

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 3453 The Gilded Age: United States, 1876-1900

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

United States history from the end of Reconstruction through the presidential administration of William McKinley. Emphasizes the changing character of America in this era, including the farmers' revolt, industrialization, foreign affairs, and major social trends.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the historical significance of ideas, concepts, individuals, and events in the history of the United States from 1876 to 1900.
2. Define the term Gilded Age.
3. Describe the economic growth of the United States between 1876 and 1900.
4. Describe the role of technology in the Industrial Revolution.
5. Describe the diversification of American society created by the immigration patterns of the late nineteenth century.
6. Analyze the political culture of the Gilded Age including the roles of political machines and bosses.
7. Use tools of historical analysis to complete research projects about American history, society, and culture during the period of the Gilded Age.
8. Describe and explain the complexity of both change and continuity over time in American society and culture.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine how events and ideas in American society, culture, government, and diplomacy evolved during the period 1877 to 1900, as well as to determine the contributions of Americans of this period to modern American society.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will use the essay format for written presentation of research projects and for exams. Students will participate in class discussions relating to American history during the Gilded Age.

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will synthesize materials from various sources to complete research projects and construct answers to essay examination questions.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Reconstruction, Redemption and the New South
- B. The West: Conquest and Colonization
- C. Railroads, Technology and Big Business
- D. Immigrants and Opportunity
- E. The Working Classes and Labor Movements
- F. Urban Culture, Women and Reform
- G. Politics and Government
- H. Populism and 1896
- I. American Empire and the Dawn of the Progressive Movement