

Syllabus, US History 2
Rutgers University, Newark

1. Course and Instructor Information

Semester: Spring 2017
Time: Thursdays, 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Location: Hill 105
Identifiers: Unit 21, Subject 512, Course 202, Section 63
Instructor: Ray Ojserkis, PhD
Contact: ray.ojserkis@gmail.com
Office: Conklin 326, Thursdays, 1:00 to 2:00

2. Synopsis

We will survey the United States from the end of the formal Reconstruction era, discussing political, social, and economic changes, and evolving relations with other nations. Our goals are not only to enhance our understanding of United States history, but also to improve our ability to critically analyze evidence and arguments and constantly review, and revise as necessary, our understanding of history.

3. Goals

Our goals include

- A. basic knowledge of modern US history, especially its broad patterns
- B. familiarity with some common interpretations of US history
- C. ability to engage critically with others who often do not share the same interpretations of events
- D. familiarity with use of primary sources, especially the connections between the author's goals and his or her arguments and his or her method of argumentation
- E. improved skills in synthesizing and communicating historical information, and constructing sound arguments

4. Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by weighting the graded components as follows:

Unannounced Reading Quizzes	25%
Debate Notes	Cancels two lowest reading quiz grades.
Midterm Exam	25%
Final (non-cumulative) Exam	25%
Research Essay	25%

Any student who misses four 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.

If you are absent or tardy your score for a quiz or exam will be an F unless the absence is excusable. According to the Rutgers catalog, "The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions." Documentation will be required.

5. Classes

Class sessions will be used for quizzes, examinations, debates, and lectures. Each lecture will detail a historic topic, as listed in the schedule below, and for each of these topics I will post a handout to Blackboard listing

key points we'll discuss. Some of these handouts will include primary reading in addition to that assigned below.

Learning can be a collaborative process, and I will involve the class in discussions. Never feel that your comments or questions aren't appreciated.

6. Primary Sources

Primary sources are first-hand accounts, often created by participants or witnesses of events, and sometimes created by first-recorders of events. Examples include, but aren't limited to, memoirs, speeches, documents, data, polls, and contemporary newspaper accounts. Secondary sources are sources created by people who didn't participate or witness events, but often have the benefit of perspective, and typically draw from a variety of sources to create a nuanced and complex history that can account for multiple interpretations. Examples include history books and lectures.

We'll try to balance the lectures by reading primary sources in our out-of-class reading. An electronic copy of this syllabus is on Blackboard, and you will need to access the primary sources through hyperlinks in the schedule.

As we will discuss the primary sources in class, it will help to bring printed copies with you, or a laptop that is Internet-accessible.

7. Research Essay

Your essay must answer **one** of the following questions for the research essay:

- a) What were the major causes of immigration to the United States in the era after the Civil War and before the First World War?
- b) In the second half of the 19th century, how did Americans attempt to apply their understanding of Darwinian thought on issues such as economics, government reform, and immigration?
- c) Why did the United States fight the Philippine-American War (1899-1902)?
- d) Why did the American automobile industry become the largest in the world?
- e) Why was the United States Federal Reserve created?
- f) How did the Spanish Influenza affect American society?
- g) Was the Volstead Act beneficial for the United States?
- h) To what extent was the New Deal a success? What were its successes and failures?
- i) Was the Good Neighbor policy a success?
- j) Why was the United States attacked on December 7th, 1941?
- k) Why did the Grand Alliance win the Second World War?
- l) Why did the Cold War begin?
- m) Should the United States have signed the North Atlantic Treaty (1949)?
- n) Why did the United States decide to fight a limited war in Korea (1950-53) rather than insist on unconditional surrender of the enemy?
- o) Why did the US support coups overseas during the Cold War? What were the effects?
- p) How accurate is the stereotype of the 1950s as an age of suburban conformity in the US?
- q) How has the Space Age affected life in America?
- r) Were Second Wave feminists substantially different in their aims than earlier feminists?
- s) How successful was the American Indian Movement?
- t) Why did the percentage of children born to unwed mothers in the United States rise in the past sixty years?
- u) What reasons help explain the rise in income gaps in the US and other industrialized nations since the 1970s?

- v) Did the Carter administration handle the Iranian Revolution and subsequent 'hostage crisis' competently?
- w) Was Reaganomics a success?

Write your essays using MS Word, and email them to me at the address above. I will not accept printed copies of your essay.

I will submit the essay to plagiarism software, and mark essays using Track Changes in MS Word. If you're not sure what plagiarism is, consider this: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>. Cite a source every time your essay makes use of an idea, quote, anecdote, study, or fact that you found in someone's work.

I call the essay a "research essay" to emphasize that the quality of your essay is largely dependent upon the quality of your research. Use at least four scholarly articles or published books. The phrase "at least" means you are allowed and encouraged to use more than four sources. The length of the essay should be 1,500 to 2,500 words.

Cite your sources wherever you rely on them, using footnotes, parenthetical notes or end notes. Be very specific when citing a source, using either the Chicago, APA, or MLA format throughout. For details, please consult the [Rutgers Library Guide](#). Cite a source every time you make use of someone's ideas.

8. Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines

The last date for students to drop a course with no penalty is January 24th, 2017, and the last date to withdraw from a course with a "W" grade is March 27th, 2017.

9. Academic Integrity Agreement and Honor Pledge

On each examination, you will be required to sign the following statement:

On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).

10. Information for Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information, please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

11. Schedule

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
1	Jan 19	Course Overview Industrialization	n/a
2	Jan 26	Settlement of the West Frontier Thesis of US History	Chief Joseph, <i>An Indian's View . . .</i>, 1879 & J McClung, <i>Minnesota . . . in 1870</i> F J Turner, <i>The Significance of the Frontier in American History</i>, 1893
3	Feb 2	Jim Crow & Great Migration Populism & Progressivism	B Singleton's testimony & Sharecropper Contract, 1879 Populist Party Platform, 1892 & T. Roosevelt, <i>Who Is A Progressive?</i>, 1912
4	Feb 9	Formal Empire First World War	A T Mahan, <i>The US Looking Outward</i>, 1890 Zimmerman Note, 1917 & Woodrow Wilson, Fourteen Points speech, 1918
5	Feb 16	Prosperity & Normalcy Great Depression	C Coolidge, speech on taxes . . . , 1924 & C Coolidge, <i>Ancient Days</i> letter on Dust Bowl conditions, 1935 & letter to E Roosevelt, 1938 & F Perkins, <i>Roots of Social Security</i>
6	Feb 23	Second World-War: Overseas Second World War Homefront	C Lindbergh, America First address, 1941 & F Roosevelt, On Lend Lease, 1941 F Roosevelt, Fireside Chat, April 1942 & World War Two in Posters
7	Mar 2	Midterm Exam	n/a
8	Mar 9	Cold War Origins Korean War	Walter Lippman, <i>Cold War</i>, 1947 JCS to D. MacArthur, Oct 1950 & D. MacArthur, letter to JCS, Nov. 1950
	Mar 16	Spring Break – No Class	n/a
9	Mar 23	Post-War Consumerism Civil Rights	Henderson, <i>Suburbs: The New American Dream</i>, 1953 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, 1954 and Rosa Parks interview
10	Mar 30	Vietnam War Pick debate teams.	Lyndon Johnson, <i>Peace Without Conquest</i>, 1965
11	Apr 6	Sixties Movements (Finish Sixties Movements)	Port Huron Statement, 1962 J. Edgar Hoover, <i>Open Letter to College Students</i>, 1970
12	Apr 13	Debate.	Send in debate notes with citations if you debate in this session.
13	Apr 20	Finish debate.	Send in debate notes with citations if you debate in this session.

14	Apr 27	Reagan Revolution (Finish Reagan Revolution)	R. Reagan, Inaugural Address, 1981 R. Reagan, speech to . . . Commons, 1982
	May 1	Research Essay Due (no class – email your essay)	Wikipedia, Plagiarism Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy
	May 5	Final Exam (on a Friday) <i>(at 6:20pm, in our regular classroom)</i>	n/a