

## THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN AMERICA, 1876-1917

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Office Hours: M 3-5 p.m., W 11a.m-noon, or by appointment

History 4703  
Autumn 2009  
Time: TTH 9:30-10:50

This course will trace the political, economic, social, and cultural development of the United States from the end of Reconstruction through American entry into the First World War. It will emphasize regional difference within the U.S. but also attempt to place the American experience in world context.

### Required Readings

Available for purchase at the University bookstore (and on reserve):

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*

Robert McMath, *American Populism: A Social History, 1877-1898*

Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

Glenda Gilmore, ed. *Who Were The Progressives?*

On reserve at Mullins Library:

Henry Steele Commager, *Documents of American History* [selections]

Robert S. Salisbury, "The Republican Party and Positive Government: 1860-1890," *Mid-America: An Historical Review* 68 (1986): 15-34 [electronic reserve password: 09f30hiwp]

### Grading

Class Participation/Quizzes	20%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%
Paper ( <b>due Dec. 3</b> )	30%

### Writing Assignment

*Undergraduates:* Students will read two consecutive weeks' worth of a daily newspaper published at any point between 1876 and 1917, and write a paper of approximately ten pages describing what its news reporting, commentary, and advertisements suggest about that town or city's political, economic, social, and cultural history in that era. They should be particularly attentive to how well the newspaper reflects broader regional and national developments discussed in class and reading assignments. Mullins Library has substantial runs of a number of the period's dailies on microfilm (including the *New-York Tribune*, *Arkansas Gazette*, *Memphis Daily Appeal*, *Galveston Daily News*, *New York World*, *Washington Post*, and *Chicago Daily Tribune*). Students should begin their research early since demand for microfilm readers *always* exceeds capacity late in the semester.

*Graduate Students:* In consultation with the instructor, students will select four important studies of some significant subject covered in class (e.g., industrial development, the emergence of Jim Crow, Gilded Age politics, the immigrant experience, imperialism) and write a historiographical paper of twelve to fifteen pages, comparing and contrasting the authors' approaches to that subject.

### Attendance, Make-up Policy, and Academic Honesty

Lectures and readings will complement one another. They will not necessarily cover the same ground. You will be responsible for everything discussed in class, as well as in the texts, and you are subject to pop quizzes at any time. You will not be penalized for absences entailed by severe weather, provided that attending class might, in your judgment, put your life, health, or property at risk. But in that case, or in the case of any other absence, you must contact the instructor *as soon as possible* to determine what you've missed. Irregular attendance and chronic tardiness will be understood by the instructor to signal deficiencies of commitment, respect, and common sense. *Unexcused absences are guaranteed to lower your course grade.*

You will be allowed to take a make-up test only if you have made arrangements with the instructor to do so *before* the regularly scheduled examination has taken place. Make-ups will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with, and abide by, the University's policy on academic honesty. See the 2009-2010 *Catalog of Studies*. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely. Students who try to pass off other people's words or ideas as their own--such as by including material drawn from the Internet in their papers without proper credit--will fail the course.

### Schedule of Class Sessions and Readings

[NOTE: A week's assigned readings must be completed before the Thursday meeting of the class]

Week of August 24: Introduction/Custer, the Compromise, and the Great Strike

Readings: The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, in Commager, *Documents of American History*

Week of August 31: The Transcontinental Economy

Readings: Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, xv-xix, 3-93

Week of September 7: Going to Extremes: Work & City Life

Readings: Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 97-206

Week of September 14: Reshaping the American Population

Readings: Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 207-309

Week of September 21: The Great West

Readings: Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 310-385

Week of September 28: The New South

Readings: McMath, *American Populism*, 3-49

Week of October 5: Politics & Government in the Gilded Age

Readings: Salisbury, "The Republican Party and Positive Government"  
McMath, *American Populism*, 50-142

Week of October 12: Money & Power

Readings: McMath, *American Populism*, 143-211

Week of October 19: Turning Points/Midterm

**THURSDAY, OCT. 22: MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Week of October 26: The Mississippi Plan as the American Way

Readings: *Plessy v. Ferguson*, “The Monroe Doctrine” (1823), “McKinley’s War Message,” “The Open Door in China,” *Downes v. Bidwell*, “The Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine,” in Commager, *Documents*

Week of November 2: Imperial America & All That Jazz

Readings: Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

Week of November 9: Old and New in the New Century

Readings: Introduction and essays by Hofstadter, Sanders, and Wiebe in Gilmore, *Who Were the Progressives?*

Week of November 16: The Progressive Era: Reshaping American Government

Readings: Essays by McCormick, Stromquist, and Connolly in Gilmore, *Who Were the Progressives?*; *Lochner v. New York*, *Muller v. Oregon*, “President Roosevelt and the Trusts,” in Commager, *Documents*

Week of November 23: Standing at Armageddon

Readings: Essays by Flanagan and Gilmore in Gilmore, *Who Were the Progressives?*

**THURSDAY, NOV. 26: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Week of November 30: Progressive America and the World

**PAPER DUE, THURSDAY, DEC. 3**

Readings: “‘Peace Without Victory’: Address of President Wilson,” “Wilson’s Speech for Declaration of War,” in Commager, *Documents*

Week of December 7: Review

**THE FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 14,  
FROM 10:00 AM TO NOON**