History 274 is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States in the 20th Century. In this course we will study how the United States changed and developed from the nation, economy, and society it was in 1900 to the nation, economy, and society it is today. The following are among the major themes we will focus on this semester:

- The expansion of the federal government’s role in the American economy and society;
- The changes in the way in which the Supreme Court has interpreted the United States Constitution;
- The struggle for civil rights and equality for all Americans;
- America’s growth as a world power; and
- The expansion of the President’s power.

This course is being offered as a Writing Intensive Course this semester. My hope is that you will improve both your writing and your understanding about United States History through frequent short writing assignments as well as more formal graded assignments.
History 274
Modern United States History

History 274 is designed to introduce students to the history of the United States in the 20th century. In this course we will discuss industrialization and its effects on the American economy, society, and political processes; immigration and urbanization; the Progressive Era; World War I; the Great Depression; Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal; World War II; the Cold War and anti-Communism, both at home and abroad; the Civil Right movement; the Women’s movement; and the Vietnam War.

Requirements

The required work for this course consists of a midterm exam, a paper, and a final exam. Final grades will be computed on the following basis:

- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Paper: 30%
- Final Exam: 40%
- Class Participation: 10%

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken each class.

Examinations

On the exams, students will be asked to identify briefly a few people, documents, or events, and then explain why they are important and significant. There will always be choices on the identifications (2 out of 4 on the midterm, 4 out of 7 on the final). You will also be asked to write essays responding to questions or statements dealing with some of the major themes covered in this course. The essay on the exam will be chosen at random from a group of essays passed out in class one week before the exam.

Paper

Students will write a 4-5 page paper based on newspaper research comparing and contrasting life in the United States in the week they were born with the same week 25 years earlier. Further instructions for this assignment will be passed out separately.