

COURSE SYLLABUS
HISTORY 112.01
UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865
SPRING 2005

Instructor: Christopher K. Riggs
Office Location: Spalding 109
Office Hours:
 1:30-4:15 PM Tues,
 1:00-2:45 PM Mon & Wed,
 whenever you catch me in the office,
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OVERVIEW

This course will survey the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the end of the twentieth century. We will touch on a variety of topics, including politics and diplomacy, economics, and social issues. We will pay particular attention to attempts to reconcile the nation's "core ideals" of liberty, equality, and representative democracy with the reality of individuals' lives. While most Americans expressed a belief in these concepts, many events of the post-Civil War era--such as the rise of corporate/industrial capitalism and legalized racial segregation--seriously challenged these ideas. We will examine what these challenges were and how leaders as well as "ordinary" Americans attempted to deal with them. In some cases, Americans sought to alter the political, social, and economic structures. In other instances, people altered their interpretations of the "core ideals" to adjust them to new realities.

COURSE FORMAT

The course format will consist of lecture and discussion sessions, supplemented by some audio-visual presentations (videos and the like).

Please note that in preparation for discussions, you may be asked to read material in advance and to write answers to a series of questions and to turn in your answers to me at the end of the session.

ATTENDANCE

You are responsible for all material presented and discussed during all class sessions whether or not you are present. Also, attendance will be considered in regard to determining your participation grade (see below).

I request that you arrive to class on time; if you anticipate that you might be late, please let me know. Also, please let me know if you need to leave class early.

READINGS

Everyone will be required to read from the following books:

Robert Marcus, David Burner, Anthony Marcus, America Firsthand: Readings from Reconstruction to the Present, vol. 2, 6th edition.

Peter N. Carroll, We the People: A Brief American History, vol. 2 (or comprehensive edition).

The Carroll book is a textbook that you will be asked to read throughout the semester. America Firsthand is a collection of primary source documents—that is, documents produced by eyewitnesses to historical events.

These readings will serve as the basis for some of our discussions. You should keep in mind that some material that you read about will not be covered explicitly in class. The readings are designed to give you a broader knowledge than can be acquired strictly through in-class lectures and discussions.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade will be based on how many points you earn out of a possible 330. You earn points by doing the following things.

Participation

Participation is valued at 50 points. Among other things, participation involves reading material to be discussed in class beforehand, active engagement in class discussions (listening and speaking), asking relevant questions, and good faith efforts to grapple with course material. Earning

a high participation grade, of course, will require you to attend class regularly. To gauge participation, you may occasionally be asked to sign in or turn in evidence of your work during class.

Actions during class which will cause you to lose participation points include (but are not limited to) sleeping or putting your head down on the desk, reading newspapers or magazines, doing other homework, leaving early without checking with the instructor beforehand, and talking while the instructor or another student or guest speaker is speaking. Such actions can be very disruptive and show disrespect toward other students and the instructor; they are not acceptable.

Exams

There will be three in-class examinations, including the final examination. Each exam will be closed book, closed note, and worth a total of 100 points. The exams are designed to assess your knowledge of basic factual material as well as the ability to analyze that material. You will have the option of not taking one of the exams. If you take all three, I will drop your lowest exam score when calculating your grade for the course.

Papers

You will be asked to do three two-to-three page writing assignments, worth 40 points each. They will be based on America Firsthand and should be typed, double-spaced, and in ten or twelve point font. The papers will be in response to written questions that I will provide you. You will be required to complete all three paper assignments, but I will drop your lowest paper grade. More details about the papers will be provided in a separate handout.

Papers turned in after the deadline may be subject to a point penalty. There will be five points taken off for each day that a paper is turned in after the deadline day.

Extra Credit

You will have the option to do a maximum of two extra credit assignments, worth up to ten points total. Students should check with me before proceeding with any extra credit work. The activities listed below are suggestions; other projects

would likely be acceptable as well, but just be sure to check with me if you have any questions. Please note that the more complex and difficult the project, the more points you are likely to earn.

Some potential extra credit projects include:

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related article in a magazine, journal, or newspaper.

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related film.

Writing a 1-2 page paper summarizing and analyzing a history-related source on the Internet.

Note that you must cite any source that you use in your extra credit project (author and title of article, title of film, web address, etc.)

Extra credit work must be turned in no later than the end of the day on May 7 (Friday).

GRADING

I will grade using the following scale:

93-100% = A	90-92 = A-	
88-89% = B+	83-87 = B	80-82 = B-
78-79% = C+	73-77 = C	70-72 = C-
68-69% = D+	63-67 = D	60-62 = D-
59% and below = F		

MAKE UP EXAMS

I will permit make up exams only under special circumstances. Please let me know as soon as possible (preferably before the exam) about the situation that has caused you or will cause you to miss the exam so that a make up can be arranged. NOTE THAT MAKE UP EXAMS MAY BE OF A DIFFERENT FORMAT THAN THE REGULAR EXAMS.

CHEATING

Cheating (including plagiarism) is unacceptable. Anyone who I find to be engaged in cheating will receive an automatic F grade for the assignment and may receive an F grade for the course and be reported to the appropriate authorities.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must consult with me no later than three weeks before the first exam.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a tentative schedule (with the emphasis on tentative!) of the topics we will address in class. I have included the due dates for the papers as well as the dates for exams.

The assigned pages from We the People (WP) and America Firsthand (AF) should be read before class.

Page numbers marked with an asterisk (*) will be specifically discussed in class the week the readings are assigned.

ch. = chapter
chs. = chapters
pp. = pages

Week of Jan 10
Introduction and Reconstruction, 1865-1877
Readings: WP: ch. 15; AF: pp. 1-16*

JAN 17: NO CLASSES (MLK DAY)

Week of Jan 17
Reconstruction (con't); Native Americans and Western Conquest, 1860s-1890s
Readings: AF: pp. 37-43*; WP: ch. 16

Week of Jan 24
Native Americans and Western Conquest (con't); Rise of Big Business and Industrialization, 1860s-1890s
Readings: AF: pp. 55-73

PAPER #1 DUE FEB 2

Week of Jan 31
Crisis and Empire, 1890s
Readings: WP: ch. 17; AF: pp, 95-102*

Week of Feb 7
Response to Industrialization: The Progressive Era, 1890s-1916
Readings: WP: chs. 18-19; AF: pp. 104-115*, 123-135

Week of Feb 14
Foreign Policy, World War I and the Twenties, 1910s-1920s
Readings: WP: ch. 20-21; AF: pp. 153-164

FEB 21: NO CLASSES (PRESIDENT'S DAY)

Week of Feb 21
The Party and the Hangover: The "New Era" (1920s), Great Depression, and New Deal, 1920s-1930s
Readings: WP: ch. 22; AF: pp. 182-196*

FIRST EXAM: FEB 28

Week of Feb 28
New Deal (con't); America and World War II, 1937-1945
Readings: WP: ch. 23

PAPER #2 DUE MAR 9

Week of Mar 7
America and World War II (con't); Cold War and American Society
Readings: AF: pp. 225-246*

WEEK OF MAR 14: NO CLASSES (SPRING BREAK)

Week of Mar 21
Affluence and Anxiety: Cold War and American Society, 1945-1960
Readings: WP: chs. 24-25; AF: pp. 247-253*

Week of Mar 28
The Sixties: The "Rights Revolution," 1960s-1970s
Readings: WP: chs. 26-27; AF: pp. 270-291

SECOND EXAM: APR 13

Week of Apr 4
The Sixties: Vietnam, 1961-1968
Readings:

Week of Apr 11
Nixon, Vietnam, and Watergate, 1968-1975
Readings: WP: ch. 28

Week of Apr 18
Conservatism's Rise; the Waning of the Cold War, 1975-1991
Readings: WP: ch. 29-30; AF: pp. 292-298

Week of Apr 25
The Post-Cold War Era and the New Millennium, 1991-today
Readings: AF: pp. 299-334*

PAPER #3 DUE MAY 2

Week of May 2
Catch Up and Review
Readings: Whatever you need to finish

EXTRA CREDIT WORK DUE MAY 6

FINAL EXAM: Wed, May 11, 9:00 AM