

History 469, Recent America Syllabus, fall 2015

Professor: Dr. Kerry Irish

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 10:50 to 11:30 a.m., Monday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., and by appointment.

Phone: 2672 (email is more reliable)

Teaching Assistant: Joel Grey

Readings:

James T. Patterson, *Grand Expectations*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996.

James T. Patterson, *Restless Giant*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Politics:

The closer we get to our time the more “political” the study of history becomes. We are naturally more passionate about issues which affect us, and we naturally politicize those issues. **In light of these facts, students should keep in mind that it is the purpose of a university to examine all sides of an issue, it is the purpose of history to arrive at truth regardless of the politics truth supports.** The books, articles and professor whose ideas you will all be exposed to represent a wide diversity of political opinion. I would not change this if I could; indeed, I chose the books for this purpose. Moreover, the students will also hold many divergent opinions and I am looking forward to hearing them and analyzing them as you will mine. Finally, I hope that in spite of our political disagreements, we will all agree to respect one another as human beings. The Prince of Peace commands this of his followers; and in this spirit, learning will truly occur.

Discussion Quizzes and Attendance:

As noted in the Course Calendar, discussions occur about once a week. Discussion questions are taken from the assigned reading indicated for that purpose in the course calendar. At the beginning of the class everyone will write a short response to a question drawn from the discussion reading. You must be here on time to take the quiz; those who are only a few seconds late will lose the opportunity to take the quiz. This written quiz response is worth 20 points. The rest of the class will be devoted to discussing the reading. I will ask questions and expect everyone to take part in discussion. There are 10 discussions each with one 20 point question given at the beginning of the hour for a total of 200 discussion points for the semester. **I reserve the right to adjust your grade up or down based on your participation in discussion. You must remain in class the**

entire period to earn the discussion quiz points. If you miss a discussion because of a school sponsored extracurricular activity or illness you may make up the quiz. It is your responsibility to do so.

Your presence in class is expected. If your absence from class garners my attention, I will send you an email that puts you on notice that your grade may be reduced for lack of attendance. I reserve the right to reduce grades for poor attendance. I determine what poor attendance is, and how much to reduce a grade. Your best strategy is to be in class and thus not attract my attention for this problem.

Papers:

Students will write a 10 page research paper on a subject of their own choosing. However, the subject must concern American history since 1945. Once a student has decided upon a subject, the **student must discuss** that subject with the professor. The professor will either approve or disapprove of the subject and, in the former case, offer research suggestions. The primary reason for disapproval of a subject will be that the professor deems the subject too difficult to research.

All research papers in the history department are required to conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style*; Turabian is the brief form of “Chicago.” Many of the technical requirements of the paper are attached to the end of the syllabus. The paper is worth 200 points.

As noted in the Course Calendar, one day of the class is devoted to studying how to write an effective introductory page and thesis statement for the paper. On this day all students will bring the first page of their paper to class. A few of them will be picked at random for the class to study. I will place these papers on the overhead and we will all study them looking for ways to improve the writing and thesis of the paper. In case you are inclined to see this exercise as “embarrassing” I would point out that it is actually less embarrassing than speaking in public. No names will be used. No one will know, not even me, whose paper we are studying. Be sure to study the Research Paper Grading Sheet at the end of the syllabus to ascertain how the paper grade is determined. The paper must be reviewed in the ARC before it is turned in.

Turning in the paper late results in a 5 point per day deduction from the total paper grade.

Exams:

There are three exams in the course. The exams are objective in format, multiple choice questions are used. You need to know that I test thoroughly over all

aspects of the class: readings, lectures, discussions, and films. Thus the astute student must apply him/herself to all aspects of the class. Each of the exams cover only about one third of the class. The final is **not** cumulative. You should assume that the exams are difficult, indeed they are the most difficult part of the class.

Points:

Tests:	Three 200 point exams	600 points
Paper:		200 points
Discussions:	10 twenty point discussion quizzes	200 points
Total:		1000 points

Grade Breakdown:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89.9%
- C = 70-79.9%
- D = 60-69.9%

Plusses and minuses are used at the 2s and 8s.

Attendance: No roll is taken. However, I reserve the right to reduce your grade if your failure to attend class catches my attention.

Course Calendar

- Aug. 31: Welcome and introduction of syllabus
- Sep. 2: Lecture: The Origins of the Cold War, 1945-1950.
Reading: Patterson, Grand Expectations, **Prologue**, Chapters **1 and 2**.
- Sep. 4: Discussion One: Patterson, Chapter 3.
- Sep. 7: Lecture: Harry Truman and America.
Reading: Patterson, Chapter 4.
- Sep. 9: Serve Day
- Sep. 11: Discussion Two: Patterson, Chapter 5.

- Sep. 14: Lecture: Korean War.
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 6.
- Sep. 16: Film. Korean War...
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 7.
- Sep. 18: Discussion Three: Patterson, Chapter 8.
- Sep. 21: Lecture: Eisenhower in Charge: The Good Years.
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 9.
- Sep. 23: Film: Dr. Strangelove (first half).
 Reading: Patterson, Chapters, 10 and 11.
- Sep. 25: Discussion Four: Patterson, Chapter 12.
- Sep. 28: Lecture: Eisenhower in Charge: Leaving a Legacy.
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 13.
- Sep. 30: Film: Dr. Strangelove (finish)
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 14.
- Oct. 2: **Mid-term Exam, Patterson, Chapters 1-14, all lectures and films.**
- Oct. 5: Lecture: JFK
 Reading: Patterson, Chapters 15, 16.
- Oct. 7: Lecture: Billy Graham.
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 17.
- Oct. 9: Discussion Five: Patterson, Chapter 18.
- Oct. 12: Paper seminar. Technical Form.
- Oct. 14: Film: Assassination of JFK
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 19.
- Oct. 16: Fall Holiday.
- Oct. 19: No class, film online Sixties/Vietnam, and reading.
- Oct. 21: Lecture: MLK and the Civil Rights Movement.
 Reading: Patterson, Chapter 20.

Oct 23: **First Pages of paper due today.** Bring to class on a transparency without your name on the paper, also bring a paper copy with your name on it.

Oct. 26: No class film online Sixties? Vietnam?
Reading: Patterson, Chapter 21.

Oct. 28: Lecture: Vietnam: America's National Nightmare.
Reading: Patterson, Chapter 22.

Paper is due no later than today in the Academic Resource Center. Make an appointment there on or before this date to review your paper with one of the staff. A full one hour review is a requirement. Paper must be reviewed in the ARC, no exceptions. Paper will not be accepted until the Arc has reviewed it.

Oct. 30: Discussion Six: Patterson, Chapter 23.

Nov. 2: Lecture: Vietnam: Searching for the Exit.
Reading: Patterson, Chapter 24.

Nov. 4: No class:

Paper Due Today in the history office by 5 P.M. Papers that have not been reviewed in the ARC will not be accepted. Attach the ARC review slip.

Nov. 6: Lecture: The 1960's.

Nov. 9: Discussion Seven: Patterson, Chapter 25.

Nov. 11: No class, prepare for exam.

Nov. 13: **Exam: All lectures and films since the last exam, Patterson Chapters 15-25.**

Nov. 16: Lecture: The Ford and Carter Years.
Reading: Patterson, Restless Giant, "Prologue" and Chapter 1.

Nov. 18: Lecture: Ronald Reagan's America
Reading: Patterson, Chapters 2 and 4.

Guideline for Recent America Research Papers

Technical Requirements:

- * Papers must be double spaced.
- * Margins must be 1 inch wide on all four sides of the paper.
- * **Use 12 point Times New Roman font.**
- * Include a complete bibliography of works cited. Use the proper form.
- * Use a title page, include name and box number. **Do not repeat title page information on page 1 of the essay.**
- * Essay should have page numbers beginning with page 2 on the second page of the text. The title page is not numbered, the first page of the text is page 1, but the number is not printed. Numbering continues through the bibliography.
- * Length of the essay is 10 full pages. Title page and bibliography **do not count** toward the 10 page requirement.

- * Cite your sources in a footnote or endnote when you prove your points. Notes within your text in parentheses (MLA format) **are not acceptable**. The following is the proper form for a basic foot or end note entry. The first line of a note is indented beginning with the note number.

First citation of a source requires a full bibliographical reference as shown in number.¹

All subsequent citations of that source may be shortened as shown in number.²

Ibid. May be used immediately following either type of above reference. Ibid. means “in the same place as above” so a footnote that looks like number 3 at the bottom of this page means that the information may be found in the same place as the footnote just preceding.³

Learn to use the foot or end note application on your computer. Do not attempt to do the notes manually. **I will not accept such work.**

You need to be aware that there is a proper technical form for every aspect of a paper. I expect you to use the proper form. Proper form for footnotes, title page, etc., can be found in Kate L. Turabian, A Manual For Writers. There are two copies of Turabian on reserve in the library for HST 490, you may use them.

¹ James Kirk, My Voyages on the Starship Enterprise (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 43.

² Kirk, My Voyages on the Starship Enterprise, 49.

³ Ibid. 243.

Use several sources in researching your paper. If you use only two or three sources how do you know that the authors know what they are writing about?

Footnote Positioning: Footnote numbers go at the end of sentences and the material being referenced by the note is in that immediately preceding sentence. Information coming after the note number is not supported by the note. Sentences without a note prove nothing – no note no proof! So if a sentence proves your thesis it must be footnoted. Summary sentences, connecting sentences, background sentences and the like do not require footnotes. However, since most of your paper is supposed to prove your thesis one can easily imagine a paper that averages 4 or even 5 notes per page.

Remember: no footnote, no proof; no proof, no thesis; no thesis, no paper; no paper, no grade; no grade, no college credit; no college credit no, college degree; no college degree....well, you can see where this is going.

Your entire future depends on footnotes!!!!!!

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, and your text book are not research sources.

Spell-check your paper. For each misspelled word you lose one full grade.

Plagiarism, use of Quotes, and Citation of sources. Plagiarism is defined as copying another person's work and claiming it as your own; or using another person's ideas without proper citation in a foot or endnote. If you use another person's exact words you must put those words in quotation marks and cite the source in a foot or endnote. If you use another person's idea(s) or information you must cite the source in a foot or endnote. Facts that may reasonably be held as general knowledge need not be cited in a foot or endnote (e.g. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec., 7, 1941 is general knowledge).

Many students are tempted to write papers which are full of quotes. **Do not do this.** Quotations should be used only when the original language of the author is essential to understanding his/her point, or, when the quote directly proves your primary thesis. Otherwise you should put the information in your own words and then **cite the source** to avoid the accusation of plagiarism.

When you do use a quote you should explain the purpose of the quote before you provide it in a manner similar to this:

Historian John Andrews argues the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor not to capture Hawaii, but to destroy the American Navy, “The Japanese had no plans to invade the islands, but did hope to deliver a crippling blow to the only force capable of stopping the southern offensive - the US Navy at Pearl Harbor.”⁴

Never just throw a quote into an essay hoping it will serve the purpose of continuing your work - that is not what quotes are for.

Subject and Thesis: What’s the Difference? Your paper must have both a subject and a thesis. Let’s use our Pearl Harbor example. The subject of the paper is the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The thesis may be any number of arguments, some that come to mind are: The Japanese attack was cowardly, the Japanese attack was brilliantly planned, the Japanese had no intention of invading the islands; the Americans should have been ready, the Americans were lucky they didn’t lose their carriers, the Americans recovered from the attack quickly. Any one of these six arguments - or a number of others - could serve as a thesis. Depending upon which one is chosen - **the paper will be shaped to prove the chosen thesis.**

Do not even think about turning in a paper you wrote the night before it was due. A good college level paper should be re-written at least twice. Since I require only one paper I expect to receive your best work. I assure you your paper is going receive my best work in grading it. In this particular class your paper must be reviewed by someone in the learning resource center.

Citing references from the Internet:

General Rule:

If the Internet document or file contains standard bibliographic data, follow the established format of the style manual (Turabian) you are using. If the document is only available on the internet, then add [Internet] in brackets after the title, but only for the first usage of the document. **If the document is available in a library, do not clutter up your paper with internet citations.**

Non-standard formats:

If there is no author, start with the title.

If there is no title, make one up that describes the contents and enclose it in [brackets].

If there is no date use n.d. (no date) where the date goes.

If there is no publisher or source use the phrase - unpublished Internet data.

Follow the entry with the Internet address you used to find the page.

⁴John Andrews, War in the Pacific (New York: Harper and Row, 1992), 187.

Research Paper Grading Form

Research (35%):

Sources cited to prove points, (1-20): _____

Sources consulted and used appropriately, (1-50): _____

Writing (30%):

Sentence structure, wording, paragraphing, spelling (1-40): _____

Technical form: title page, margins, font size, footnotes,
page numbers, bibliography. - (1-20): _____

Thesis structure, (10%).

Clearly stated and well conceived. (1-20): _____

Subject well developed throughout essay,

History is accurate. (25%, 1-50): _____

Total and Grade (200 points): _____

Comments:

_____ Cite your sources to prove your points. Your sources are your “evidence” in “proving” your thesis. When you make a statement taken from one of your sources you must cite that source in a footnote.

_____ Need to consult more sources to establish greater certainty. If you use only a few sources how do you know their authors are historically accurate?

_____ Choice of words needs work.

_____ Some sentences are poorly organized and/or unclear.

_____ Some paragraphs have more than one main idea.

_____ Some paragraphs run together, when you change subject start a new paragraph.

_____ Paper is poorly organized.

_____ Proper technical form (footnotes, etc.) not followed or inconsistent.

_____ State your thesis clearly. There must be a clear thesis sentence near the beginning of the paper, which explains the purpose of the paper.

_____ The body of your essay does not support your thesis very well.

_____ **You have a misspelled word!**

_____ Use quotes only when the language of the author is helpful in making the point, or when the quote is the primary support of your main thesis. **Do not write your paper by stringing quotes together. Instead, put the information in your own words and cite the source.**

_____ When you do use a quote you must introduce it - explain its purpose - don't just throw it out there on the page to stand alone.

_____ Some of the history you cite or relate is inaccurate.