

**AMH2020 (Online Course)**

Section 74      3 Credit Hours      Summer A 2023 (May 15-June 26)  
Phone: 854-2322 ext.1485      Office: 8-106D

# *United States History Since 1877*

**Instructor:** Dr. James Meier

**Contacting the Instructor and Office Hours:**

It's best to contact me through the Canvas email system. Please allow 24 hours for an email response Monday morning through Friday evening, and up to 48 hours Friday through Sunday evening. **If you attempt to communicate with me through announcements, Discussion Forums, tests, or other assignments available in Canvas, I will not usually see your comments or questions** since Canvas does not effectively notify instructors of such messages. I can meet with you during the office hours listed below or by appointment in my office, or via Zoom or the telephone. You can contact me through my campus email of [meierj@cf.edu](mailto:meierj@cf.edu), but I do not check it frequently as I do my Canvas email account, so anticipate a longer response time.

Virtual Office Hours:  
to be announced

"Actual" (Physical) Office Hours:  
to be announced

**Course Description:**

An interpretive survey of United States history since Reconstruction. Major topics include the America's emergence as an industrial and world power, World War I, the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, and the Cold War and its aftermath.

**Course Objectives:**

You should: (1) acquire an understanding of the main events of American history since Reconstruction and an appreciation of the role history plays in our society; (2) cultivate objective and critical thinking skills concerning past events and their significance today; (3) become familiar with the techniques of analyzing evidence (historical or otherwise) in order to reconstruct events and assess their significance; and (4) develop a heightened interest in engaging as an active, educated citizen in order to help improve our community, our nation, and the world.

**Extended Emergency Closure:**

For emergency campus closings (natural disasters, etc.) call 352-291-4499 or 800-831-9244, or check the homepage for the College of Central Florida (CF) at [www.cf.edu](http://www.cf.edu)

**Required Text:**

Pearson's Revel Access Card/Digital Access for Brands, Breen, Williams, and Gross, *American Stories: A History of the United States, Volume Two, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. The Revel Access Card gives you digital and audio access to the textbook as well as related materials in Revel that are required for this course.

**Student Responsibilities:**

No pre- or co-requisites are necessary for this course, however, to complete this course, it is required to have continued access to the Internet and a reliable computer. You are responsible for all the assigned readings and supplemental materials that might be made available, check regularly for announcements, read and participate in Discussion Forums (DFs), complete Study Guides (SGs) and Chapter Quizzes (CQs, available in Pearson's Revel) on a timely basis, and take tests on the dates that they are administered. Predictably, lack of adequate preparation for tests and irregular submissions to DF, SG, and CQ assignments tend to result in significantly lower grades, particularly given the ambitious scope of this course.

**Navigating Canvas:**

This course uses Canvas as its Learning Management System platform and to post course materials. Go to <https://mycf.cf.edu/ICS/>, login, click on the "Academics" tab, and follow the link "Go to Canvas." If you are

unfamiliar with Canvas, you may access a self-tutorial by hovering over the Courses tab in Canvas and clicking on the Getting Started in Canvas course. As well, you will find helpful links by clicking on the “Help” icon in the bottom left-hand corner of your Canvas page. If you have questions or encounter any problems logging on to Canvas, contact the E-Learning Help Desk at [dlhelp@cf.edu](mailto:dlhelp@cf.edu) or at 352-854-2322, ext. 1317. You may also access the “Canvas Support Hotline (Students)” or “Chat with Canvas Support (Students)” features by clicking the “Help” icon in Canvas.

### Student Assessments – Grading Procedures:

- Introductory Discussion Forum (DF)
- Syllabus Quiz
- Tests
- Study Guides
- Discussion Forum (DF) Participation
- Chapter Quizzes (in REVEL)

Letter grades are based on the numeric grades earned in the course. Below are the **minimum** numeric grades necessary to acquire a(n): A=90.0; B+=87.0; B=80.0; C+=77.0; C=70.0; and D=60.0. Any grade below 60.0 will receive an F. In order to protect your right to privacy in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), grades will not be released via telephone or by an email system other than the one embedded in Canvas. As well, your grades will not be discussed with anyone other than you, unless directed to do so by a college official or if you give written permission. A grade of “Incomplete” will apply only when you have been successfully participating in this course and experience an emergency at the end of a semester that prevents you from completing it.

### Introductory Discussion Forum (DF):

Go to the Week 1 subfolder in “Modules” and click on “Introductory Discussion Forum (DF).” Read the prompt, then compose and upload a brief description of yourself (75 words or more) so that your fellow students can learn a little about you and other classmates.

### Syllabus Quiz:

This online quiz is intended to ensure that you have read and understood the syllabus, acquainted yourself with the course resources, and acquired sufficient proficiency in navigating Canvas to ensure success in the course. You can take this quiz up to three times. Complete it at your earliest convenience to avoid missing the due date.

### Tests:

There will be five tests available online through Canvas, none of which are cumulative. The tests are open book, meaning you are welcome to consult your textbook and notes, the Internet, or other print and digital resources. However, you may not discuss test questions with other students while tests are active, nor consult or otherwise collaborate with anyone toward the completion of tests. Test periods are listed in the “Tentative Course Schedule” below. Each test will cover approximately one-fifth of the course. You have 45 minutes to complete the tests, each consisting of 50 questions. The questions may be of the following variety: multiple choice, true or false, and fill-in-the-blank. Questions will appear one at a time and not allow you to backtrack to those you have already viewed. You will be alerted to upcoming tests by way of announcements a few days prior to each test. During designated test periods, icons for the tests will appear in the “Modules” tab. You will be allowed just one attempt for each test, although **if you get “booted out” of the test (owing to your computer crashing, an interruption in internet access, or some other such technical glitch), simply re-enter the test as soon as possible (since the clock will continue to tick down all the while) and complete it.** Promptly at 11:59 pm on the last day of the test period, the test will shut down and disappear, effectively ending your access to it, even if you are in the process of writing it at that very moment. Once all the tests have been graded, usually within a couple of days following the expiration of the test period, you will be allowed to review your test digitally and view the grade. An announcement will be posted in Canvas drawing your attention to that fact. Despite the daunting breadth of the readings, making brief summations of them during the semester on an ongoing basis will greatly facilitate preparation. To aid in that process, Study Guides will be made available every Friday at noon for the coming week’s readings in the *American Stories: A History of the United States, Volume Two* text. The questions that appear on tests can be anticipated by

studying the terms featured in the Study Guides. Additionally, each chapter of the text features a set of Chapter Quizzes in Revel that help prepare you for test questions.

### **Study Guides:**

For each of the 17 chapters of the course's digital textbook, there is a SG available (in either MS Word or PDF) at noon Friday for the coming week's assigned chapter or chapters. SGs identify the learning outcomes for each chapter that you ought to keep in mind while proceeding through the material. Additionally, SGs contain the key terms with which you ought to be familiar. The order of these terms as they are listed in the SGs roughly corresponds to the sequence in which they appear in the textbook chapters. Space is provided beside the terms in order that you may enter pertinent information relating to the terms (i.e., a definition, a person or group closely associated with the term, a notable example, etc.). Every question featured in the course's five tests will be related to the terms in these SGs. You are expected fill in this information and submit the SG by 11:59 pm on Sunday. Partially completed SGs will be assigned half or quarter credit, and those minimally filled in a grade of zero. No response needs to be recorded with respect to the chapter's learning outcomes. You can submit the SG either by uploading a digital image of it or by submitting the document itself as an attachment. If you require additional space in which to record information beside the SG terms, you can download the MS Word document and add the appropriate number of extra spaces. SGs must represent your own work since they are submitted for credit. Late SGs will be accepted for half credit within a week of the due date, which means by 11:59 pm on the Sunday following the posted deadline.

### **Discussion Forum (DF) Participation:**

DF participation is an essential element of this class. Your DF participation grade will be based on the quality, originality, and regularity of your contributions to the DFs, and the degree to which your comments reflect a familiarity with the readings. Each Friday at noon, a new topic prompt will be posted to the DF or DFs for the coming week. Posts for DFs 17-32 are due at the end of the week (at 11:59 pm on Sunday). Each DF provides its specific due date. While you may upload more than one post to a given DF, no extra points will be awarded for doing so. In that case, only the post from that specific DF awarded the highest grade would be recorded in the Canvas grade book.

**For each DF to which you respond, you need to upload two posts: one of an informational nature and one commenting on the post of a fellow student.** The informational post must be at least 75 words in length and will be graded on a scale of 0-4. Additionally, you need to comment on the post of another student. This comment post only needs to be 25 words (or more) and is graded of a scale of 0-1. The cumulative grade representing the sum of the two posts will be recorded in the grade book for each specific DF. All posts need to be on topic and related to the DF prompt. **Do not copy or paraphrase what appears in your textbook, nor a secondary source that you have consulted.** In the same vein, it is not acceptable to merely echo what another student has already written in a previous post. To avoid this pitfall, **familiarize yourself with the posts of your classmates in the applicable DF.** **In responding to a given DF prompt, craft a short response in standard sentence form that represents your analysis of the issue, presented from your perspective, and expressed in your own words.** Please be aware that there is no statute of limitations with respect to copied work. Even though I would normally detect obvious examples of plagiarism in grading DF posts, I operate under the assumption that your posts are original and conform to CF's Honor Code guidelines (see the relevant section of Academic Integrity and Honor Code of the Student Handbook at <http://cf.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/Student-Handbook/Section-7-Student-Right-To-Know-Information/Copy-of-Academic-Integrity-and-Honor-Code>). If I later discover that work you submitted earlier in the semester was copied and that I initially failed to recognize that, I reserve the right to re-grade posts and assign them an amended grade.

In composing posts, express yourself in a grammatically correct manner as if you were writing very short essays. Keep it simple stylistically. In other words: please do not "shout" (i.e., use text in upper-case letters) or embolden or color text; do not employ large or overly small sized font; do not use exotic formats or patterned backgrounds; and do not present your comments in bullet form. At all times, comments must be respectful of the opinions and sensibilities of other students in the class. In a related fashion, kindly direct comments that are critical of the course or the instructor to the course instructor himself—do not post them in a DF or via a general broadcast email to the class. Half credit will be awarded to posts uploaded late, but they must be submitted within a week of the due date,

which means by 11:59 pm on the Sunday following the posted deadline. If you attempt to upload your post after a DF closes or do not submit a post at all for a particular DF, you will not receive a grade for that DF. For all DFs, you have at least ten days in which to upload an on-time post, so do not leave posting your contribution to the last moment and risk missing the deadline.

If you wish to post a comment or a question about the material you encounter in the course's digital text, you can do so in the "DF For Questions About Content" found in the subfolder entitled "Discussion Forum For Questions About Course Content." Of course, you are welcome, indeed, even encouraged, to respond to the comments and questions of your classmates in this DF. If it is helpful, you might also include links to useful materials found on the Internet.

### **Chapter Quizzes (in Revel):**

Online CQs appear in all 17 chapters of the digital version of *American Stories* available through Pearson's Revel. To access Revel, click on the link entitled "Pearson Revel" found in the console on the left-hand column of the Canvas homepage. If you answer a specific CQ question correctly on your first attempt, you will receive three points. Two points will be assigned for correct answers on your second attempt, and one point on your third. CQs come due and shut down at the end of the week (at 11:59 pm on Sunday) to which they (and their corresponding chapters) are assigned. **Please note that subchapters feature multiple short quizzes and a final quiz (that appears at the end of the chapter). In other words, each chapter contains a series of 3-8 CQs.**

**Tentative Schedule of Topics, Readings, Assignments, and Tests** (due to unforeseen developments, it may be necessary for the schedule below to be altered. The instructor will always strive to be fair concerning any changes).

#### **Week 1**

- The Agony of Reconstruction (Chapter 16)
- **Introductory Discussion Forum due**
- **Syllabus Quiz due**

#### **Week 2**

- The West: Exploiting an Empire (Chapter 17)
- The Industrial Society (Chapter 18)
- **Study Guides (SGs) 16-18, Discussion Forums (DFs) 16-18, and Chapter Quizzes (CQs) for Chapters 16-18 due**
- **Test 1 (on Chapters 16-18: consult SGs 16-18)**

#### **Week 3**

- Toward an Urban Society (Chapter 19)
- Political Realignment (Chapter 20)
- Toward Empire (Chapter 21)
- The Progressive Era (Chapter 22)
- **SGs 19-22, DFs 19-22, and CQs for Chapters 19-22 due**
- **Test 2 (on Chapters 19-22: consult SGs 19-22)**

#### **Week 4**

- From Roosevelt to Wilson (Chapter 23)
- The Nation at War (Chapter 24)
- Transition to Modern America (Chapter 25)
- **SGs 23-25, DFs 23-25, and CQs for Chapters 23-25 due**
- **Test 3 (on Chapters 23-25: consult SGs 23-25)**

#### **Week 5**

- FDR and the New Deal (Chapter 26)
- America and the World (Chapter 27)

- The Onset of the Cold War (Chapter 28)
- Affluence and Anxiety (Chapter 29)
- **SGs 26-29, DFs 26-29, and CQs for Chapters 26-29 due**
- **Test 4 (on Chapters 26-27: consult SGs 26-27)**

#### **Week 6**

- The Turbulent Sixties (Chapter 30)
- To a New Conservatism (Chapter 31)
- Into the Twenty-First Century (Chapter 32)
- **SGs 30-32, DFs 30-32, and CQs for Chapters 30-32 due**
- **Test 5 (on Chapters 30-32: consult SGs 30-32)**

#### **Make-Up Policy/Policy for Missed Assignments:**

There are no make-ups. Under normal circumstances, it is expected that you will complete all assignments. However, if an emergency, health-related issue, personal crisis, or participation in an approved school function were to prevent you from completing these assignments, you would be exempt from completing the following assignments without penalty: one test; three SGs and DFs, and CQs for up to three chapters. You would not be required to notify the instructor nor submit documentation attesting to the circumstances that led to you missing these assignments—your exemption is based on the honor system that operates at CF. Only your highest four test scores would count toward your overall test grade for the course. However, if you miss more than one test, you would be assessed a zero for the second test or subsequent tests which you did not write. Similarly, only the highest 14 SG, DF, and CQ scores that you accumulate would count when computing your overall course grades.

#### **Interpreting Posted Grades:**

The grade book that Canvas makes available to you under the “Grades” tab provides grades for the Introductory DF, the Syllabus Quiz, tests, SGs, DFs, and CQs. **However, it will not furnish authoritative, reliable, and up-to-date overall course grades—at least not until the end of the semester. Accordingly, it is best to disregard overall averages generated by Canvas.** To obtain a more accurate provisional overall grade at any given point in time, it will be necessary to compute it based on the available individual grades in accordance with the weighting of grades as described above (under the subheading of “Student Assessments – Grading Procedures”).

#### **Virtual Office Hours:**

You can email me through Canvas’ email system at any time and I will endeavor to respond in a timely fashion. During virtual office hours, I will respond promptly to questions by email, although it is best to contact me through the email client embedded in Canvas for a prompt response. In case you are unavailable at the times listed above, contact me and we can arrange a mutually agreeable alternative time. If there's something you'd like to discuss, we can also meet in my office or arrange to communicate via Zoom or telephone.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:**

The following list offers students a consistent way to see how CF’s global learning outcomes are assessed in each class. This is for information only and does not change the grading system used in this class. Only those learning outcomes relevant to this course are included below.

*Communication: The student will read, write, speak, and listen effectively.* (The following will be assessed in student tests).

1. Read materials and effectively understand essential facts and concepts.

*Global Socio-Cultural Responsibility: The student will be an informed and responsible citizen in social, cultural, and global matters.* (The following will be assessed in student responses to Discussion Forums and Chapter Quizzes).

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the values and expressions of other cultures that arise from human experience.
3. Recognize complex historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that create societies as well as how these forces shape personal identity.
4. Understand the local and global connections among power, knowledge, gender, and class.

**College Resources, Dates, and Policies:**

The College of Central Florida is committed to helping you succeed and achieve your academic, personal, and career goals. There are a wide range of resources and support services available to you. When students are connected early to resources and support systems on campus, they are more likely to stay in classes, perform better in those classes, and complete their path more quickly. One example is through an Early Support Program, where you may receive an email indicating your professor or advisor is reaching out directly to help connect you to support services. This may include connecting you to tutoring, financial support, psychological support services, and disability services just to name a few. Be aware, you can also reach out to these services on your own as well. Additionally, CF offers disability services, a testing center, and many other resources that are available to you. [Please refer to the College Resources, Dates, and Policies document in your Canvas course to learn more about these supports.](#)