

History of the United States II
History 512:202:02

Instructor: Dr. John Johnson, Jr.
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Office: 49 Bleeker Street

Classroom: Conklin Hall 346
Schedule: Tues., Thur. 11:30am-12:50pm
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm

Course Description

This course will examine American history from the end of the Civil War to the present. We will approach history not only as those things that happened in the past (the content), but something that we do as historians, something that we research and write, something that we actively construct based on our careful consideration of evidence and existing knowledge (the method).

The course will take as its content United State history since the Civil War, so from about 1865 to the present. We will cover major developments in American political, economic, and cultural history. Broadly, the course will move from an examination of the modern period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the nation struggled with the development of an industrial economy and the massive changes it wrought in people's lives; through the economic and international crises of the Great Depression and World War II, through which the American state was remade; into the Cold War era and the rise of a new, consumer-based economy, through the mass social movements of the 1960s and 70s; into the rise of conservative politics as a reaction to the post-WWII state and those social movements; and up to whatever we might call the era which we live now (The Great Recession? Obama's America? The Digital Age? The Twilight of American Empire?).

Our study of this content will involve a constant encounter with primary-source evidence and secondary sources written by other scholars in the field. You will first, of course, learn the difference between the two. You will also learn to work with both types of sources, how to analyze them and make historical arguments based on them.

In short, this course requires that you be both consumers and producers of historical knowledge.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

You are required to: 1) prepare for class by completing the assigned reading and/or writing before class; 2) attend; 3) to arrive on time; 4) to take notes; 5) to participate by contributing to class discussions and by asking questions when you have them; and 6) to submit all assignments on time.

1) Class preparation and discussion – Class preparation means not simply getting through the reading, but studying it and making your best effort to understand it. It involves formulating questions and observations about the reading. Those questions might be about something you didn't understand or want to know more about. Those observations might be connections between the recent reading and other topics/periods, including today. Your daily class preparation will primarily be assessed through regular quizzes on the reading and my observations of your class participation.

One of my primary goals is to promote cooperative learning and this can only happen if the class has the widest possible level of *participation*. Students are required to participate regularly and discuss from an informed perspective. Students are encouraged to turn their

feelings and opinions into arguments that are grounded in the readings of primary and secondary sources. No brownie points will be given for grandstanding or dominating class discussions. It should go without saying that you are required to be respectful of divergent opinions and perspectives.

2) Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken every class meeting through the course of the semester. If you miss more than three classes without an excuse, your ability to pass this class will be placed in serious jeopardy. Missing four or more classes without an excuse (i.e., doctor's note for illness) will mean automatic failure. You are expected to show up to class on time. Three instances of lateness will count as one unexcused absence. More than 20 minutes late counts as an absence. There will be no opportunities to make-up quizzes or work that is done in class. Leaving class early without my permission will be documented as a late. **Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.**

4) You will need to *take good notes* in this class. Knowledge gathered through readings and in-class discussions will show up on your written assignments, (the quizzes, short written assignments) and the exams.

5) Writing Assignments/Quizzes - Throughout the course of the term, you will be asked to submit writing assignments. Review the assignment list and note the dates these assignments will be due. Assignments must be submitted on time. If you will miss a class, submit the relevant assignment for that day via email before class begins. Unless we have discussed it beforehand and you have received my permission, late assignments will have their grades lowered.

In addition, there will be unannounced quizzes on the readings to ensure that you are completing the readings. On average there will be at least three quizzes each month. The two lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your average.

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, requiring assistance and/or accommodation should speak with Disability Services in a timely manner to set up appropriate accommodations. For more information, please visit: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodations>

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Penalties for it range from failing this class to suspension from the university. I value your own, original thoughts and the knowledge you have. I do not value your ability to copy the thoughts and work of others. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the actions that constitute academic dishonesty at Rutgers. Please visit: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment."

Electronic Device Policy - Technology has become an integral part of our lives. Mobile devices and laptops are tools that can assist in the academic enterprise **outside of the class**. They can also be mechanisms for distraction. Social networking should not take place during class. Students have the **privilege** of using laptops only with my special permission. A pen and a notebook are not obsolete.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Class Citizenship (15%): This includes participation and in-class writing.

Quizzes (20%): There will be ten unannounced quizzes this semester, taken at the beginning of class. They will be based on the readings for that day. I will drop the four lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester. There will be no make up quizzes. As such, being absent or late for class is strongly discouraged.

Short Written Assignments (25%): There will be *seven* short written assignments due throughout the semester. Please see the schedule for due dates. We will discuss these in class, and separate instruction will be distributed and posted on Blackboard.

Midterm (15%): This exam will cover material from the first half of the semester. It will be a mix of formats: short answers and one or two longer essay questions. It will be given during regular class time on March 12.

Final (25%): This exam will be cumulative – meaning it will cover the entire semester – but will be weighted toward material from the second half of the semester. The format will be similar to the midterm: a mixture of short-answer and one or two longer essay questions. It will be given, according to the university exam schedule, on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 11:45am – 2:45pm.

Course Readings

There is one textbook required for this course. It is available at New Jersey Books, 167 University Avenue (corner of University and Bleeker) and at the Rutgers University Book Store.

REQUIRED: James Oakes et al, *Of the People*, volume 2, concise edition

All other readings will be available on Blackboard, either as pdfs or links.

PLEASE NOTE: You **must** bring the readings (the textbook and/or printed copies of shorter readings) to class each day.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Emancipation and Reconstruction

January 20: Intro to History and Emancipation

January 22: Reconstruction

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 478-509; Elias Hill Testimony

Week 2: The Modern American Economy

January 27: The New Economy and New Social Orders

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 510-537; Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth"

January 29: New Cities and New Americans

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 538-551; Anthony Comstock, from *Frauds Exposed*

Writing Assignment: primary source worksheet on Comstock reading

Week 3: The Experience of Modernity

February 3: Modern American Culture

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 552-565; Stephen Crane, "A Self-Made Man"

February 5: The Politics of Industrial America

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 566-591; Henry George, "The Paradox of Capitalist Growth"

Week 4: Modern American Politics

February 10: Crisis at Home, Empire Abroad

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 592-623; Booker T. Washington, "Atlanta Exposition Speech"

February 12: Progressive Reform

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 624-655

Week 5: WWI and the Emergence of Global Power

February 17: America's First Modern War

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 656-685

February 19: The Great Migration & A New World Order

Reading Assignment: Adriane Lentz Smith, "Saving Sergeant Caldwell"

Writing Assignment: second source worksheet on Smith

Week 6: Modern American Culture

February 24: New Freedoms

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 686-700; "Sex O'Clock in America"

February 26: New Freedoms, Old Hatreds and Ideologies

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 700-715; Alain Locke, "Enter the New Negro"

Week 7: Depression and New Deal

March 3: Fear Itself

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 716-745; selections from Studs Terkel, *Hard Times*

March 5: American Culture in the 1930s

Reading Assignment: Warren Susman, "The Culture of the Thirties"

Writing Assignment: contemporary questions essay

Week 8: America at War

March 10: World War II

Reading Assignment: *Of the People* 746-779; Frank Sinatra, Paul Robeson "The House I Live In"

March 12: Mid Term Exam!

SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 9: The Cold War

March 24: Origins of the Cold War

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 780-811; Harry Truman, address to Congress, March 12, 1947

March 26: Anxiety and Dissent

Reading Assignment: *Red Nightmare: Freedom and You*

Writing Assignment: Primary Source worksheet on *Red Nightmare*

Week 10: Postwar Affluence and the Roots of the 1960s

March 31: The Rise of Consumer Society

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 812-833; Nixon and Krushchev, "The Kitchen Debate" transcript

April 2: Stirrings

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 833-843; Barbara Ransby "The Preacher and the Organizer" from *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement*

Week 11: The 1960s

April 7: Liberalism in the 60s

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 844-860: Lyndon Johnson "The Great Society" and Students for Democratic Society, excerpt from "the Port Huron Statement"

April 9: Vietnam and Dissent

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 860-877; Gulf of Tonkin Resolution; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Why I Am Opposed to the War in Vietnam"

Week 12: New Crises and the Roots of the New Right

April 14: New Identities, Right and Left

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 878-909; David Shipler, "The White Niggers of Newark; "Queen Bees Are Stinging Mad"

April 16: The Shock of the Global

Reading Assignment: Melani McAlister, "Iran, Islam, and the Terrorist Threat"

Writing Assignment: secondary source worksheet on McAlister

Week 13: The New Right and New Economy

April 21: Reagan's America

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 910-943; Reagan, Neshoba County Speech

April 23: The New New Economy

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 944-961; Barbara Ehrenreich, "Maid to Order"

Week 14: America in the Post-Cold War Period

April 28: The New New World Order

Reading Assignment: *Of the People*, 961-977; New York City Prayer Service @ 1:53

April 30: An Age of Limits?

Reading Assignment: selections from *The Short American Century*

Writing Assignment: Contemporary questions essay

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, from 11:45am to 2:45pm.