

“My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right.”

- Senator Carl Schurz, 1872

History 17B: United States History from 1812 - 1914

Course # 31531

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:50

January 7 – March 25

Room: 3308

Prof. Bill Ziegenhorn

Office: 3021

Email: ziegenhornbill@fhda.edu

Student Office Hour: Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a comprehensive survey of 19th century United States history from the War of 1812 up to the eve of World War I. During this century, Americans developed the ideas, beliefs and way of life that are part of our modern American culture. In other words, Americans today act the way they do mostly because of what happened during this period. The course will focus on the major changes in thought and life in the United States and the effects of those changes on people both then and today.

TRANSFERABILITY

This course should satisfy the following requirements (check with your counselor to be sure):

UC transfer: IGETC Area 4 –Social and Behavioral Sciences

CSU GE/Breadth: American Institutions (AI)

Area D – Social Sciences

Foothill Associate Transfer Degree (ADT) History – required course

Foothill Associate of Arts Degree (AA) History – required course

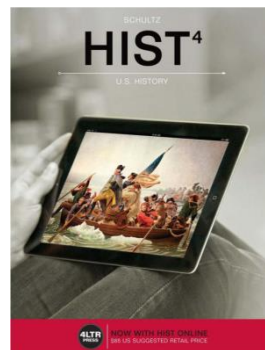
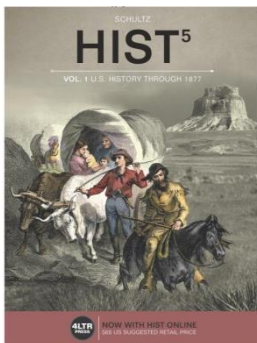
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Kevin M. Schultz, HIST⁶, Boston: Cengage Learning, 2025

Either online or text version



online subscription is good for one year



Earlier editions of the textbook are fine, but you will need chapters 10 - 20 covering American history from 1814 through World War I. There are some copies available for checkout for the quarter in the Foothill Library.

There will also be additional articles and video assigned: these will be accessible through CANVAS and will be noted on the calendar and in class.

CANVAS course site: I'll post this syllabus, articles, links to videos and the project guidelines for the course on our course site through Canvas. You can also contact me or each other through the site. This is not a hybrid course, so there will be no online tests or assignments submitted on the site. Our online site is just for class materials and communication.

How can I pass this class?

Read & Write: This course includes weekly reading. Both the tests and the final will contain essay questions. There is also a quarter project assigned. You need to understand clearly what is being written, and you need to communicate your own ideas clearly. If you read thoughtfully and are thorough in your writing, you should do well. If you have a problem writing or reading English, you will need to devote extra time to this class to do well.

Show Up: Come to every class, don't be late, and don't leave early. I may drop students who miss **more than three or part of six** class meetings.

Pay Attention: Take notes on what you see and hear and read. You will be able to use hard copies of your notes on all the exams.

Do the Work: There will be assignments or tests each week. These make up a significant part of the grade, as does the quarter project. I do not regularly schedule make-up tests or finals.

Take the Final: The final for this class is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 25th, 1:00 - 3:00**. The final cannot be made up. Do not enroll in this class if you cannot take the final.

Grading: Your grade for this class will be based on the following areas of assessment:

Final and Tests: These exams measure your understanding of the content of the course and are therefore the most important. Each of these covers a different section of the course, with some overlap, so you need to do well on all of them to show consistent understanding throughout the course. Failing one test won't mean a failing grade for the course assuming you do well on the others. Failing the final may mean failing the course.

The Quarter Project: The project for the class showcases the skills used to make and transmit history; it may not relate directly to the content of the course. Therefore, a strong grade on the project cannot substitute for failing grades on the tests or final. The project is a requirement for the course; you may not pass the class if you do not submit a project.

In-class activities and homework: This work will show your readiness and involvement in the class throughout the quarter. Frequently there will be some activity that I can assess using a simple measurement of **exceptional (3), good (2) or insufficient (1)**. These assessments will provide a pattern by the end of the quarter that will influence your overall grade to some degree, but active participation in the class alone cannot make up for poor performance on the tests, final or project.

Letter Grades: You will receive letter grades for all major work.

A: signifies that the work meets or exceeds all the criteria for the assignment, is detailed, clear and demonstrates your thorough knowledge of the subject matter.

B: signifies that the work meets most of the criteria for the assignment fairly well, is clear and detailed and demonstrates adequate knowledge of the subject matter.

C: signifies that the work meets some of the criteria for the assignment but is missing important information, is sometimes unclear, lacks detail or demonstrates only basic knowledge of the subject matter.

D: signifies that the work is incomplete, does not meet most of the criteria for the assignment, is unclear, lacks detail or does not demonstrate any significant comprehension of the subject matter.

F: signifies that the work demonstrates no understanding of the subject matter or is the result of cheating or plagiarism.

Late Work, Make-up work and Extra Credit:

Meeting deadlines is an important general skill to develop. Late work for the class will be noted as late and receive a grade of **LP** (late/pass, the equivalent of a C) or just **L** (late, the equivalent of a D). Work that is unreasonably late will receive an **L**. I don't generally give make up tests, and the final cannot be made up. There are opportunities to observe history outside of class, and this will count as extra credit. Extra credit experiences can supplement in-class activities and homework to some extent, but they are not an equal substitute for attending and being engaged in class.

Extra Credit: For extra credit, I want you to go out and experience history. This means going to a museum or a historical site dealing with early American history; or going to an exhibit or discussion or lecture or debate or presentation related to a topic we cover in this course; or going to a cultural event that ties in to early American history or culture. These experiences need to be live -- no movies, websites, book reports, etc. They can be formal or casual, directly connected to early American history or indirectly connected. Use your imagination. If you are unsure whether some activity will count, ask me about it first. The write-up should be one or two paragraphs telling me what you did and how it relates to American history. All extra credit is due one week before the final, but you can and should submit it as soon as you do it during the quarter.

Final Grade: Your final grade for the class will be based primarily on your performance on the tests and final. I will factor in your project grade to complement this grade. Then I will consider your record over the course of the quarter as shown by the in-class assessments and assignments. This record may raise or lower your grade somewhat. Ideally, your performance in all areas will be consistent and the final grade you receive will be what you have been receiving all along. If your performance has been inconsistent in the different assessment areas, then I need to use my judgment based on the best evidence I have from you to determine which grade best represents your overall understanding of the course.

Academic Integrity: Do you value your work as much as I do? Plagiarism is using anyone else's words or ideas without proper citation. This includes artificially generated or assisted writing. I need to know what **you** have to say about a subject. Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the work involved and notification of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Students Resources:

Me Contact me through Canvas or email or stop by my office anytime I am in.

[Writing and Language Center:](#) For free help with writing, reading, note-taking, test taking, etc.

[Disability Resource Center](#) : You may be eligible for testing or learning accommodations to help you succeed in your classes.

[Counseling:](#) Academic counseling is essential, but we also have professionals to help you with life's pressures that may be interfering with your academics and happiness in general.

[Veteran's Resource Center](#) : Go ahead and ask what your country can do for you; you've earned it.

T Th 12:00 – 1:50 Room 3308

Week	Dates	Topic	Read for class	Assessments
1	T 1/7	Introduction		
	TH 1/9	America in 1815	Chapter 10, The Market Revolution	Review Project Guidelines
2	T 1/14	Expansion and Development		
	TH 1/16	The New Economy	Article: “Mill Girls”	
3	T 1/21	Religion and Reform	Chapter 11, Politics of the Market Revolution	Project Update 1 due
	TH 1/23	Age of Jackson		
4	T 1/28	Slavery	Chapter 12, A Regionalized America	MC Test #1: chs. 10-11
	TH 1/30	Expansion West	Chapter 13, The Continued Move West	
5	T 2/4	Gold Rush	Video: “Speck of the Future”	Project Update 2 due
	TH 2/6	Slavery Crisis	Chapter 14, Impending Crisis	Essay Test #1
6	T 2/11	The Civil War	Chapter 15, The Civil War	
	TH 2/13		Video: <i>Civil War</i>	
7	T 2/18	Reconstruction	Chapter 16, Reconstruction	MC Test #2: chs. 14-15
	TH 2/20	Industrial Revolution	Chapter 17, The Industrial Revolution	
8	T 2/25	Gilded Age Society	Article: “Gospel of Wealth”	Project Update 3 due
	TH 2/27	Organized Labor		
9	T 3/4	Immigration	Chapter 18, The Industrial Age: North, South and West	Essay Test #2
	TH 3/6	Incorporating the West	Video: “Ghost Dance”	
10	T 3/11	Populism		
	TH 3/13	Progressivism – local	Chapter 19, The Progressive Era	History Projects Due
11	T 3/18	Progressivism -- national		Extra Credit Due
	TH 3/20	Imperialism	Chapter 20, Becoming a World Power	
12	TH 3/25	Final		FINAL 1:00 – 3:00