

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

Department of History

Fall, 2015

HISTORY 306

[Formerly History 398]

The History of the United States, 1945- 2010

WARNING: Please read this handout carefully. Here-in are the “rules of the course.” You will be held accountable for all of what is here. They are in addition to the rules and regulations of the College and the University of Wisconsin. This document merely adds course-specific requirements and in no way supersedes their authority.

COURSE CONTENT:

The intent of History 306 is to provide an overview of economic, political and social trends since World War II. Naturally, the course will draw heavily on other social science disciplines (economics, political science and sociology) for much of its material. We will, however, attempt to chart cultural and artistic trends as well. I will try to bring the history down to the “present” but occasionally I fall short. For that I apologize at the outset.

BASIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular class attendance – both lecture and discussion section – is required. There will be weekly assignments in discussion section which over the term will add-up to a fourth of the semester’s grade.

To “test” for attendance in lectures there will be occasional lecture quizzes. These little tests are very simple – a sure 5 to 10 points each. If you miss them regularly it will likely drop you a full grade. If you miss one, it will be of minor consequence. The whole point of the quiz is to take attendance and, therefore, there are no “make-up” quizzes. **No exceptions.**

Undergraduate students must register for four credits. Graduate students register for three credits [contact me please].

| Assignment | Four Credit Students |
|---|----------------------|
| Lecture Quiz Points | 10% |
| Discussion Section | 25% |
| 1 st Mid-Term Exam (In-class) | 20% |
| 2 nd Midterm (Take-home essay) | 20% |
| Final Exam | 25% |

REQUIRED READING:

Students should be warned that the reading requirements for the course are considerable. If you have any reason to believe that you will not be able to meet the demands of the course, you should drop the class NOW. Other students are waiting to enroll. It is unfair to hold a place in the class for a few weeks and then dropout.

In addition to the books on order at the University Bookstore, there will be electronic materials on Learn@UW. You can likely find some copies of both the required reading books and the books from which chapters will appear on Learn@UW at any used and/or thrift book store in the area. You might also consider Half.com and other Internet stores. You should also consider buying an earlier edition (not more than one revision old, however); the revisions are usually minor. For the Chafe book, for example, I would not go earlier than the 2008 edition. A few words of warning: While the actual prices are lower on the web, with shipping they often net-out about the same as the local book stores. Moreover, if

you decide to drop the class, the book store will buy the book back from you. Web vendors usually will not.

Regardless, don't wait until the last minute, please. In total, the books are fairly expensive so it's understandable that you might postpone purchasing them. But be warned, as the date on which the reading is due approaches you may have trouble finding a copy. That's NOT our problem. You will be held accountable for doing the reading on time regardless of whether the book is immediately available.

The books on order at the bookstore are:

William H. Chafe, *The Unfinished Journey: America Since World War II* (8th Edition Oxford Univ. Press).

John Lewis Gaddis, *Cold War: A New History* (Penguin: 2006).

Robert F. Tedeschi, Jr., *The U.S. Constitution & Fascinating Facts About It* (Oak Hill Pub). [Recommended.]

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (Basic Books).

David Brooks, *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There* (Simon and Schuster).

PERHAPS two additional books will be added. If that's the case, the author & title will be announced later in the term.

All of these books can be found in the University Libraries or, perhaps, the Madison Public Library. Some are on reserve, some copies are not. An enterprising student, who wanted to save money, might lay claim to them but he/she would have to do so as early as possible.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADES:

In order to avoid any confusion over the direction and content of the course, in the third or fourth week of the term we will be distributing the questions for midterms and the final. It should be stressed that these are not simply study questions. They are the examination questions just as they appear on the examination.

We reserve the right to give the grade of "F" to any student who fails to meet the ALL basic requirements of the course, regardless of their point total. In other words, you are expected to attend your assigned discussion section on a weekly basis. You are expected to complete all assignments on time. You are expected to take the examinations at the prescribed time and the designated place. If you fail to meet these basic expectations, you will receive an "F" for the course even though you may have accumulated the minimum number of points to pass the course. On the last week before the University-wide final date to drop courses, we will contact student who are likely to fail and encourage them to drop the course.

While exceptions to these basic requirements may (very occasionally) be granted, the student is obligated to request that such an exception be granted three days prior to the due date (for assignments) or one week prior to the examination period (for tests). There will be no "Incompletes" or extension beyond the end of the term. Please, no exceptions on this score.

A comment on the occasional quizzes in lecture: I write-up a quiz whenever it please me. There tends to be about four over the semester; mostly they occur later in the term. Sometimes I hand them out at the beginning of lecture, sometime at the end. They are primarily for the purpose of measuring attendance. Either you are in lecture that day [and time] or you are not. NO EXCUSES. I want no "I'm normally in lecture but today I had a headache, Professor Sharpless..." emails. A message before lecture doesn't help either. If for some reason you have to miss lecture – no matter how worthy – it does NOT exempt you from the "lecture quiz" requirement on that day.

PLAGIARISM:

Unfortunately, it appears necessary to comment on plagiarism and cheating. Obviously, it is expected that

examinations and assignments will reflect your own original efforts. We do not discourage studying together; however, in the final analysis your essays, assignments and answers to the questions on the examinations must represent your ideas and be written in your own words. If there is ANY indication that students have collaborated in the WRITING of their exams, weekly assignments or that the material has been cribbed from an undocumented source, at the very least, zero (0) points will be assessed for the assignment.

A word of warning: the History Department subscribes to a service that can check essays for key words and phrases on the web, quickly locating the true source of the material. It's quite good. We've already caught a number of students who lifted their material from web sites. If I find that you have taken your essays (as a whole or in part) from a web site or a term paper service, I will fail you. It's that simple – you cheat or plagiarize, you get an F for the course.

If it is shown that your work in the course does not represent your own efforts, obviously the consequences are be serious. Cheating could cost you your college career, or, at the very least, it will mean an "F" in this course. But equally important, even if you are not caught I believe that cheating is a sign of a serious lack of respect for the people teaching the class, your fellow students and yourself. Enough said. If you make a sincere effort to meet the demands of the course, we will make a sincere effort to help you pass the course. Cheating is quite unnecessary.

PARENTIAL INTERVENTION:

Recently I have had a problem with parents seeking to intercede on behalf of their "*children*" who are enrolled in the course. I do not object to parents attending lectures on occasion. I am perfectly willing to discuss the content of the course but I will not alter lectures or materials to fit the particular ideological, religious, political, ethnic or philosophical beliefs of the student or their family. This course is taught regularly by other faculty members. If my approach to postwar history is troubling to you, perhaps you should take the course from a different instructor.

Nor do I reject the notion that parents may contact the University or the Department in extreme cases of prejudiced or inappropriate behavior, but I will not under any circumstances entertain calls, letters or emails from parents (or their representatives) on matters of attendance; the conduct, timing or content of assignments or tests; or grading or scoring of examinations or assignments, or grades for the term as a whole. Federal and state law prevents me from providing anyone [including parents] personal or academic information about students enrolled in my class. [The same hold for the Teaching Assistant – no parental intervention or harassment allowed.]

OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN:

Office Hours:

The Teaching Assistant is Dan Hummel. He will announce their office hours when discussion sections meet for the first time (next week). They will also post them on their office door.

Professor Sharpless will hold office hours by appointment or on Wednesday, 11:00 am -12:00 (noon). Other times can be arranged by phone or email. His office is 4110 Mosse Humanities Building. Phone: 263-1800 or 263-1816.

Emails: Dan Hummel: dhummel@wisc.edu
John Sharpless: jsharp@wisc.edu

Email Communication:

From time to time, we will use the University email system to communicate with History 306 students. These can be very important messages aimed at the class as a whole or you as an individual. Please check your email regularly. We don't "Facebook," "Tweeter" or "text." [Always check the "FROM" line to make sure that the message is really from the History 306 Teaching Assistants Professor Sharpless or the History Department. [We are not responsible for fraudulent messages.]

We recommend that you use the "wisc.edu" address provided to every student by the University. Because of the various virus and junk mail filters, messages to and from email addresses "outside of system" occasionally do not make it through to the recipient or are seriously delayed. If you have any reason to believe that History 306 emails are not reaching you, talk to your TA.

Proper Registration:

Students are expected to attend the discussion section for which they are registered. In truly exceptional cases, the Teaching Assistant may allow students to attend a section other than the one for which they are registered. Please understand that it is NOT our job to fit you into the course. The size of sections is set by Department and University requirements. The TA's decisions in this matter are final. No appeal. No section changes will be allowed after the University deadline.

Students who find it necessary to drop the course must do so in accordance with University requirements and regulations. No exceptions.

All undergraduates should be enrolled for four (4) credits and graduate students for three (3) credits. Please check your record to make sure this is the case.

Lap tops, Cell Phones, iPods & Other Electronic Devices:

No laptops or electronic pads maybe used in lecture. Simply sit and listen or take handwritten notes. Please remember to shut-off all cell phones before lecture and discussions. Do not listen to cell phones, radios, CD players, computer transmissions or iPods during lectures or discussions. Be courteous. If these things are more important than attending to lecture or discussion, simply don't come to class.

Do not record lectures or section discussions without written permission from Professor Sharpless. Lectures are under copyright to John Sharpless and the University of Wisconsin. Any retransmission or publication without permission is a violation of copyright law. All materials distributed in the course are copyrighted. Notes taken in this course are only to assist in study and preparation for exams. They are not to be sold or conveyed to any commercial entry or private market vendor without written permission. [I do not make the Power Point slides available. They are part of the lecture. If you come to lecture, you get to see the slides. If you don't come to lecture, you don't see the slides.]