

**Houston Community College  
Northwest College, Katy Campus  
The United States since 1877  
History 1302 – 76390  
Distance Education  
Spring Semester – 2012**

<u>Professor</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Telephone/E-Mail</u>
Dr. J. Kent McGaughy	359D	By appointment	(713) 718-5741 <a href="mailto:kent.mcgauhy@hccs.edu">kent.mcgauhy@hccs.edu</a>

**A. Required Reading:**

Ayers, et al, *American Passages: A History of the United States*. Cengage Advantage Books, 4<sup>th</sup> edition.  
*American Perspectives: Readings in American History*, vol. II 5<sup>th</sup> edition (available exclusively online).  
Eric Rauchway, *Murdering McKinley: The Making of Theodore Roosevelt's America*.  
Andrew J. Bacevich, *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*.

Copies of *American Passages* are available at HCC's Central Campus college bookstore. If a different campus bookstore is more convenient, go to the nearest HCC campus bookstore and request that copies be sent from Central to that particular location. The books should be delivered within one or two days. Copies of *Murdering McKinley* and *The Limits of Power* are available through a variety of Internet-based bookstores. **COPIES OF MURDERING MCKINLEY AND THE LIMITS OF POWER WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE. ORDER THEM THROUGH OTHER INTERNET AGENCIES OR CHECK THEM OUT OF THE LIBRARY.** *American Perspectives*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, however, is available exclusively online as an e-reader. Access to *American Perspectives* can be secured at [http://www.pearsoncustom.com/tx/hcc\\_hist1301](http://www.pearsoncustom.com/tx/hcc_hist1301) Purchase access to the reader and then register an account that will allow you continued access to the reader for the semester.

**B. Course Objectives and Description:**

This survey of American history from 1877 to the present day, through lecture, assigned readings, and other media, will explore the major political, social, and cultural trends from the end of Reconstruction through to the end of the Cold War. Students enrolled in this course will sharpen their analytical skills by learning to think and read critically while developing their ability to place events in historical perspective and truly realize that “what is past is prologue. *Students who are enrolled in this course and want to complete it successfully must rely heavily on self-motivation and self-discipline.*

**Program Learning Outcomes for Houston Community College:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Create an argument through the use of historical evidence.
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources.
3. Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, and global forces that shape pre-Civil War American history.
4. Understand the importance of chronology and how earlier ideas and events shaped later developments.

### C. Course Structure:

1. **Unit Examinations:** The course is divided into three units; each unit will represent a series of chapters from the textbook for this course, *American Passages*. Unit One will focus on chapters 17-21; Unit Two will focus on chapters 22-25; and Unit Three will focus on chapters 26-32. Following each unit, students will be required to complete a unit examination consisting of multiple choice questions, identifications, and a discussion essay. The third unit exam will be cumulative and include questions from previous units as well as the third unit. Each exam will be completed online via Eagle Online. The Unit Examination schedule is as follows:

	<u>Posted</u>	<u>Due</u>
a. Unit Exam I:	Thursday, 23 February 2012	Monday, 27 February 2012 (by 7:00 am)
b. Unit Exam II:	Thursday, 5 April 2012	Monday, 9 April 2012 (by 7:00 am)
c. Unit Exam III:	Monday, 7 May 2012	Thursday, 10 May 2012 (by 7:00 am)

2. **Please Note:** Unit Examinations must be taken and completed within the time frame indicated above. Examinations submitted after 7:00 am on the day the exams are due will not be accepted by the professor and there will be *no make-up examinations*. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES.**
3. **Weekly Quizzes:** Students will take eleven weekly quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be administered via Eagle Online and will consist of five (5) short answer questions based on assigned readings found in *American Perspectives: Readings in American History*, vol. II, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Each quiz is worth 100 points. At the end of the syllabus, students will find a quiz schedule along with a quiz template that will provide the questions that students must answer on each quiz.
4. **Please Note:** Quizzes must be submitted on or before the due dates posted on the quiz schedule found at the end of the syllabus. Late quizzes will not be accepted by the professor; and there are no make-up quizzes allowed. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES.**
5. **Book Essays:** Students will also write two brief book essays based on their reading and analysis of *Murdering McKinley* and *The Limits of Power*. Students will be provided with a detailed set of instructions and other guides that will assist them in completing these assignments. The books essays are due on the following dates:
  - a. Book Essay I over *Murdering McKinley* Monday, 5 March 2012 (by 7:00 am)
  - b. Book Essay II over *The Limits of Power* Monday 7 May 2012 (by 7:00 am)
6. **Please Note:** Late book essays will not be accepted by the professor. Students must submit completed book essays either on or before the due dates. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
7. **PLEASE NOTE:** The professor will not initiate an administrative withdrawal at any time during the semester for any student. Students who simply stop participating or simply stop turning in major assignments and are still enrolled in the course at the end of the semester will receive the grade that their performance in class reflects. Thursday, 29 March 2012 (by 4:30 pm) is the last day for students to withdraw from the course without receiving a grade.
8. **PLEASE NOTE:** Once the official date of withdrawal has passed, faculty members at HCC will no longer be permitted to assign a "W" as a student's final grade entry. This new policy took effect as of the Fall 2007 semester, and applies to all courses offered at HCC and all instructors employed by HCC.

#### D. Course Evaluation: Procedure for Determining the Final Course Grade:

1. You will have four unit examination scores by the end of the semester. One score for Unit Exam I, one score for Unit Exam II, and two scores for the cumulative Unit Exam III. (20% each) At the end of the semester the lowest of these exam scores will be dropped. The remaining three unit examination scores will be averaged together and will account for 60% of your overall course grade.
2. You will have eleven weekly quiz scores by the end of the semester. At the end of the semester your three lowest weekly quiz scores will be dropped; the remaining eight weekly quiz scores will be averaged together and will account for 20% of your overall course grade.
3. You will have two book essay grades by the end of the semester. At the end of the semester these two book essay grades will be averaged together into a single book essay grade and will account for 20% of your overall course grade.
4. All of the grades earned for this course will be averaged together and weighted as described above. Students will receive letter grades A through F based on the following scale:

A =	90-100 (Excellent)
B =	80-89 (Above Average)
C =	70-79 (Average)
D =	60-69 (Poor)
F =	59 and below (Failing)

#### E. Administrative Notes:

- a. **Scholastic Dishonesty:** Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. All of these offenses are serious and are not taken lightly by the instructor or the Houston Community College System (HCCS). Punishment for scholastic dishonesty will be failure in the course, and that student's name will be forwarded to administration officials with a recommendation for dismissal from HCCS. Please refer to of your Student Handbook for additional information.

Additionally, due to a recent upsurge in the number of cases involving plagiarism at Houston Community College and other colleges and universities across the nation, HCCS has contracted the services of **Turn it In**. All papers submitted for grades will be relayed to this organization for review. Any evidence of plagiarism discovered through this process will result in the student receiving a failing grade for their semester grade.

- b. **Services for students with Disabilities:** Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Services Office. You can reach the Northwest College ADA Counselor at (713) 718-5708.
- c. **Dates to Remember (These dates will be marked on your Eagle Online Calendar):**
  1. Thursday, 23 February 2012: First Unit Exam posted.
  2. Monday, 27 February 2012: First Unit Exam due by 7:00 am.

3. Monday, 5 March 2012: First Book Essay over *Murdering McKinley* due by 7:00 am.  
**Remember, late book essays will not be accepted by the professor. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
4. Monday-Friday, 13-17 March 2012: Spring Break.
5. Thursday, 29 March 2012: Last day for student or administrative withdrawals (4:30 pm).
6. Thursday, 5 April 2012: Second Unit Exam posted.
7. Monday, 9 April 2012: Second Unit Exam due by 7:00 am.
8. Monday, 7 May 2012: Second Book Essay over *The Limits of Power* due by 7:00 am.  
**Remember, late book essays will not be accepted by the professor. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
9. Monday, 7 May 2012: Cumulative Third Unit Exam posted.
10. Thursday, 10 May 2012: Cumulative Third Unit Exam due by 7:00 am.

## E. Miscellaneous

1. The Houston Community College System is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering academic preparation, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in an increasingly international and technical society. The Northwest History Department will provide an environment conducive to learning and encourages academic excellence. Furthermore, the History faculty will encourage the development of the following competencies: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Critical Thinking, and Computer Literacy.
2. **NOTICE:** Students who repeat a course for a third time or more now will face significant tuition and fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, the tuition increases for “threepeaters” amounts to \$150 for each 3-hour course and \$200 for each 4-hour course (\$50 per credit hour). Please ask your professor or counselor about opportunities for tutoring or other assistance before withdrawing from a course or if you are not receiving a passing grade.
3. **NOTICE: New Houston Community College Course Withdrawal Policy:** The Texas State Legislature recently passed legislation that imposes new penalties on students who drop courses excessively (see above). In 2007, the legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in the Fall 2007) to no more than a total of six (6) course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. Future penalties will be imposed on students who exceed this number. To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you and HCC Student Services of the chance that a student might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. Please visit with your professor, an HCC counselor, or HCC Online Student Services to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be offered to assist you—tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc.—to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

Effective immediately, students must visit with a faculty advisor, a counselor, or Online Student Services in order to obtain a signature prior to withdrawing from a course and this

must be done before the official withdrawal date (**29 March 2012 by 4:30pm**). Individual HCC faculty members are no longer permitted to assign students a “W” once the official withdrawal date has passed. **Please Note:** This rule does not only apply to this course, but all courses offered at HCC, including all campus-bound courses, Hybrid, and Distance Education courses.

4. Required books for this course are located at HCC’s Central Campus bookstore. If Central Campus is not conveniently located, go to the nearest HCC campus bookstore, place an order for the books for this course and they will be delivered to that location by the end of the next day.
5. Students must use correct grammar and demonstrate historical knowledge in order to receive full credit for their book review projects and comparative book review essays. For that reason students are required to submit a draft of their essay to HCC’s “Ask Online” Service (<http://www.hccs.askonline.net>). Tutors knowledgeable in both grammar and history will review submitted work and highlight errors/problems. **Please Note:** Students whose work is submitted with grammatical and historical errors will have significant points deducted from their book review project and comparative book review essay grades.
6. Students who experience work- or family-related situations that conflict with any scheduled assignment or deadline pertaining to this course that may prevent the successful completion of this course must contact the professor in order to determine whether or not anything can be done to limit the situations’ impact on their overall course grade. **Please Note:** If these conflicts/problems are not brought to the attention prior to the date of the assignment or deadline that student may receive a zero for their grade. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**
7. Students who email the professor after 2:00 pm on Thursday afternoons should not expect a response from the professor before Monday morning.
8. Want to be immortal? Start keeping a journal in a series of notebooks. Record everyday observations regarding personal and public events, weather, and other seemingly mundane life events. When you’re old, pack your journals into boxes and will them to a university (perhaps your alma mater). Trust me, one day an historian will find your journals and write about your life and experiences.

### Weekly Quiz Reading Assignments and Schedule

Quiz	Assignment	Posted	Due
Quiz #1	The Railroad Strike Address of August Spies The Homestead Strike Coeur d'Alene The Pullman Strike	T January 17, 2012	M January 30, 2012
Quiz #2	"The History of Standard Oil: The Oil War of 1872" "Urban Pollution—Many Long Years Ago"	T January 17, 2012	M January 30, 2012
Quiz #3	Farmers Describe the Crisis Two Speeches by Mary Elizabeth Lease Tom Watson's Strategy The Omaha Platform	M January 30, 2012	M February 6, 2012
Quiz #4	How the Other Half Lives The Treason of the Senate The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire	M February 6, 2012	M February, 13 2012
Quiz #5	Comments on the Moro Massacre War is a Racket The Teller Amendment The Platt Amendment	M February 13, 2012	T February 21, 2012
Quiz #6	Ludlow Address to the Jury in <i>U.S. v. Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman</i> The Herrin Massacre Opening Remarks at the Scopes Trial	M March 5, 2012	M March 20, 2012
Quiz #7	Every Man a King "The Bonus Army Invades Washington" "The President wants You to Organize"	M March 20, 2012	M March 26, 2012
Quiz #8	"Germany's Formula for War" "Japan's Achilles Heel"	M March 26, 2012	M April 2, 2012
Quiz #9	Enemies Within Speech Joseph McCarthy to President Harry Truman Transcript of Senate Resolution 301 "A Conspiracy so Immense: Wheeling"	M April 9, 2012	M April 16, 2012
Quiz #10	The Southern Manifesto The Murder of Medgar Evers Letter from a Birmingham Jail The Ballot or the Bullet The Murder of Malcolm X	M April 16, 2012	M April 23, 2012
Quiz #11	Financial Scandal and U.S.-Iraqi Relations "Spider's Web: See No Evil" "The 9/11 Commission Report: We Have Some Planes" "Out of Gas" "The Unocal Affair"	M April 23, 2012	M April 30, 2012

## Weekly Quiz Template

The weekly online quizzes consist of the same four questions each week. Here are the questions that you are required to answer for each assigned set of articles and/or documents. Use them as a guide to help you prepare for the quizzes. In order to receive credit, the quizzes must be taken online during the specified time-frame. Quizzes submitted in any manner other than the one described will not be accepted by the professor and the student will receive a zero for their quiz grade.

1. Identify which of the assigned readings for this quiz are primary sources and which ones are secondary works. In preparation for your answer, read the “Note on Primary Sources and Secondary Works” found at the beginning of *American Perspectives*. (10 points)
2. Briefly state the main idea of the article(s) and/or documents. (10 points)
3. List three important facts from the article(s) and/or documents that support the main idea. (10 points)
4. What information or ideas discussed in this article are also discussed in *Murdering McKinley*, and/or *The Limits of Power*? Include book chapters and page numbers. (20 points)
5. What were among the most interesting bits of new information that you learned from reading these articles and/or documents? (50 points) **PLEASE NOTE:** *In order to receive credit for your response, you must include the page number(s) where you found this information in American Perspectives. Failure to include the page number along with your answer will result in a zero for this question. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.*