



Shih Chien University

STP Program (Dec 22-Jan 16)

HIS 120 American History II

Course Outline

Course Code: HIS 120

Instructor: Susan Hinely, JD, PhD

Home Institution: State University of New York at Stony Brook

Office Hours: TBA

Email: susan.hinely@stonybrook.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours:

The course comprises a total of 144 instructional hours, consisting of 50 hours of lectures, 30 hours of professor office hours, 20 hours of TA-led discussion sessions, 10 hours of review sessions, and 34 hours of supplementary classes.

Course Description

This course provides a survey of United States history from 1877 to the present. We will examine how the Union victory in the Civil War and the incomplete project of Reconstruction shaped the development of modern American society and state institutions. Major themes include the rise and organization of corporate capitalism, the growth of mass consumer culture, regional distinctiveness—particularly in the American South—and the emergence of social issues as central political battlegrounds, from Prohibition to desegregation to debates surrounding reproductive rights.

Throughout the semester, students will also be introduced to the practice of historical inquiry—what historians study, how they construct arguments, and

Academic Inquiry: Shih Chien University
Disclaimer: Course schedule is subject to change.



why historical interpretations change over time. Course materials include a digital survey text accompanied by primary source documents and analytical exercises focusing on chronology, visual and quantitative evidence, and geographic context.

Although the class will be lecture-based, active engagement is required. Students are expected to participate in weekly discussion sessions led by the Teaching Assistant. As an upper-division course, it demands sustained effort, critical thinking, and careful reading. Students should enroll only if they are prepared to devote the necessary time and attention to the work.

Course Textbook

Jill Lepore, These Truths: A History of the United States, Volume II (Inquiry Edition: Illumine eBook with Inquisitive). W. W. Norton & Company, 2023.

Course Requirements

Examinations: A midterm and a cumulative final examination will be administered. Both will include essay and short-answer components, as well as an oral consultation with the instructor. All written portions must be submitted in Word (.doc/.docx) format (not PDF) to allow for direct feedback.

E-Book Exercises: Weekly e-book exercises must be completed by the end of the week in which they are assigned. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Discussion Participation: Students are expected to attend all discussion sessions prepared to engage thoughtfully with the week's lectures and assigned readings. Attendance will be recorded.

Evaluation:

E-book Inquisitive Exercises	25%
E-book Illumine Exercises	20%
Final Exam	25%
Midterm Exam	20%
Discussion Participation	10%



Grading Policies

Assigned exercises must be submitted during the week in which they are due; late submissions will not be accepted. Examinations will take place synchronously and cannot be rescheduled. Students should plan in advance to be available on the scheduled exam dates and times.

Grading System (1 ~ 100):

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1

Reconstructing America, 1865–1914

Reading: Lepore, Chapters 13–15

Assignments: Inquisitive and Check Your Understanding exercises due by Friday

WEEK 2

Prosperity, Depression, and War, 1914–1945

Reading: Lepore, Chapters 16–18

Assignments: Inquisitive and Check Your Understanding exercises due by Friday

Midterm Exam: Friday (time to be announced)

WEEK 3

Cold War, Consumer Society, and Civil Unrest, 1945–1980

Reading: Lepore, Chapters 19–21



Assignments: Inquisitive and Check Your Understanding exercises due by Friday

WEEK 4

The Twilight of American Dominance and Challenges to Democracy, 1981–2021

Reading: Lepore, Chapters 22–24

Assignments: Inquisitive and Check Your Understanding exercises due by Friday

Final Exam: Friday (time to be announced)

Academic Integrity and Class Policies

- Students are expected to complete all course work with honesty and integrity. Submitting work produced by another person or by an AI system as one's own is a violation of academic standards. Any use of material not created by the student must be properly cited.
- Violations of academic integrity will result in serious consequences, which may include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, or dismissal from the program.
- Exercises, quizzes, and examinations must be submitted by the stated deadlines to receive full credit.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, watch lecture recordings attentively, take thorough notes, and rely exclusively on course materials when preparing responses to assignments and exams.

Online Learning Policy

Active and consistent engagement is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to view all recorded lectures while taking notes, complete all assigned readings, submit required assignments and examinations, and participate fully in scheduled synchronous discussion sessions. Attendance will be recorded during discussion meetings. Students may be asked to participate in an oral consultation with the instructor to verify the independence and originality of submitted exams, papers, and exercises.