

# HIST 1302 –1877 to Present-day Lee College: Baytown, TX

**Instructor** Keith Brown

**Website:** <http://brown1302.weebly.com/>

**Office Hours** By appointment

**E-mail** [kebrown@lee.edu](mailto:kebrown@lee.edu)

**Office** Room 19

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**Lee College Division Chair:** Dr. Cassandra Cookson / 281.425.6366/ [ccookson@lee.edu](mailto:ccookson@lee.edu)

**Lee College Division Secretary:** Marian Stein / 281.425.6371 / [mstein@lee.edu](mailto:mstein@lee.edu)

**Class Time and Location:** PEH: Room 19, MW: 2-3:15 , TuTH: 8-9:15/2-3:15

## Text:

Tindall, George and Shi, David: America: A Narrative History, 9th Ed.

Larson, Erik. The Devil in the White City, 2003.

## Description:

This course will survey United States History from Reconstruction to Contemporary America. I hope to stimulate students to think of history as an ongoing process of raising questions about the past instead of embalming truths in notebooks and resurrecting them for exams. Along with recounting, analyzing, and interpreting selected issues in U.S. History, this course is designed to introduce students to a variety of new perspectives historical study, and more importantly, help develop analytical skills necessary for every educated person, regardless of his or her professional goals. Another objective is to enhance your ability to evaluate sources of information. An adequate overview of any historical period requires a balance of factual knowledge and critical analysis. Memorization of facts is useless without an understanding how they fit into a bigger picture. We will pursue these goals through a mixture of reading, video, and class discussions

## Goals:

- To give students a basic knowledge of American history to Reconstruction.
- To introduce critical thinking about issues, subjects, and events in their historical context.
- To emphasize reading, comprehending, and interpreting primary historical source material and historical maps.
- To stress appreciation for cultural diversity, human behaviors, and points of view in American history.
- To improve students' knowledge of the American political system.
- To promote students' ability to think and learn independently.
- To improve students' writing skills.

## Requirements:

5 Tests (100 x 5)	500	
1 approved Book to Review	100	A = 900 – 1000 pts
1 Book Review (100 x 1)	100	B = 800 – 899 pts
4 Text/Lecture Quizzes (50 x 4)	200	C = 700 – 799 pts
1 Test over <i>Devil in the White City</i> (100 x 1)	100	D = 600 – 699 pts
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	1000	

**Important:** Your grade at Impact ECHS and Lee College may differ slightly due to different requirements from each institution.

**Course Format:** This is a lecture-based course. Tests will consist of short-answer based essay questions as well as multiple-choice sections. The Final Exam will be comprehensive, and **may not be exempted**. It is important that you be able to articulate what you learn. Please be aware that all assignments will be graded based on spelling, grammar, syntax, and the general rules of good communication. Please proofread all of your assignments carefully and correct any errors.

**Book Review:** Students are **required** to write a book review of an historical work pertaining to this course, yet of their own choosing subject to my approval. **This is an institutional requirement by Lee College and must be completed and turned in on time to pass the course.** The book must cover post 1877 time period and must include US History.

Keep in mind that a "book review" is not a "book report!" The purpose of a book review is to evaluate the book. A book review should begin with a summary which should be concise but complete enough to give a general idea of the book and its contents. However, the major portion of such paper should be an evaluative essay. This evaluation should be the reader's reaction to the book with examples indicating why he or she feels as they do. This review should evaluate the book, not the subject of the book.

This should be 500-700 word essay summarizing the book and responding to certain aspects of it such as the interplay between some of the characters. You need to have a thesis concerning the book that you develop in your essay. Here is the model outline:

- I. Introduction, including thesis. 1-3 paragraphs
- II. Main Points (body), several paragraphs
  - What are the author's arguments?
  - Does what the book you chose to read agree or disagree with what your textbook said about the topic?  
(Cite specific pages from the textbook to support your argument here).
  - How successful was the author in doing what he or she set out to do?
  - What are the books strengths and/or weaknesses?
  - Which audience would find this book most enjoyable?
- III. Conclusion (1 paragraph): The conclusion should flow from the main points and reinforce the thesis.

**Make-Ups:** I strongly encourage you to be present on days when exams and quizzes are scheduled. Make up exams will be in essay format. Make-ups for these exams must be **arranged** and **completed** within three business days after the date it was held; otherwise a zero will be recorded for the aforementioned assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:** The purpose of the Disability Services Office at Lee College is to assist individuals with disabilities with accommodations and services that will promote their success and integration into college and college related activities. The Counselor for Students with Disabilities works with students, faculty, and staff to ensure equal opportunity to all programs. For credit courses, continuing education, and community events, individuals will be provided equal access.

**Academic Integrity:** Do not attempt to deceive the instructor for academic gain as cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are extremely serious offenses. Students should familiarize themselves with and abide by Lee College's policies on academic honesty. A zero will be recorded for any violation of the academic honesty code on that specific assignment, and a failing grade will be given for any subsequent violations.

**Classroom Decorum:** I expect a mature and collegiate atmosphere in the classroom. With that being said, all Goose Creek CISD policies remain in effect.

- Cell phone use of any kind (especially text messaging) is not allowed during class. All cell phones must be off and kept out of sight before class begins.
- Questions and/or discussions are encouraged, just please raise your hand first.
- No recording devices are permitted without my consent. Students are welcome to take notes on notebook computers, just please keep the speakers turned off.
- Students will be asked to leave the classroom if they pose as a disruption or distraction to the learning process.

**Course Content:**

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

Topics:

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|---|--|
| 1. Ending Reconstruction                                  | 10. Origins of the Cold War                      |
| 2. The Transcontinental RR and Settling the West          | 11. The Baby Boom                                |
| 3. The Rise of Big Business and Labor "The Gilded Age"    | 12. Brown v. Board and the Civil Rights Movement |
| 4. The Progressives                                       | 13. JFK and the Cold War                         |
| 5. America Claims an Empire                               | 14. The Vietnam Conflict                         |
| 6. World War I  | 15. LBJ's Great Society                          |
| 7. The Roaring 20s, Prohibition, & the Harlem Renaissance | 16. 1970s, Nixon, and Watergate                  |
| 8. FDR and The Great Depression                           | 17. 1980s and Reagan                             |
| 9. World War II and the Home Front                        | 18. 1990s and Bush to Clinton                    |
|   | 19. Global terrorism and Obama's first term      |

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tasks to be completed before class:</b>
Jan. 12/13	Intro	Read syllabus carefully Get textbooks
<u>UNIT 5: GROWING PAINS</u>		
Jan. 14/15	Big Business and Organized Labor	Chapter 18
Jan. 19/20	The South and the West Transformed	Chapter 19
Jan. 21/22	The Emergence of Urban America	Chapter 20
Jan. 26/27	Gilded Age Politics and Agrarian Revolt	Chapter 21
Jan. 28/29	<b><u>UNIT 5 EXAM</u></b>	
<u>UNIT 6a: MODERN AMERICA</u>		
Feb. 2/3	Seizing an American Empire	Chapter 22
Feb. 4/5	"Making the World Over": The Progressive Era	Chapter 23
Feb. 9/10	America and The Great War	Chapter 24
Feb. 11/12	<b><u>UNIT 6a EXAM</u></b>	<b><u>CHOICE OF BOOK TO REVIEW</u></b>
Feb. 16/17		
<u>UNIT 6b: MODERN AMERICA</u>		
Feb. 18/19		<b><u>TEST OVER DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY</u></b>
Feb. 23/24	The Modern Temper	Chapter 25
Feb. 25/26	Republican Resurgence and Decline	Chapter 26
March 2/3	New Deal America	Chapter 27
March 4/5	The Second World War	Chapter 28
March 9/10	<b><u>UNIT 6b EXAM</u></b>	
<u>UNIT 7a: THE AMERICAN AGE</u>		
March 11/12	The Fair Deal and Containment	Chapter 29
March 23/24	The 1950s	Chapter 30
March 25/26	New frontiers	Chapter 31
March 30/31		
April 1/2	<b><u>UNIT 7a EXAM</u></b>	
<u>UNIT 7b: THE AMERICAN AGE</u>		
April 6/7	Rebellion and Reactions: 1960s & 1970s	Chapter 32
April 8/9	A Conservative Realignment: 1977 - 1990	Chapter 33
April 13/14	America in a New Millennium	Chapter 34
April 15/16		
April 20/21		
April 23	<b><u>EOC</u></b>	
April 27/28	<b><u>REVIEW</u></b>	
April 29/30	<b><u>FINAL EXAM including UNIT 7b</u></b>	
<b>May 4 – 7 College Final Exams</b>		

