

History 148

U. S. History: The Global Age

Spring 2012

(5 credits)

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Welcome--

In tracing the American story from the age of Theodore Roosevelt to the beginning of the 21st century, HISTORY 148 stresses these themes:

- * the rise of the modern state--"big government"*
- * from barely involved to world leadership*
- * cultural change and confrontations*

What a story! It never lets up. As the 20th century dawned, the United States had completed a remarkable era of growth and was already atop the world as an industrial giant. The nation--merely a mosquito in world affairs a century before--had just recently flexed its muscles, stripping Spain of its empire and demanding a voice in the counsels of the Great Powers. Living standards were climbing as the age of electricity dawned, and American civilization appeared to be tied to perpetual progress. In September 1901 President William McKinley traveled to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, to greet the new era at this showcase for the amazing triumphs of American culture and technology...

But then, catastrophe! The President was shot by an anarchist. He lingered for a few days, while the technology that could save him was on display elsewhere at the exposition--the X-ray machine. But it was not put to use. The President died.

The new chief executive was the charismatic, unpredictable Theodore Roosevelt. This youngest President in American history gladly seized the reins of power. He loved the Presidency and made it the focus of American government. Americans rallied to his standard of civic righteousness. But as time went on, the Republican Roosevelt worried over the possibilities and limits of American civilization. He pondered the apparently intractable divisions emerging in industrial society...the coming crash of the world order...the cultural crises facing an urbanized American civilization...the disturbing threat as well as the promise of the 20th century...

His successors from Taft to Obama would cover much of the same ground.

HISTORY 148 is a survey of United States history over the past century. It is designed to follow the major changes since 1900 in how Americans have thought and lived and been governed. We will try to understand not only major social and political processes that drove change, but also the human and personal experience of change. We will try to assess the long-standing issues of our time and use historical insight to interpret the new era facing us now. How relevant for today are the American political and cultural struggles that took place at the dawn of the 20th century?

Since 1900, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge. This nation has dealt with such issues as the Panama Canal, trust-busting, the "New Woman," the Pinchot-Ballinger affair, the "New Freedom," women's suffrage, the Lusitania disaster, "Over There," the Red Scare, the "return to normalcy," the Scopes trial, Babe Ruth, the Crash, the Hundred Days, Social Security, Court-packing, the China Incident, Munich, Pearl Harbor, D-Day, the Fair Deal, Korea, the Sputnik scare, the New Frontier, Freedom Rides, the War on Poverty, escalation, Spiro Agnew, the Yom Kippur War, Watergate, WIN buttons, abortion, the Olympic boycott, the Reagan tax cut, the arrival of the pc, the Reagan-Gorbachev summits, the Gulf War, the end of the Cold War, 9-11,

the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the 2008 crash...

To make sense of all this, sort it all out by thinking strategically. What major themes are these facts part of? Keep in mind such questions as what would have been the best policies for fighting the Depression and what impact the Korean War had on U. S. Cold War strategy. Specific details are best absorbed this way, and they will mean more to you if they are put together into your own overall ideas of American history. What you will remember from the course a year or five years from now will not be Dwight Eisenhower's victory margin in 1952 but that he helped preserve the New Deal's reforms and signaled the Republican party's acceptance of them.

Course Requirements--

READING

* Robert A. Divine, T. H. Breen, et al, [The American Story](#), Complete Edition (Pearson Longman). This is the main text; it is also used in History 146 and History 147. The accompanying reader books (Voices of America) contain printed versions of many of the online sources we will use (see below).

* Additional reading assignments are available in "**Lectures & Discussions**" on the "Assignments" page; it carries class lectures and other assignments week by week.

* Our textbook publishing company, Pearson, has put together a set of resources on which these assignments will be based. You need to register for it after you get your copy of [American Story](#). After reading the instructions ("Pearson Portal Directions") on the Homepage, access it from the Homepage or [here](#). The Pearson site will direct you to MY HISTORY LAB (MHL), which gives you access to assigned readings (under "Documents"). It will also lead you to my class link. That will take you to the HEINRICHS HOME OF HISTORY, which is as yet unfinished. BEWARE. As of now, it does not have up-to-date course materials, but it provides access to MHL through the "Laboratory" and has some fun videos available.

STRATEGY--

At the conclusion of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of key people, facts, and events of the period under study, and develop standards to judge them from a historical-cultural perspective
2. Demonstrate the importance of traditions of thought and ethical values in historical change
3. Expand their vocabulary
4. Evaluate historical arguments, judging the appropriateness of both logic and content
5. Adapt scholarly processes of analysis, interpretation, and synthesis to articulate their own points of view, demonstrating a command of relevant facts and a framework of logical deduction...

- Drawing inferences from data
- Differentiating between facts, value judgments, and generalizations
- Differentiating between description and explanation
- Recognizing the role of cause and effect in historical analysis

History is absolutely do-able if you think strategically. Think about overall trends. File facts away according to what they mean for major trends. The specific details absorbed in the course material will mean little unless you can do that. You are encouraged to put together your own interpretations of the facts.

COURSEWORK—

Be sure to look at the "**Reading Schedule**," located on the "**Assignments**" page (accessible from the Home Page). This will guide your

reading through the term for lectures and textbook readings.

One central element of the course is the four discussion essays and four discussion responses you will write. Find the "Lectures & Discussions" link on the "Home Page." It takes you to the lectures and the online readings from "My History Lab," the Pearson publishing company's store of historical documents. You will also find the essay assignment that goes with each "Discussion." (Coursework is divided into eight discussions.)

As much as you can, coordinate the My History Lab document readings with the lectures and textbook assignments in the "Reading Schedule." Find the Discussion Assignment, and follow directions for the listed readings and brief essays. After doing the reading, you choose one essay question to answer from the Discussion Assignment. Submit your essay through the Discussion's "Posts" icon. Each essay should be 250-400 words. During the term you will write and post a total of four brief essays answering four Discussion assignments by the deadline given for each. (Due date schedule is in "Assignments.")

I like an essay that comes to grips with the student's chosen question--that tries to answer it logically with details and facts. It is especially desirable to use facts and details from the online readings and lectures. The Divine text is helpful for these essays, but don't write a mere summary of what the text says. Don't base your essay on an encyclopedia article (especially that unreliable Wikipedia), though feel free to consult a decent encyclopedia for background. Use paraphrases and quotes from the sources to back your points, not to make them, and avoid both long quotes (more than 40 words) and overly brief ones (less than 10 words). Avoid typo's and misspellings.

Note what the assignment says about a purpose statement.

When you don't post an essay, you will do the week's reading anyway and post a **response** to the essay of another student. Like the essays, this is usually due on Thursday or Thursday. Find other students' essays through each Discussion Assignment's Post icon. Each response should be at least 75 words long and should express agreement, disagreement, and reasons for your view. You will do a total of two responses in Discussions #1-#5 and two in Discussions #6-#10.

This means that during the term you must post four bulletin essays of your own and four responses to others' essays. Essays are graded on a 25-point scale; responses on a 5-point scale.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Unfortunately, when you get a grade for your response, it'll read something like 4 or 5 "out of 25." Don't come unglued. It's really out of 5. Vista won't let me pool essays and responses with different "out of __" numbers. Instead, even response grades say, "Out of 25." Please bear with me.

Also, **there is no credit for posting a response on a Discussion for which you have already submitted an essay.**

See the "Overall Schedule" in "Assignments" for due dates of essays and responses for each Discussion.

In addition to the brief essays and responses, you will compose a six-page paper (due **June 6**), following a sheet provided under "Assignments."

There will be a midterm and a final exams, each about two hours, on these dates: **May 9** and **June 13**. You will take them online. (You are responsible for having access to a functioning computer on test days, so plan ahead.) The tests will have multiple-choice and essay questions and will be based on the text and the lectures. There will be preparation sheets for each in "Testing."

Copying material in print or on the Internet is forbidden. A zero grade will be assigned to paper or test in which plagiarized material appears, or if on a Discussion essay, the entire Discussions grade (25% of the total term grade).

LATE WORK --

Students are expected to finish all assignments and exams on the assigned dates. However, I recognize that unusual situations sometimes arise that prevent timely completion of the coursework. Here are policies governing late work, including submissions of late work at the end of the term.

Policy #1: Normally, late discussion essays and late papers are accepted, but with a penalty of two percent per day, up to a maximum of 10 percent. This can be avoided if you obtain permission for an extension in advance of the due date and have a compelling reason for that. Note: weekly essays are graded on a 25-point scale, so the late penalty amounts to .5/25 per day (up to a maximum of 2.5/25).

If you miss the midterm or final exam for some legitimate reason, all is not lost. However, if you don't contact me and take the test right away, you will lose 10% right away and another 10% after a week.

Policy #2: No work will be accepted after Final Exam day (March 21) if you have not completed at least half of the coursework by the day of the final. That means at least two discussion essays and the midterm must be in by the day of the final, or no work will be accepted, and no incomplete grade will be granted.

Policy #3: If a problem prevented you from taking the final exam, you will be allowed to take it another time before the end of the term, but with a 10% grade subtraction. This subtraction will be waived if you informed me of a conflict before the day of the exam and I agreed to reschedule it for you. It will be waived in case of an unforeseen valid emergency. It will be waived if the problem was the responsibility of myself or of Vista, but not if it was with your computer or a scheduling problem.

Policy #4: The “I” grade, if granted, has to be fulfilled during the next term or it will automatically change to F.

GRADING--

The following is a breakdown of the final grade by category:

Discussions:	25%
Paper	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

All items will be assigned percentage grades, whose average will be translated into a letter grade according to the following:

93-plus A	77-79% C+
90-92% A-	73-76% C
87-89% B+	70-72% C-
83-86% B	67-69% D+
80-82% B-	60-66% D

If you’re ever not sure you’re on top of it all, if you have any questions about the course, ask questions by WebCT e-mail, or to theinric@bellevuecollege.edu. Or call and leave a message at 425-564-2114.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) So I'm supposed to do two essays out of the first four Discussions, and two for the rest. Also I respond to two essays from other students in the first four discussions, and two for the rest. Is that right?

Yes.

2) What are you looking for in these essays?

Go to each Discussion assignment for the specifications and questions. I like an essay that comes to grips with the student's chosen question, that tries to answer it logically with details and facts. It is especially desirable to use facts and details from the Discussion (especially online) readings. The Divine text is helpful, but don't write a mere summary of what it says. Use input from the primary sources and the lectures ("Topics"). Don't base your essay on an encyclopedia article (especially that unreliable Wikipedia), though feel free to consult a decent encyclopedia for background.

Use paraphrases and quotes from the sources to back your points, not to make them, and avoid both long quotes (more than 40 words) and overly brief ones (less than 15 words).

Remember what the assignment says about a purpose statement.

Avoid typo's and misspellings.

3) What are you looking for in the responses?

Agree or disagree with the author, using your own facts. Don't simply write your own essay about the topic; show that you've read the essay and thought about it.

4) Can I save time for myself by doing a response from a Discussion for which I wrote an essay?

No. Your essays and responses have to be separate Discussions in order to get credit. But feel free to post input any time (useful for defending your essay).

5) Hey, I got only a "4" for my response to an essay, and it says "out of 25"! Why such a low grade?

It's really out of 5. But Vista won't let me put on one thread essays and responses with different "out of ___" numbers. Instead, all the Discussion assignments say, "Out of 25." Please bear with me.

6) What about the exams? Will there be a preparation sheet for each?

Yes, about 10 days before each one.

7) What if my computer messes up? Or I lose internet access and can't turn in an assignment?

Do your best to have a working computer and stable internet access, especially for exams. If there is a problem, however, find a way to notify me and we'll deal with it in some common-sense way. Also, if trouble prevents you from doing one of the weekly Discussion assignments, you often can just wait for the next Discussion assignment.

8) I don't have time to do the assignments for this class. Should that count against me?

No, but your grade will reflect what you actually do.

9) I don't have time to do the assignments for this class. Can I do extra credit work to make up for it?

No.

10) Should I read the lectures?

Yes. They'll make your Discussion essays and exam answers better.

11) What if Vista crashes?

Communicate by email. I am at theinric@bellevuecollege.edu. Or leave a message at 425-564-2114.

GRADING--

The following is a breakdown of the final grade by category:

Discussions:	25%
Paper	25%
First exam	25%
Second exam	25%

All items will be assigned percentage grades, whose average will be translated into a letter grade according to the following:

93-plus	A	77-79%	C+
90-92%	A-	73-76%	C
87-89%	B+	70-72%	C-
83-86%	B	67-69%	D+
80-82%	B-	60-66%	D

If you're ever not sure you're on top of it all, if you have any questions about the course, ask questions by WebCT e-mail, or to theinric@bcc.ctc.edu. Or call and leave a message at 425-564-2114.

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Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.”

Incomplete*

If a student fails to complete the majority of the work for a course due to unforeseen circumstances, an instructor may or may not assign the grade of Incomplete (I). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

F Grade*

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of “F.”

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the date posted in the quarterly schedule. If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Disabled Students

Students with a disability requiring special accommodation from the College and/or the instructor are required to discuss their specific needs with both the Office of Disabled Students (B233) and the instructor. If you require accommodation based on a documented disability, emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case of emergency evacuation, please make an appointment with your instructor as soon as possible.

If you would like to inquire about becoming a DSS student you may call 564-2498 or go in person to the DSS (Disability Support Services) reception area in the Student Services Building.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of one year and one quarter following the end of the registered quarter.

- * If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110C), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.