**Connor Michael Monson**

Phone: (217) 766-2231

Address: 403 Riverbend Blvd. Mahomet, IL. 61853

UIN: 658557365

Email: connormmonson@gmail.com

**Undergraduate Education**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign                                 December 2017  *Bachelor of Arts in History (with Highest Distinction)*

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| Parkland College |  | May 2015 |
| *Associate of Arts in Political Science (with Honors)*    **Graduate Education** |  |  |
| University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign: iSchool |  | August 2021 |
| *Master of Library and Information Science*    **Experience** |  | *4.0/4.0 GPA* |
| Parkland College |  | (October 2018-Present) |

*Instructor*

Sourcelab Working Group(January 2016-May 2021)

*Vice Chairman/Author/Editor-At-Large*

University of Illinois: History-Philosophy-Newspaper-Library              (Oct 2020-Aug 2021)

*Graduate Hourly Worker*

Museum of the Grand Prairie (May 2021-Oct 2021)

*Project Intern/Museum Assistant*

**Course Description:** In this series, we will cover the life and times of President Theodore Roosevelt. He was a man full of deep contradictions, mixing positive and negative traits in equal measure. Brilliant, talented, courageous, stubborn, and ruthless he pursued multiple careers across his lifetime. In his domestic politics he helped to create the National Park System, busted trusts, and helped to reform the way our food is made. However, his foreign policy was expansionistic and paved the way for more than a century of violent conflicts around the world. Roosevelt helped to create the United States of America as it exists today, for better or worse.

**Course Outline**

***Lecture 1: Roosevelt’s Early Life***

Roosevelt grew up in an upper-class New York City household. He overcame significant early health issues and built a persona of a rugged naturalist and adventurer. During this period, he pursued multiple professions but never seemed to find one that stuck until he decided to become a politician. Venturing into the world of New York State politics he made a name as a reformer until tragedy derailed his plans.

***Lecture 2: Assistant Secretary of the Navy***

Influenced by new publications such as Alfred Thayer Mahan, Roosevelt decided that the United States needed to modernize its’ navy in order to keep up with the European navies of the time. Even though he was not the formal head of the Navy Department Roosevelt used his political acumen to build a new and cutting-edge fleet of warships. His efforts would set America down the long road to its current status as a superpower.

***Lecture 3: The Spanish American War***

This conflict is little discussed in modern American media despite its massive impact on our nation’s history. In this lecture we will examine the causes of the conflict with Spain, the role of Cuban revolutionaries such as Jose Marti, as well as the major events of the war itself. We will also talk about Roosevelt’s role as the leader of the Rough Riders and his famous charge up San Juan Hill and the impact it had on his public persona.

***Lecture 4: American Empire***

In this lecture we will discuss some of the challenging stories of America’s expansion and what it meant for the United States at large. As Americas foreign holdings grew, so did domestic and international discontent. At the turn of the century America was undergoing explosive economic growth. However, this growth came at a cost. From 1898 to 1891 Roosevelt’s political career grew in a similarly rapid fashion from Governor of New York to the Vice President of the United States.

***Lecture 5:*** ***The Roosevelt Administration***

After the assassination of President William McKinley, Roosevelt was sworn into office.His administration was responsible for many policies that effect the lives of Americans up to the present day. These include the creation of the Food and Drug Administration, The Roosevelt Corallary to the Monroe Doctrine, Civil Service reform, and trust busting.

***Lecture 6: The National Park System***

Roosevelt was a lifelong conservationist who was fascinated with the natural world. This interest manifested itself not only in conservation, but in ornithology and hunting. Roosevelt reflected 19th century views of the societal value of wild spaces. However his reformist zeal preserved millions of acres of public land as the natural heritage of the United States. Roosevelt (arguably) became the most successful conservationist president in American history.

***Lecture 7: The Bull Moose Party and the Election of 1912***

After a personal falling out with President Taft, his chosen successor, their dispute fractured the Republican Party. Taft led the remnants of the GOP while Roosevelt helped to found a new organization called the Progressive (or Bull Moose) Party. He advocated for policies such as public health care, trust busting, and environmentalism. However some of his peers decried his quest for a third term as vain and self obsessed. Roosevelt’s third party run was not just politically dangerous, it had real world consequences, as his run-in with an assassin would prove.

***Lecture 8: The Last Years of Theodore Roosevelt***

Following the election of 1912 Roosevelt became listless. He took his son Kermit on a dangerous journey in the heart of the Amazon. Soon after he returned the powers of Europe fell into a disastrous World War. His later years showed the darker side of Teddy Roosevelt, his self-destructive tendencies, his pride, and worst of all his drive to push the ones he loved too far. For his family it would have tragic consequences.

**Instructor Biography**

Connor Monson is a graduate of the University of Illinois with an M.LIS degree and professional training in public history. His undergraduate major was in American History with a focus on the mid-19th century. He has crafted a senior honors thesis and two peer-reviewed articles with the digital history organization *Sourcelab*. All three articles concern American political movements and parties. He served as *Sourcelab*’s Vice-Chairman. Connor also worked as a project intern at the Museum of the Grand Prairie, specializing in instructional design and collections management. His next step on his educational journey is to pursue a graduate degree in history.