

HIST 2013

History of the American People, 1877 (1865)-Present

Section 010: MWF 11:30 - 12:20 SCEN0405

Section 009: MWF 12:30 - 1:20 SCEN0405

Niels Eichhorn

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MW 10:30-11:20 and 1:30-2:00 or TR by appointment

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Overview and Objectives of Core Courses in History:

History is the study of the past. As an academic discipline, History embraces every aspect of the human experience, including warfare, political institutions, the economy, religious practice, technology, and artistic endeavor. History asks students to analyze empire and revolution, genocide and humanism, enslavement and liberation, sexuality and gender and to do so from the perspectives of social scientific and humanistic inquiry. There is no field more diverse than History and none more individualistic. History can be as long ago as the excavated texts and artifacts of ancient China or as recent as a mid twentieth-century newspaper produced in the American West.

By the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the following issues:

- The role played by diversity in shaping human experience
- The operation of large-scale forces responsible for causing change over time, such as politics, economics, technology, and religion
- The challenges mounted by an increasing reliance on technology
- The changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world

Course Description:

This course is designed to give you a basic understanding of the history of the United States and about the nation's place in world history. We will explore some long-term developments (like race relations/racism, industrialization, and urbanization) in the country's history since the end of the Civil War. Because we are living in an ever more globalizing world, it is necessary to look at historical events in their international context. Therefore, I will include international perspectives, parallels, and developments wherever appropriate.

Because history is more about interpretations than about facts, the readings for this course will expose you to some of the recent or important debates that historians have engaged in. They should give you an appreciation of how our understanding of the past has changed over the last five decades.

The goal of the course is to make you think critically about the various interpretations that exist about past events. It will also give you an understanding how our own time influences how we look at the past. Lastly, the course will help you understand the role of the United States in the world.

Readings:

This course is largely lecture driven. I do not require you to read or purchase the textbook because many of the ideas and concepts presented in the class are not included in the book. I have ordered a textbook for those who desire to read more about the topics covered in class. The reading assignments are available on **Blackboard**. I have selected a series of contemporary readings and short historical articles. We will spend at least 30 minutes every week discussing these readings. Therefore, I expect you to come to class prepared. Some of the readings are difficult and densely packed with information. I urge you to make an effort to read them. I will accept: "I did not get what he wanted to tell me," if you made an effort to read and understand the article. You cannot expect a grade higher than a C, however, if you did not read!

Optional Textbook:

Eric Foner. *Give Me Liberty: an American History*, Volume 2 (Seagull Edition)

Required Readings:

Eric Foner, *Forever Free* (xix-xxx)
Patricia N. Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest* (17-32)
Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements* (11-33)
Sven Beckert, *The Monied Metropolis* (1-14)
Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings* (52-75)
Louis A. Perez, *The War of 1898* (81-107)
Paul Kramer, "The Water Cure"
David S. Foglesong, *America's Secret War against Bolshevism* (106-129)
Ivo J. Lederer, *Yugoslavia at the Paris Peace Conference* (184-217)
Harvard Sitkoff, *A New Deal For Blacks* (58-83)
Omer Bartov, *Germany's War and the Holocaust* (122-136)
Helmut W. Smith, *The Holocaust and other Genocides* (93-97)
William A. Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (243-258)
Ronn Pineo, "Recent Cold War Studies" (79-86)
David L. Chappell, *A Stone of Hope* (153-178)

Exams and Grading:

Exam 1	100 pts.
Exam 2	100 pts.
Final Exam	150 pts.
Final Exam	150 pts.
Map Quizzes	40 pts
Participation	10 pts.
Total	400 pts.

A >360 pts
B 320-359 pts
C 280-319 pts
D 240-279 pts
F <239 pts

Please bring a blue book and blue or black pen for the exams. Pencils are not allowed for exams. Exams will consist entirely of material covered in lecture and the assigned readings. The mid-term exams will consist of three parts. You will be asked to answer 6 out of 10 short answers, 4 questions related to the readings, and 1 out of 3 essay questions. The final will be a third exam but you will have to answer a comprehensive essay question, which I will provide to you ahead of time. In addition, there will be two Map Quizzes on which I will ask you to identify 10 places, countries, or regions. A list of possible locations is provided on **Blackboard**. I will provide more details as the exams approach. I reserve the right to give additional quizzes at any time during the semester. I will consider consistent improvement when calculating the final grade.

Attendance

This is not high school! You are responsible for your own education! I will not deduct points from your grade for failure to attend; however, your participation grade will suffer from tardiness and absence. I highly encourage you to attend class because all of the material on the exams will come from the lectures.

Make-up exam policy

Make-up exams will be given at the sole discretion of the instructor. If you know that you have to miss an exam, you have to provide documentation as soon as possible after the missed exam (you need to e-mail me that very day, or earlier if possible). Make-up exams will be given on Dead Day and you can make up only **ONE** exam.

General Notes:

I expect you to be in class on time. It is a disruption of the class and rude to your instructor and classmates if you came in late.

Turn off all cell phones before class. I will ask you to leave if you repeatedly disrupt class with your cell phone. You are also not allowed to text during class.

Laptops can **ONLY** be used in the first row and **ONLY** for note taking. Internet surfing, facebook, my-spacing, playing games, or any other form of use is not allowed and if caught will end the privileges.

No eating, sleeping, snoring, doing homework, or other disruptive or rude behavior during class.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is the most important component of collegiate education. It is your own responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

Ignorance of the policy does not constitute innocence.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. All changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (August 24)

Monday: Introduction

Wednesday: United States before 1865, early Reconstruction

Friday: Reconstruction (optional reading in *Give Me Liberty*: 522-55, 608-616)

Week 2 (August 31)

Monday: Reconstruction

Wednesday: Discussion of Eric Foner, *Forever Free* (xix-xxx)

Friday: American West (*GML* 568-579)

Week 3 (September 7)

Monday: Labor Day

Wednesday: American West

Friday: Discussion of Patricia N. Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest* (17-32)

Week 4 (September 14)

Monday: Gilded Age (*GML* 557-568, 579-596)

Wednesday: Gilded Age

Friday: Discussion of Sven Beckert, *The Monied Metropolis* (1-14)
Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements* (11-33)

Week 5 (September 21)

Monday: Progressivism (*GML* 599-608, 637-677)

Wednesday: Progressivism

Friday: Discussion of Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings* (52-75)

Week 6 (September 28)

Monday: exam

Wednesday: Foreign Policy 1865-1898 (*GML* 624-636)

Friday: Foreign Policy 1865-1898

Week 7 (October 5)

Monday: Discussion of Louis A. Perez, *The War of 1898* (81-107)

Wednesday: "The New Empire"

Friday: "The New Empire"

Week 8 (October 12)

Monday: Discussion of Paul Kramer, "The Water Cure"

Map Quiz: United States

Wednesday: World War I (*GML* 678-700)

Friday: World War I

Week 9 (October 19)

Monday: Discussion of David S. Foglesong, *America's Secret War against Bolshevism* (106-129)

Wednesday: Paris Peace Conference (*GML* 710-718)

Friday: Paris Peace Conference

Week 10 (October 26)

Monday: Discussion of Ivo J. Lederer, *Yugoslavia at the Paris Peace Conference* (184-217)

Wednesday: exam

Friday: The 1920 (*GML* 719-735, 748-755, 756-788)

Week 11 (November 2)

Monday: Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression

Wednesday: Roosevelt and the New Deal

Friday: Discussion of Harvard Sitkoff, *A New Deal For Blacks* (58-83)

Map Quiz: World

Week 12 (November 9)

Monday: World War II (*GML* 797-837)

Wednesday: World War II

Friday: Discussion of Omer Bartov, *Germany's War and the Holocaust* (122-136)

Helmut W. Smith, *The Holocaust and other Genocides* (93-97)

Week 13 (November 16)

Monday: Cold War Abroad and at Home (*GML* 840-851, 854-868, 874-882, 887-895)

Wednesday: Cold War Abroad and at Home

Friday: Discussion of William A. Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (243-258)

Ronn Pineo, "Recent Cold War Studies" (79-86)

Week 14 (November 23)

Monday: Great Society, Vietnam, Civil Rights (*GML* 914-933, 938-943, 952-956)

Wednesday: Thanksgiving Break

Friday: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 (November 30)

Monday: Great Society, Vietnam, Civil Rights

Wednesday: Nixon Administration (*GML* 958-970)

Friday: Discussion of David L. Chappell, *A Stone of Hope* (153-178)

Week 16 (December 7)

Monday: catch up day, review day

Wednesday (December 9, 2009): Make-up exam

Final Exam

Section 010: Saturday, December 12, 2009, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Section 009: Friday, December 11, 2009, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.