12 through Sunday night, September 13

Module 2- Sept 14 – Oct 10

Read chapters 20, 21, and 22, in your textbook. In this unit, students will learn about Theodore Roosevelt and how he infused the Presidency with moral authority. This moral authority will shape American foreign policy and lead to the formation of the American "empire."

Reading Assignments (Provided by your instructor and located in Canvas):

Roosevelt, Theodore. **"The New Nationalism."** Speech delivered at Osawatomie, Kansas, August 31, 1910. Accessed June 15, 2026.
`https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_New_Nationalism`

Wilson, Woodrow. **"The Meaning of the New Freedom."** 1913. Accessed June 15, 2026.
`https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_New_Freedom`

De Lôme, Enrique. **"De Lôme Letter."** February 1898. Reprinted in *Our Documents*. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://www.ourdocuments.gov.

Kipling, Rudyard. **"The White Man's Burden."** *McClure's Magazine*, February 1899. Accessed June 15, 2026. `https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_White_Man%27s_Burden`

Zimmermann, Arthur. **"Zimmermann Telegram."** January 16, 1917. Reprinted in *National Archives*. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://www.archives.gov.

Committee on Public Information. **"World War I Propaganda Posters."** 1917–1918. National Archives. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://www.archives.gov.

Debs, Eugene V. **"Canton, Ohio Speech."** June 16, 1918. Accessed June 15, 2026. Debs' Speech of Sedition - Wikisource, the free online library

Module 2 Second Major Exam (20%)
Open Friday October 9 through Sunday night
Oct 11

Module 3- Oct 13 – Nov 7

Read chapters 23, 24, 25, and 26. In this unit, students will learn about World War I and the Jazz Age that followed. Students will learn about Republican triumphs throughout the 1920s until October, 1929. Finally, students will learn about Roosevelt's efforts to alleviate the Depression in America.

Module 3 Major Exam (20%)
Open Friday November 6 through Sunday night,
November 8.

Video Assignment: *The Eugenics Crusade*. Directed by Michelle Ferrari. *American Experience*. PBS, 2018. Streaming video, 1:53:25. Accessed June 15, 2026. Films On Demand. https://fod.infobase.com

Module 4- Nov 10 – Dec 3

Read Chapters 27, 28, 30, and 31 in your textbook. In this unit, students will learn about World War II, the Cold War that followed, the cultural revolution and protests of the 1960s, and the New World Order that emerged after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Reading Assignments (Provided by your instructor and located in Canvas):

Bailey, Josiah, et al. **"The Conservative Manifesto."** Washington, D.C., 1937. Reprinted in Wikisource. Accessed June 15, 2026.
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Conservative_Manifesto

Savio, Mario. **"Bodies Upon the Gears."** Speech delivered at the University of California, Berkeley, December 2, 1964. Reprinted in Wikisource. Accessed June 15, 2026.
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bodies_Upon_the_Gears

Postman, Neil. "Teaching as an Amusing Activity." In *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, 83–98. New York: Viking, 1985.

Bush, George H. W. **"Remarks at the Presidential Forum."** April 23, 1980. In *Reagan, Ronald: 1980 Campaign Papers, 1965–80*, Box 247. Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Accessed June 15, 2026. https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/public/2022-04/40-656-7386364-247-011-2021.pdf

Greider, William. **"The Education of David Stockman."** *The Atlantic*, December 1981.

Fourth and Final Exam (20%) Online

Open Friday December 4 through Monday December 7.

Your fourth exam is ALSO your Final Exam.

The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses and should be included on all course syllabi.

<u>Academic Integrity Policy</u> - 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 on the student's records.

- **"Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work.**
- **"Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person 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.**
- **Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure: Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g., PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or**

unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

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 there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to 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 - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own 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 students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the current GCSC Student Handbook.

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 submission of complete written assignments prior to 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 prior to 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.

<u>Consequences of Withdrawals</u> - 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.).

<u>Incomplete Grades</u> - 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 prior to 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.