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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

Undergraduate History, Military Studies, Western & World History Programs

HIST409

The United States: World War II – Present

Credit Hours: Three

Length of Course: 8-Weeks

Prerequisite(s): None but HIST300 recommended

The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in upper level (300-400) undergraduate courses assume that you have completed lower level (100-200) History courses to develop content knowledge and skills necessary for research, writing, and critical thinking.

Students who have not fulfilled these requirements or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for upper level courses.

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Instructor Information

Course Description (Catalog)

The purpose of this course is to prepare the student for upper-division course work, research, and writing based on historical methodologies such as quantification or paleography. It is designed to familiarize the student with what historians do and how they do it, and affords the student the opportunity to develop their own skills as a historian by interpreting and evaluating primary and secondary source material and presenting their findings in a written, properly referenced format.

The United States: WW II to the Present is a study of the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States from World War II to the Present. Topics include social and cultural changes in the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and the first decade of the 21st Century; the United States foreign policy from the post-WWII "Cold War," to

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Korea, Vietnam, and other global confrontations between the United States and the communist world from Somalia, Grenada, and the First Gulf War to the most recent "War on Terrorism"; and the technological changes and their impact on the social and economical development of the United States.

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Course Scope

This course will introduce the student to historical thinking on a variety of levels and will examine the methods and mechanics of historical research, writing and critical analysis. The course focuses on building the requisite skills for conducting historical research including locating, utilizing, and evaluating sources, and is designed to make the student a more objective and interpretative historian.

The United States: 1945 to the present is a study of the social, economic, political, and cultural development of the United States from the end of World War II to today. Topics include the Cold War, Korea and Vietnam, race relations, political, economic, and social history. This course examines America's role in the postwar world, ferment at home, American cultural changes and battles, the Vietnam war as a cultural and military watershed, controversial political leadership by Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Reagan, economic troubles in the 1970s, military conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere, terrorism, and the 9/11 attacks.

By design, this course requires thoughtful reading and analysis. The class discussion boards and written assignments are designed to allow you to demonstrate a thorough comprehension of the concepts introduced in the readings and case studies. Your perception of the issues introduced in these readings and case studies will be shaped by your worldview and experience. Feel free to report your views but do so in a considerate and thoughtful manner. Since this is upper-level coursework, do not merely regurgitate information from the reading assignments. You are expected to analyze, critique, and challenge the authors, materials, each other, and the instructor. The expectation is that your work is original. Academic integrity is essential. Scrupulously acknowledge the source of direct quotes, paraphrased passages, and others' ideas.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Identify and apply the methods and mechanics of historical research, writing and critical analysis.
- Analyze and critically evaluate readings using relevant concepts and methods.
- Analyze and critically evaluate primary sources using relevant concepts and methods.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize primary and secondary sources into a single narrative.
- Correctly format citations using the *Chicago Manual of Style* / Turabian or *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
- Compose a research paper that demonstrates a grasp of historical method and techniques
- Describe and analyze changes in American society from 1945 to the present.
- Compare and contrast economic, political, and social changes in the United States and explain their causes and consequences.
- Describe and analyze the economic history of the United States in the period.
- Assess the interaction of social developments and political behavior in the years 1945-present.
- Analyze the ties between foreign and domestic policy in the years 1945-present.

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Course Delivery Method

This course delivery is via distance learning and enables students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. APUS ensures that the proper course materials and access to an online learning management system are available to you. Course materials and access to an online learning management system are available to each student. Assignments for this class include written assignments and discussion boards.

In online courses, we construct knowledge not just by completing readings and assignments. An important part of the process is communicating with classmates and learning from what they have to say. As such, we need to share online conversations about ideas.

Direct interaction is a key feature of the educational experience. For that reason, it is important that you interact with fellow students and the course instructor during the course as specified in this syllabus. Additionally, you can contact the instructor during posted office hours.

You are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact the faculty before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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Course Materials

Required Course Textbooks

- James T. Patterson, *Grand Expectations: The United States 1945-1974*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Required Course Websites

- You will also be expected to read and comment on selected primary sources available online that I will provide in the discussion Forums.

Additional Resources

- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. *Purchase Optional*.
- Turabian, Kate L. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, 6th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. *Purchase Optional*.

Important Note: The Director of the Undergraduate History, Military Studies, Western & World History Programs requires conformity with the traditional citation method used by Historians. This is the [University of Chicago Style Manual and its Turabian offshoot](#). Citations will follow traditional endnote attribution. Do not use

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parenthetical (APA / MLA) variations. Students in cannot use Wikipedia or encyclopedias (this includes online encyclopedias) as references for any form of assignment. You may use dictionaries for specific definitions when necessary.

Recommended References:

The APUS Online Library, in the Tutorial & Student Studies Center provides a link to the *Chicago Style Manual – Online*. If you are majoring in History or Military History, then it is highly recommended that you purchase a bound version of this style manual because you will need to be required to follow this citation manual in all of your History, Military History and Military Studies courses.

Microsoft Word (if you do not have MS Word, please save all files as a Rich Text Format (.rtf). **NOTE - The classroom only supports .doc, .docx, and .rtf files.** Please visit Adobe for a free copy of [Adobe Reader](#).

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Evaluation Procedures

There are several types of assignments to complete for this course. In the lesson section of the class, under the tab Assignment, are detailed expectations for each assignment. Here, in the syllabus, I am providing a brief description of each assignment and the grading in general terms.

Forum

Week One's forum is the only one during the course that is not graded with a numerical grade, it is Pass/Fail. All other forums are graded on a 100-point system. The components of the forums are the initial question(s) that your instructor posts, your answer to a question, four postings to your classmates, and your answer to the instructor's follow-up question.

- ❖ **Thoroughness / Length of Original Post (50 points):** There is no specific length requirement, but a well-organized and well developed post will typically be two-three healthy paragraphs long (assuming a minimum of five sentences per paragraph). If you explain your ideas clearly and use specific details to support them, your post should reach an appropriate length. These posts should be **your own ideas**. That being said, you are free and welcome to use quotations from our sources to support your opinions. However, you **must** cite them appropriately if you do.
- ❖ **Thoroughness of Peer Responses (30 points):** You are required to respond to at least four other students. Again, there is no limit, but your entry must have substance. Your responses should add to the conversation. Simply saying, "I agree" or "I disagree" is not good enough. Explain whether you agree and **why**. Bring up another related point, or ask a question. If you choose to ask a question, though, be sure to give your own answer as well. As a general rule, a thorough response will be one-two paragraphs long (again, assuming a minimum of five sentences per paragraph). As per the Forum Guidance and Requirements.
- ❖ **Thoroughness of Follow-Up Question (20 points):** During the week of the forum, I will ask you a question that you are required to respond to. The same requirements as your original response.

The first post is due no later than Friday, 11:59 PM Eastern of Weeks 2 – 8; Responses are due no later than Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern of Weeks 2 – 8.

Research Paper Forum

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Weeks 2-6 students will also engage in a discussion about their research paper. Post updates, ask questions, provide suggestions to fellow students (Total 3 posts). The first post is due no later than Friday, 11:59 PM Eastern of Weeks 2 – 6; Responses are due no later than Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern of Weeks 2 – 6. Each week this Forum will be worth one point.

Short Analysis Paper

This paper will focus on developing your skills at primary source analysis. In 4-5 pages, you should analyze the primary source material, address the question posed by the professor and identify the significance of the evidence for historians. More specific details about this paper will be provided under Assignments. This assignment will be graded using the History and Military History Written Assignment Rubric

Research Paper Draft For this course, you are required to write a 4-5 page draft of your research paper which will be due by the end of Week Five. This assignment will be graded using the History and Military History Written Assignment Rubric.

Research Paper Peer Review

For this course, you are required to conduct a peer review of another student’s research paper draft. The paper for review will be assigned to you by the professor. You are to complete the Peer Review Form. It is attached to the assignment and a copy is located under resources. The Peer Review will be due by the end of Week Six.

This assignment will be graded using the following rubric:

- ❖ Assessment of Paper(45 points)
- ❖ Suggestions (45 points)
- ❖ Spelling and Grammar (10 points): Please run the spelling and grammar checks before submitting your assignment.

Research Paper For this course, you are required to write an 8-10 page research paper which will be due by the end of Week Seven. Your papers **must** conform to the Chicago Manual of Style for citations and layout. This includes a title page, footnotes, and a bibliography. These “special” pages do **not** count towards the 8-10 page requirement. In the [Course Materials](#) section above, I provided a list of books that will help meet the Chicago style requirement. This assignment will be graded using the History and Military History Written Assignment Rubric.

As an APUS student, you have access to numerous resources at the Online Library’s Tutorial & Student Studies Center that will not only help with Chicago style, but will also help polish grammar skills, organize your papers and help you to avoid plagiarism. I encourage you to examine these resources, especially before beginning your research paper, but also as often as you feel is necessary during the actual writing process.

This assignment will be graded using the History and Military History Written Assignment Rubric

Weighting of Assignments

Every assignment is worth 100 points, though they are weighted differently. Your overall grade for this course will be determined in the following fashion:

Grade Instruments	Total Points
Seven Discussion Board assignments (Five points each)	35
Short Paper	15
Research Paper Draft	10
Research Paper Peer Review	5
Research Paper Forum	5
Research Paper	30

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Total	100
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I will post your grades for each assignment within five days of the due date. I will also provide detailed feedback about what you did well, and what may need improvement. If you have any questions about a grade or need clarification on the feedback, please feel free to email to discuss your concerns.

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University’s grading scale.

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8 – Week Course Outline

Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s) and Web-Activities</u>	<u>Assignment(s) and Discussion Boards</u>
1	American Culture and Society, the Post War Years	Form a learning community. Analyze changes in American society as a result of World War II. Assess the interaction of social developments and political behavior as the war ended. Analyze the ties between foreign and domestic policy. Compare and contrast economic, political, and social changes in the United States.	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Prologue – 3 <i>Lecture Material</i>	Forums: Introductions due by Friday 11:55 PM Eastern.
2	The Early Cold War; Rebuilding Europe and Japan	Describe and analyze changes in the United States’ role in the world Explain their causes and consequences of the early Cold War Compare and contrast political and social changes in the United States brought about by the Cold War. Identify potential	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Ch 4-6 <i>Lecture Material</i> Reading as needed for your research paper	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 2 and Research Paper Forum by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus.

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		research topics. Identify primary source material. Identify online archives.		
3	The Cold War Expands: Red Scares; the Korean War, and the policies of the Eisenhower Administration	Analyze Primary Source Material Describe and assess the value of primary source material for historians. Assess the long term domestic political and economic changes as the Cold War progressed Assess the interaction of social developments and political behavior as the Cold War progressed	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Ch. 7-9 <i>Lecture Material</i> Reading as needed for your research paper	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 3 and Research Paper Forum by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 2 by Sunday, 11:55 PM, eastern as per the syllabus. Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Short Paper by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern
4	Post Colonialism and Cold War Consumer Culture	Describe and analyze the global changes of post Colonialism Assess United States policy around the globe Describe and analyze the economic history of the United States in the period. Assess culturally developments in the consumer economy Drafting a research paper.	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Ch 10-12 Lecture Material Reading as needed for your research paper	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 4 and Research Paper Forum by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 3 by Sunday, Midnight, eastern as per the syllabus. Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus.
5	The Civil Rights Movement; America on the Global Stage and the Growth of	Assess the interaction of social developments and	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Ch. 13-15 <i>Lecture Material</i>	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 5 and Research Paper Forum by Friday, 11:55 PM

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	Modern Conservatism	political behavior constituting the Civil Rights Movement. Describe and analyze the foreign policy of the United States in the period. Identify key elements in a successful research paper. Write a successful paper draft.	Reading as needed for your research paper	Eastern as per the syllabus. Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 4 by Sunday, 11:55 PM, eastern as per the syllabus. Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Research Paper Draft due by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern.
6	The JFK; Johnson and Visions of a Great Society	Assess the interaction of social developments and political behavior during the Kennedy and John administrations. Compare and contrast economic, political, and social changes in the United States and explain their causes and consequences. Analyze the ties between foreign and domestic policy.	<i>Grand Expectations</i> Ch. 16-20 <i>Lecture Material</i> Reading as needed for your research paper	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 6 and Research Paper Forum by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 5 by Sunday, 11:55 PM, eastern as per the syllabus. Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Peer Review due by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern.
7	Vietnam , Johnson and Nixon; Economic and political troubles in the 1970s	Compare and contrast economic, political, and social changes in the United States and explain their causes and consequences. Describe and analyze changes in American culture. Assess the interaction	<i>Grand Expectations,</i> Ch. 21-25 <i>Lecture Material</i>	Forums: First required postings to the Forum 7 by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus. Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 6 by Sunday, 11:55 PM, eastern as per the

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		<p>of social developments and political behavior contributing to cultural and social change. Analyze the ties between foreign and domestic policy. Revising a successful research paper.</p>		<p>syllabus.</p> <p>Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus.</p> <p>Research Paper due Sunday 11:55 PM Eastern.</p>
8	<p>; The Reagan-Bush Era; Clinton and the Century's Close; Economic and political troubles in the post-9/11 years</p>	<p>Describe and analyze changes in American society from 1945 to the present. Compare and contrast economic, political, and social changes in the United States and explain their causes and consequences. Describe and analyze the economic history of the United States in the period. Assess the interaction of social developments and political behavior in the years 1945-present. Analyze the ties between foreign and domestic policy in the years 1945-present.</p>	<i>Lecture Material Only</i>	<p>Forums:</p> <p>First required postings to the Forum 8 by Friday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus.</p> <p>Posting in response to Professor comments in Forum 7 by Sunday, 11:55 PM, eastern as per the syllabus.</p> <p>Postings in response to other students by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern as per the syllabus.</p>

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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Writing Expectations

- Typewritten in double-spaced format
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.
- Footnotes as applicable

Citation and Reference Style

Students in this course will follow the Chicago Manual of Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade. If I deduct points, it will be within the overarching policy set forth by the Director of the History, Military Studies, Western & World History Programs. This general policy is that I may reduce assignments that are one week late by 25 percent of the grade, two weeks late by 50 percent, and anything later than that may receive a zero. There are exceptions to this policy, on a case-by-case basis, and generally deal with emergencies.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support

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your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Smarthinking:** Students have access to ten free hours of tutoring service per year through [Smarthinking](#). Tutoring is available in the following subjects: math (basic math through advanced calculus), science (biology, chemistry, and physics), accounting, statistics, economics, Spanish, writing, grammar, and more. Additional information is located in the Online Library. From the Online Library home page, click on either the "Writing Center" or "Tutoring Center" and then click "Smarthinking." All login information is available.

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code ([HIST300](#)). [Table of Contents](#)