

US History Since 1877

History 2013-201-LEC (9953) - MWF 12:55 p.m. - 2:35 p.m. - Spring 2022
Gearhart Hall 0104

Instructor: John Treat
Office: Gearhart 236
Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 3:00-4:00 p.m. or by appointment
Contact information: 501-322-1198 (texts fine), jdt015@uark.edu

Course Objective

The goal of this course is to familiarize the student with key events in the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present and how they have shaped contemporary American society. Attention will be given to political, economic, social, and cultural history to help the student better understand the multiple forces that have transformed the nation over the last 140 years. Students will be assessed on their mastery of these concepts through two examinations, weekly writing assignments, and weekly discussion.

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand key events in U.S. history since 1877 including:
 - a. The Second Industrial Revolution, including its impact on labor practices and government policy.
 - b. The growing role of the federal government in Americans' lives.
 - c. Struggles for civil rights, particularly in the African-American community.
 - d. The roots and ramifications of the period of divided government that began in 1968.
2. Improve critical thinking, writing, and discussion skills from close reading and analysis of primary and secondary texts.

Grading

| Assignment | Points Possible |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Weekly reflection papers | 250 |
| Discussion participation | 250 |
| Mid-Term Exam | 250 |
| Final Exam | 250 |
| Total | 1000 |

Grading Scale

A: 900-1000 **B:** 800-899 **C:** 700-799 **D:** 600-699 **F:** Below 600

Weekly Reflection Papers 250 points (25%)

During seven weeks of the course, you will be assigned readings from the American Yawp Reader and other sources. For five weeks of your choosing, you will need to write a 250-word reflection paper on these sources. Papers are due by 5:00 p.m. each Thursday before our Friday discussion and are to be your own work. Each paper is worth 50 points. Late papers will have 5 points deducted per day.

A guideline sheet for reflection papers is available on Blackboard with complete instructions.

Weekly Discussion Participation 250 points (25%)

Each week, with the exception of the first week and midterm week, you will be graded on your class participation. For these weeks, you will be given a participation grade of 0 to 50 points, of which the lowest two will be dropped.

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| A (50) | = | dynamic and informed participation |
| B (43) | = | solid, consistent participation with evidence of a careful reading of the sources |
| C (38) | = | occasional participation with evidence of having consulted the readings |
| D (31) | = | present but not participating |
| F (0) | = | not present and unexcused absence |

Mid-Term Exam (250 points (15%))

Material on the mid-term examination will cover the first half of the class. There will be five short answers and one essay.

Final Exam 250 Points (15%)

Material on the mid-term exam will cover material from the second half of the class. There will be five short answers and one essay.

Required Texts

(All course texts are available online at no cost.)

1. *The American Yawp: A Free and Online, Collaboratively Built American History Textbook*, 2021-2022, Joseph Wright and Ben Lock, eds., www.americanyawp.org.
2. *The American Yawp Reader: A Documentary Companion to the American Yawp*, 2021-2022, Joseph Wright and Ben Lock, eds., www.americanyawp.com/reader.html
3. Primary-source readings linked in the syllabus or available on Blackboard.

Promptness

Once the classroom door is closed, you have missed your chance to attend for the day and forfeited your participation points.

Contested Grades

If you believe that you have received a lower grade than you deserved on an assignment, please come to my office hours to discuss your grade, but only after at least 24 hours have elapsed. This gives time for your initial reactions to a grade to cool and time for me to be able to review your work with fresh eyes. Bring written points based on the assignment sheet showing why you feel that your grade was in error to make your case.

Academic Dishonesty

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when

intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/> Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

For further information, a useful video can be found at <http://honesty.uark.edu/students/>. Short summary: cheating (including plagiarism) will result in an F on the assignment, in the course, or possible dismissal from the U of A.

Intellectual Property

State common law and federal copyright law protect my syllabus and lectures. Students are not authorized to record my lectures or electronic presentations or to make any commercial use of them without express prior permission from me. Notes and lectures are for your personal use only.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices should be muted and stored out of sight before class. If I see a cell phone, tablet, laptop, or other electronic device, you will be asked to leave for the day and will forfeit your participation points for the week. Electronic devices are allowed ONLY during discussion times and then only for accessing primary source texts.

ADA Notice

University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the Center for Educational Access (479-575-3104 or <http://cea.uark.edu>). The center staff are very helpful and will assist you in documenting your condition and for arranging appropriate accommodations, which may include assigning a note taker to the class, arranging for longer examination times, or other helpful measures.

U of A Cares

If something bad happens in your personal life that will cause you to miss assignments or substantial portions of class, please contact U of A Cares (<http://uofacares.uark.edu> or 479-575-5004) in the Dean of Students Office. Staff can help you navigate troubles, connect you with resources, and contact all of your professors at once so you can stay on track academically.

Inclement Weather

If campus is closed, class will not be held. For those who live off campus, use your best judgment.

Class Norms of Behavior

Respect is key when discussing subjects that engender strong feelings. State your opinions and make your arguments as strongly as possible, but only do so based on historical evidence and solid reasoning. Argue with positions, not other class members. Attacking another class member rather than his or her argument will affect your participation grade and, in some cases, may result in you

being asked to leave the course for the day.

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus may change at any point in the course at the instructor's discretion.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning)

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD)

CALL- 9-1-1

AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY- Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.

DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 (March 9-11): The Gilded Age and the West

Required Reading

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp* Ch. 16, Capital and Labor

Friday: *Am. Yawp* Ch. 17, The West

Am. Yawp Reader:

William Graham Sumner on Social Darwinism (ca.1880s)

Chief Joseph on Indian Affairs (1877, 1879)

Frederick Jackson Turner, "Significance of the Frontier ..." (1893)

Week 2 (March 14-18): Industrial America and Its Empire

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 18, Life in Industrial America

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 19, American Empire

Friday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Henry Grady on the New South (1886)

Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (1918)
Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890)
William McKinley on American Expansionism (1903)
Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" (1899)

Week 3 (March 21-25): SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

Week 4 (March 21-April 1): The Progressive Era and World War I

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 20, The Progressive Era

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 21, World War I and Its Aftermath

Friday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Booker T. Washington & W.E.B. DuBois on Black Progress (1895, 1903)

Eugene Debs, "How I Became a Socialist" (April, 1902)

Walter Rauschenbusch, *Christianity and the Social Crisis* (1907)

Woodrow Wilson Requests War (April 2, 1917)

Emma Goldman on Patriotism (July 9, 1917)

Lutiant Van Wert describes the 1918 Flu Pandemic (1918)

Week 5 (April 4-8): Roaring '20s and Depression

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 22, The New Era

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 23, The Great Depression

Friday: **MIDTERM EXAM** (Bring a bluebook.)

Week 6 (April 11-15): World War II and the Cold War

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 24, World War II

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 25, The Cold War

Friday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Charles A. Lindbergh, "America First" (1941)

The Atlantic Charter (1941)

The Truman Doctrine (1947)

Walter Lippman, [A Critique of Containment](#) (Use link, not in reader.)

F. A. Hayek, [The Road to Serfdom](#) (Use link, not in reader.)

Week 7 (April 18-22): The Affluent Society, Civil Rights, and the Sixties

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 26, The Affluent Society

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 27, The Sixties

Friday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)

Rosa Parks on Life in Montgomery, Alabama (1956-1958)

Richard Nixon on the American Standard of Living (1959)

The Port Huron Statement (1962)

Barry Goldwater, Republican Nomination Acceptance Speech (1964)
Lyndon Johnson on Voting Rights and the American Promise (1965)

Week 8 (April 22-29):

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 28, The Unraveling

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 29, The Triumph of the Right

Friday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Statement by John Kerry of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (1971)

Gloria Steinem on Equal Rights for Women (1970)

First Inaugural Address of Ronald Reagan (1981)

Statements of AIDS Patients (1983)

Pat Buchanan on the Culture War (1992)

Week 9 (May 2-4): World War II on Fast Forward

Required Reading

Monday: *Am. Yawp*, Ch. 30, The Recent Past

Wednesday: *Am. Yawp Reader*:

Bill Clinton on Free Trade and Financial Deregulation (1993-2000)

9/11 Commission Report, "Reflecting On A Generational Challenge" (2004)

Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)

Pedro Lopez on His Mother's Deportation (2008/2015)

Friday: Wrapping Up and Final Review

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 11, 12:45 PM to 2:45 PM (Bring a bluebook.)