Overview

“History… does not merely refer to the past,” novelist James Baldwin wrote in 1965. “History is literally present in all that we do.” For a course covering the last century and a half of American history, Baldwin’s comments certainly carry a great deal of weight. Our collective understanding of our nation’s past plays a central role in our engagement with the present. Over the course of sixteen weeks, this course will provide students with an overview of the major events and themes in the recent history of the American past. In doing so, we explore four major themes: everyday life, politics, rural-urban relationships, and the idea of freedom.

Learning Outcomes

Students who take History courses at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College are expected to show competency in the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyze historical documents.
2. Identify Primary as opposed to Secondary documents/sources.
3. Demonstrate the ability to extract relevant information from maps and graphs.
4. Employ those facts and interpretations to extract primary arguments from primary and/or secondary sources.

These goals will be achieved through the verbal and written analysis of assigned readings and primary documents.

General Education Outcomes

Students will describe how historical, economic, political, social, and spatial relationships develop, persist, and change as well as how they are impacted by the complexity and diversity of individual and group behavior.

Class Format

We will meet twice times each week and, for the most part, class time will be a mix of discussion and lecture. The fact that this is a survey course means that we will cover quite a lot of material in a relatively
short amount of time. Attendance, active participation, and critical engagement with lectures and assigned reading are key.

Assessment

Students’ grades will be based on several different criteria. These include participation, three short essays, four quizzes, and cumulative final and mid-term exams. Grades will be posted in a timely fashion on D2L.

Participation: 5%

Essays: 30%
Quizzes: 25%
Exams: 40%

Participation – Attendance is central to participation. If a student is not present, then she/he cannot participate in class discussions. In order to participate effectively in class discussions, students must come to class prepared to talk and think critically about issues in the readings and lectures. Our class size and limited time means that each student cannot contribute every time we meet. Though contributing to class discussions with questions and comments is a major part of your assessment, it is equally important to listen and encourage others to participate. Students are required to bring both textbooks to each class, and must take notes during lecture. Those students who fail to bring their textbooks or take notes will be asked to leave class and will earn a zero for the day (i.e., be counted as absent). Students must turn off their cell phones during class. Those students caught using their cell phones during class will be marked absent that day (see policy on Attendance below).

Exams – Students will complete a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term exam will cover all assigned reading and lectures up to that point in the semester. The final exam is cumulative. Each exam is divided into two sections. The first consists of short answer questions. The second section consists of multiple-choice and/or matching questions. Each section draws on the lectures and textbook. The exams are equally weighted.

Quizzes – Students will complete four quizzes over the course of the semester. Unless otherwise noted, quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on the dates listed in the course schedule. Each quiz is divided into two sections. The first consists of short answer questions. The second section consists of multiple-choice and/or matching questions. Each section draws on lecture and the textbooks. The quizzes are not cumulative.

Essays – Analytical reading and writing are important ways that students engage course materials. Over the course of the semester, students will write a total of three 600-word essays responding to prompts based on primary sources in the Voices of Freedom reader. Prompts will be posted at least one week before essays are due. Essays on are due on turnitin.com on the dates listed in the course schedule by 11:59 pm. Login information for turnitin.com is as follows:

Class ID: 10308444
Password: franklittle

Grammar and punctuation are part of your grade, but the purpose of the essay is to encourage students to critically engage primary source documents. It is not necessary for a student to agree with a particular argument. It is, however, important that students take the texts seriously. Students may use their lecture notes for reference, but the bulk of their essays should explicitly deal with the text. A grading rubric will be available on D2L. Graded papers with comments will be available on turnitin.com in a timely fashion.
Outside Help
I have listed my office hours at the beginning of the syllabus, but I am available by appointment on other
days as well. I am happy to meet with students to discuss any problem or question they may have about
course materials or assignments.

Late Papers and Quizzes/Exams
Short essays will be accepted late, but students will lose one letter grade for every 24 hours. Exams are
eligible for make-ups only with documentation of official absences. Students unable to attend class must
notify and make arrangements with me before hand in order to be eligible for a make-up quiz or exam.

Academic Honesty
Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. In addition to being reported to the university, any student found
guilty of plagiarism or cheating will receive a zero on the assignment and possibly a failing grade for the
course. For more on Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College’s policies on academic dishonesty students
should consult the school’s “Code of Conduct” at:

Attendance
Students are required to attend class. Official, university-sanctioned absences are excused only if students
provide documentation before their absence. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor about
rescheduling exams or quizzes. Only those students with official, university-sanctioned absences on exam or
quiz days will be allowed to reschedule. Students are also responsible for all content covered in the class they
missed (excused or not). It is the student’s responsibility to arrange to have a classmate take notes for them.
Students may miss a total of three classes (excused or not) without incurring penalties other than those
stipulated in the section above on “Late Papers and Quizzes/Exams.” Students missing four classes (excused
or not) will earn a zero for their participation grade. Students missing five or more classes (excused or not)
will earn a failing grade for the course. There will be no exceptions.

Disability Services
I fully appreciate that all of us have different learning styles. If you have a diagnosed condition requiring
adjustments to the course, please set up an appointment with me during office hours so that we can work out
a plan for the semester. Please meet with me as soon as possible. Evidence of legitimate need for this
consideration must be provided. To obtain the proper documentation, please schedule an appointment with
Disability Services (http://www.abac.edu/sd/disability/) by contacting Dr. Maggie Martin
(mmartin@abac.edu) or her office at 229-391-5135.

Required Books

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One – Introductions

Week Two – A Second American Revolution

Week Three – The Death of Reconstruction

Week Four – Chicago and the Great West

Week Five – Populist Challenges

Week Six – Reunion and Empire

Week Seven – Progressivism and War

Week Eight – A Return to Normalcy

Week Nine – Making the New Deal

Week Ten – World War II

Quiz 1 on 8/27

Quiz 2 on 9/10

Quiz 3 on 10/15

Week Eleven – Cold War

Week Twelve – Postwar Liberalism

Week Thirteen – Making Postwar Suburbia

Quiz 4 on 11/5

Week Fourteen – Civil Rights and Reaction

Essay One due on 9/3

Essay Two due on 10/8

Final Exam Review

Week Fifteen – New Conservatism

Week Sixteen – Unmaking the New Deal

Week Seventeen

Final Exam

Final Exam Review