



## HI 112 US History II, 1877 to Present

### Course Basics

This is a fully-online course. Please access all course materials and resources through Blackboard.

#### Instructor:

Dr. Tona Hangen

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### Textbook

*American Yawp*

[www.americanyawp.com/](http://www.americanyawp.com/)

(Free, open-source, online)

### Course Credit

If you are a History major or minor, HI 112 counts towards your required 100-level courses.

If taking for LASC, it can be used EITHER for USW (US & Role in the World) \*or\* CON (Constitutions).

### Course Pacing

This course moves quickly with frequent deadlines and due dates. The following week's work opens up each Wednesday. Coursework may be submitted early but may not receive full credit if late.



## Course Description and Objectives

You will study broad themes in the history of modern America, including race and ethnicity, immigration, social and political reform, contested meanings of freedom, industrialization, cycles of prosperity and recession, popular culture, modernity, and rights movements.

You will improve your ability to think historically through critical analysis of primary and secondary sources; set events, documents, and people in their historical contexts; and craft your own interpretations from the “raw material” of the past. It is conducted fully online, so active learning and being self-motivated will be essential to your success in the course.

### *Constitutions*

Since it can fulfill your “Constitutions” LASC requirement, HI 112 will also cover relevant aspects of the US and Massachusetts state constitutions, primarily through self-paced online modules. This addresses Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 73, Section 2A which reads: “In all state colleges the constitutions of the United States and of the commonwealth shall be taught as required subjects for the purpose of fitting the students, morally and intellectually, for the duties of citizenship.”



## Units: Multiple Learning Opportunities

Each unit contains learning activities, course content, reading assignments, discussion boards, written assignments, and assessments. You have multiple sources and ways to learn. **Pay attention to deadlines for all modules and assignments.** Some modules and resources are only available during a certain time period.

## Grading Scale (200 pts)

188 or higher	A
180-187	A-
174-179	B+
168-173	B
160-167	B-
154-159	C+
148-153	C
140-147	C-
134-139	D+
128-133	D
120-127	D-
118 or below	E

## Course Requirements

You will need to put in full effort throughout the semester. Even though US History II is an introductory level course, this class is designed to be challenging, so do not expect an easy A.

### *Intro Unit Participation Basics - 9 points*

Earn these points by getting off to a strong start, including: introduction forum, successful mastery of footnotes, and primary/secondary source learning outcomes.

### *Learning Activities - 54 points*

Learning activities occur frequently throughout the term, each worth 3 points on your final grade. Think of them as the online equivalent of daily (*or almost-daily*) homework and class attendance.

### *Discussion Board - 50 points*

Discussion board participation assists your learning as you formulate your own ideas into words and participate consistently in respectful, responsive, ongoing dialogue with other learners in the course. There are 12 possible forums. To earn full credit, participate weekly. See p. 3 of the syllabus for more information.

### *Constitutions Modules - 36 points*

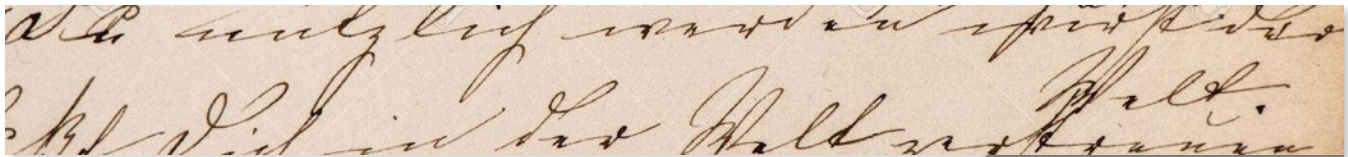
There will be three online Constitutions Modules, each with an associated quiz and Blackboard journal. Although self-paced, you need to complete each one by the assigned date. Each module disappears after its closing date, so plan ahead. All together the three modules are worth 36 points, divided evenly between quizzes and discussion boards.

### *Written Work / Papers - 40 points*

You'll submit 5 short papers, each worth up to 8 points if submitted on time. Complete guidelines for each will be provided on Blackboard; see p. 3 of the syllabus for more general information.

### *History Now Project - 11 points*

Your final project considers an event in recent US history. You'll curate and assemble a packet of primary sources that future students can use to study that event. It is worth up to 11 points if submitted on time. Complete guidelines will be provided on Blackboard.



## Discussion Boards

The heart of this course is the community we build together on the discussion boards in weekly forums with multiple possible discussion threads. Strong participation includes answering a post's prompt or starting a new thread **and** responding substantively and constructively to your classmates (i.e. not just "good point" but "yes, and...") to build an ongoing dialogue about the past and its relevance to today. Try to ground your posts and responses in *evidence* from our course learning (readings, documents, films, and other kinds of reliable sources), rather than just sharing personal experiences or opinions. For full credit, you need to participate regularly in the weekly forums. See discussion board rubric on Blackboard.

## PSA (Primary Source Analysis) Papers

Historians use evidence to construct their stories and interpretations about the past, and often the evidence they use is fragmentary, partial or conflicting. Critical analysis of historical sources involves close study of the text or object, considering its context, and interrogating the source as a witness about past events. Your five PSA papers build these skills in a variety of ways, always using raw historical evidence as a starting point. Full guidelines for each will be provided on Blackboard.

- PSA 1: Basics of Primary Source Analysis
- PSA 2: What Sources Can (and Can't) Tell Us
- PSA 3: Challenge or Support an Existing Claim with Evidence
- PSA 4: Considering a Film as Historical Evidence
- PSA 5: DIY Thesis using Historical Evidence

PSA papers should be 2-3 pages long (i.e. 500-600 words), double-spaced, with all citations as correctly formatted Chicago Style footnotes. You therefore need a word-processing program that permits footnotes, preferably the full installation of Microsoft Office for Mac or PC, available as a free download from the university IT website. PSA papers are NOT opinion pieces, and should not simply summarize historical content; rather, they are short, well-crafted works of *historical analysis*. Give your paper a title (something more imaginative than "PSA #2"), include your name, and number your pages.

Each PSA Paper is worth 8 points. They are due by 11:59 pm on the specified calendar day, submitted through Blackboard.



### THE HELP FORUM

I've set up a special Blackboard discussion forum for questions, tech problems, or any troubleshooting related to the course. It has a general Help thread as well as threads related to the 3 enrichment modules: Footnotes, Historical Thinking, and Writing in History. You can always reach out to me via email if you have a specific issue, but if you've got a general question and the answer might help others as well, post it in the Help Forum and I'll respond to it there.



### DR HANGEN TV

I plan to post frequent short "explainer" videos in response to your questions as they come up throughout the course. TV stands for "terrible video" - i.e. I promise they will be very amateur in video quality, but hopefully enlightening as far as the content goes :) Ask your question in the Dr. Hangen TV thread if you're puzzled, need clarification, or want something explained.

# Q&A

## Policies, Resources, and Advice

*What are the course Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)? In other words, what should I know or be able to do by the end of this course?*

Explain processes of modification and interpretation of the US and MA Constitutions in the period 1877-present.

Apply key basic concepts and skills of historical thinking to selected topics in the period 1877-present, including chronology, contingency, causality, and “pastness.”

Distinguish between primary and secondary sources and apply appropriate analytical questions to each to demonstrate understanding of their scholarly uses in history. Learn the importance of meticulous sourcing in the discipline of history and correctly use Chicago Style citation method in your history papers.

Self-assess and extend your own foundational skills in historical thinking and analysis.

*What are the technical specifications I need in order to take this online course?*

You need to be comfortable using Blackboard and WSU email, including attachments. You need reliable internet access throughout the entire course. Your computer should have a speaker or headphones so you can hear video / audio content. You’ll need Adobe Reader and a full installation of Microsoft Word (free download through IT). You should know how to insert footnote references using Word and how to save and send documents in multiple formats (.docx, .pdf). You need to be comfortable communicating and writing in standard business English.

*What if I need a disability accommodation?*

If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise) and you need a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please provide your documentation and consult with me immediately at the outset of the semester so we can design a solution that will help you be successful in the class.

*What is the course policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty?*

Doing your own work and carefully citing the published writing of others is absolutely essential. You cannot cut and paste text from the internet or Wikipedia or the textbook into your papers and pass it off as your own writing. Please cite sources using correct Chicago Style footnotes in all cases. Plagiarized work or quiz/exam cheating is an automatic zero on the assignment and may cause you to fail the class. I take such violations very seriously. Please familiarize yourself with and follow the University policy on Academic Honesty in the WSU Student Handbook.

*What should I do if I am feeling lost or overwhelmed in this class?*

First, reach out by email or in the Help Forum. You may not be the only person with the same concern, and we benefit from working questions out together.

Second, make an appointment for an actual or virtual office hours visit. My office hours are Tuesday 8:30 - 10 am and Wednesday 10 - 12, or I can connect via phone, Skype, or Blackboard Collaborate meeting, whichever is easier for you. Many questions and issues can be easily resolved this way.

Third, spend extra time in the resource modules on Blackboard: Historical Thinking, Writing in History, and Footnotes. They are designed to help get you up to speed on basic concepts in the discipline of history. Each has a Blackboard discussion thread in the Help Forum where you can ask further questions.

## Syllabus

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings AY = American Yawp	Learning Activities Due	Discussion Boards	Deadlines
1	9/5 - 9/7	Orientation and Introductions	Syllabus; AY Intro; Enrichment Modules	Primary v. Secondary Sources; Footnotes	Introductions Forum 1	Complete Intro Unit by Fri 9/7 11:59 pm
<b>UNIT 1      Constitutions Module #1 Opens Sat 9/8, Closes Fri 9/28 at midnight</b>						
2	9/10 - 14	Reconstruction Capital & Labor	AY CH 15 and 16; Reconstruction Memory articles; DPLA Homestead Strike	LA1: Video Notes; LA2: Identify interpretations	Forum 2	PSA #1 due Wed 9/12
3	9/17 - 21	American West & Industrial America	AY CH 17 and 18; DPLA Wounded Knee; NY Films; Plessy Video	LA3: Choose PSA #2 source; LA4: Film Notes	Forum 3	
4	9/ 24 - 28	American Imperialism	AY CH 19; Insular Cases; Ellis Island photographs	LA5: Yellow Journalist; LA6: Immigration poems	Forum 4	PSA #2 due Wed 9/26  Complete CON 1 by Fri 9/28 11:59 pm
<b>UNIT 2      Constitutions Module #2 Opens Sat 9/29, Closes Fri 10/26 at midnight</b>						
5	10/1 - 5	Progressive Era, World War I	AY CH 20 and 21	LA7: Progressive causes	Forum 5	
6	10/9 - 12	The New Era & Great Depression	AY CH 22 and 23; 1930s Popular Culture module	LA8: Library scavenger hunt; LA9: Let's Make a Deal	Forum 6	PSA #3 due Wed 10/10
7	10/15 - 19	World War II; Cold War	AY CH 24 and 25; "Duck and Cover"	LA10: Film Notes	Forum 7	

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings <i>AY = American Yawp</i>	Learning Activities Due	Discussion Boards	Deadlines
8	10/22 - 26	Postwar Affluent Society; Civil Rights Movt	AY CH 26 and parts of 24-27; 1950s Film	LA11: Research Notes	Forum 8	PSA #4 due Wed 10/24  Complete CON 2 by Fri 10/26 11:59 pm
<b>UNIT 3      Constitutions Module #3 Opens Sat 10/27, Closes Fri 11/30 at midnight</b>						
9	10/29 - 11/2	The Sixties; Vietnam	AY CH 27 and 28; Iconic Speeches; Manifestos	LA12: Speech Beat Reporter; LA13: Thesis w/ Evidence	Forum 9	
10	11/5 - 9	The Unraveling	AY 28; "All in the Family"	LA14: Timeline	Forum 10	PSA #5 due Wed 11/7
11	11/13 - 20	Triumph of the Right	AY CH 29	LA 15: Political Spectrum	Forum 11	
<b>Thanksgiving Break, 11/21 - 25</b>						
12	11/26 - 30	End of the Cold War; The Recent Past	AY 30; Herring; Planet Money T-Shirt Project	LA 16: Post-Cold War World; LA 17: Globalization	Forum 12	Complete CON 3 by Fri 11/30 11:59 pm
<b>History Now Project Week - the finished project is due Mon 12/10 at midnight</b>						
13	12/3 - 10	History Now	Research days 3-5 Presentations 6-10	Virtual Office Hours Meeting; LA18: Your Read / Watch / Listen List	Forum 13	History Now due Mon 12/10 11:59 pm