

HIS2091// American History, 1877-Present HONORS, FALL 2014

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MW, 2:00-3:15, Coleman 2691

Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:00am; T 4:00-5:00pm

Office Location: Coleman 3761

In this course, we will read, think, talk, and write about transformations in American history from 1877 to the present. We will:

- ❖ Examine political, social, and cultural developments in America from 1877 to the present
- ❖ Analyze and explain primary evidence including documents, popular culture, and media—how are political ideas articulated, disseminated and reformed in cultural production?
- ❖ Consider the craft of the historian—how are histories put together? How to resolve conflicting accounts? How does our impression of the past change along with the present?
- ❖ Use historical context to think critically about and evaluate events in the contemporary—how can we use what we know about the past to explain and evaluate the present

Catalog Entry:

History of the United States Since 1877, Honors. (3-0-3) The new industrial society; agrarian movement; the United States as a world power through two world wars, depression and after. S2 901 WI
Prerequisites & Notes: Admission to the Honors College. Credits: 3
3.000 Credit hours

Course Objectives:

- ❖ Identify the major developments in United States history since 1877.
- ❖ Analyze primary source texts and place those texts within a historical context, demonstrating the ability to think critically and reflectively.
- ❖ Describe important debates regarding the industrialization and global involvement of the U.S. since 1877 within a world context.
- ❖ Articulate concepts and arguments verbally in class discussions.
- ❖ Develop written communication abilities through primary source analysis papers and in-class written exams.
- ❖ Identify world-shaping forces and events.
- ❖ Describe the diverse experiences and perspectives that shape human culture.
- ❖ Identify historical events that have shaped world cultures.
- ❖ Conduct individual research and produce a research paper, in accordance with the requirements of the Honors College

Required Reading:

Give Me Liberty! (abbreviated as GML)

For The Record (abbreviated as FTR)

Additional reading posted as PDF's on Desire2Learn (abbreviated as D2L)

Class Assignments:

Reading Quizzes will be available on Desire 2 Learn and will be due most Mondays. 13 quizzes, I will drop the lowest score and count the 12 best [15% total]

Chapter Handout and Presentation you will create a summary handout and present and lead discussion for one chapter unit, which will include a summary of the chapter, eight key identification terms, and five “think” questions. The handout will be due at 5pm on the Sunday before our Monday meeting. [10%]

Primary Source Papers You will write two 4-6 page papers, each one synthesizing, analyzing, and discussing a primary source group from one week of class. These will be due on Mondays in the D2L Dropbox. [15% total]

Research Proposal and Paper: You will revise and expand one of your Primary Source Papers into a longer (10-12 page) research paper, bringing in three more primary sources and three secondary sources (20% total)

Midterm and Final Exams Identification and short answer in class, take-home essay distributed in advance. I will give you a list of identification terms to use as a study guide [midterm: 15% + final: 15% = 30% total]

Attendance, Preparedness, and Participation [10%]

Class Policies:

Attendance

- Students are expected to attend each class meeting and come prepared, having completed the assigned reading and ready with insights, observations and questions.
- Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the beginning of each class. I will allow three documented absences (you must notify me before class begins), but after this, will deduct a fraction grade (B+ becomes B; B- becomes C+, etc.) for each absence. If you are absent, you are responsible for any missed material or assignments.
- We will begin and end each class promptly, so please be in your seats when class begins, and do not start packing up before class ends. If you are more than ten minutes late, or if you leave class early without discussing with me in advance, I will count you as absent for the day.

Classroom Behavior

- I expect students to treat each other and me with civility and mutual respect. Disrespect, harassment, or disruptions of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: whispering, passing notes, arriving to class late, interrupting me or your classmates.
- Please silence all cell phones and disable wireless connection for the duration of class. I allow the use of laptops for note-taking, but reserve the right to change this policy if it is abused. Cell phone use of any kind (texting, playing games, listening to music) is not allowed and will result in penalties for repeat offenders.

Email Policy

- I try to respond to all emails within 24 hours of receipt. That said, I will not respond to emails that do not include a descriptive subject line (“absent this week,” “question about primary sources,” etc.), a proper salutation (“Dear Professor Rymza-Pawlowska,” “Hi, Dr. R-P”), and a proper closing (“Sincerely, Jane Doe,” “Thank You, Jane Doe”). Email professionalism is very important.
- I do not use the Desire 2 Learn email system, so please do not contact me there. Instead, email me on my Eastern account at rymza@eiu.edu

Late Work

- Late work will not be accepted without my prior approval and may be subject to grade penalty. If an emergency occurs, I will need written documentation.

Academic Integrity

- Plagiarism—either intentionally or unintentionally passing off someone else’s work as your own will not be tolerated, and will result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or the course. I will also file a Notification of Academic Misconduct Form with the Office of Student Standards, which will become part of your file. Please see EIU’s Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php> for more information on plagiarism and other kinds of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for adhering to this code.

Disability Services

- EIU is committed to the provision of equal access and opportunity to all campus programs and services for students with documented qualifying disabilities. Please speak with me and/or contact the Office of Disability Services <http://www.eiu.edu/disablty/index.php>, they will approve and arrange accommodation.

Student Success Center:

I encourage you to take advantage of the resources offered by EIU’s Student Success Center. See <http://www.eiu.edu/success/> for more information.

Course Schedule

* I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus as I deem appropriate as the semester progresses but I will always give you prior notice, and I will never add to your workload, only make substitutions.

WEEK 1: Introductions

date	Topic
8/25	Course expectations, doing cultural history; "structures of feeling"
8/27	Public culture in the late 19c; the historian's work: reading and responding to primary sources

WEEK 2: Industrial Capital and the Gilded Age

date	Reading Due	Assignments
9/1	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY	
9/3	GML, Chapter 16	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting

WEEK 3: Immigration, Migration, "The West," Jim Crow, Populism

date	Reading Due	Assignments
9/8	GML, Chapter 17 FTR: "The New South," 19-20, "The New South Investigated," 21-22	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
9/10	Jackson Lears, "The Country and the City," from <i>Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 4: American Empire, the Progressives

date	Reading Due	Assignments
9/15	GML, Chapter 18 FTR: "The Lure of the City," 67-69, "The Jungle," 120-121	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
9/17	Robert Rydell, "The Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893: And Was Jerusalem Built Here?" in <i>All the World's A Fair: Visions of Empire at America International Expositions</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 5: The Great War, The Advent of Cinema, Mass Entertainment and Media

date	Reading Due	Assignments
9/22	GML, Chapter 19 FTR: "Declaration of War Against Germany," 165-166 "How We Advertised America," (D2L)	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
9/24	Daniel Czitrom, "American Motion Pictures and the New Popular Culture," from <i>Media and the American Mind</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 6: The “Roaring Twenties”?

date	Reading Due	Assignments
9/29	GML, Chapter 20 FTR: “In His Image,” 197-198, “Big Ideas From Big Business,” 204-5	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
10/1	Roland Marchand, “Apostles of Modernity,” in <i>Advertising the American Dream</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 7: Depression and New Deal

date	Reading Due	Assignments
10/6	GML, Chapter 21, FTR: “Two Views of the Great Depression,” 214-216, “Letters to the Roosevelts,” 221-222, “Share Our Wealth,” 225-226	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
10/8	Lizabeth Cohen, “Depression: Rise of the Citizen Consumer” in <i>A Consumer’s Republic</i> (D2L)	take-home portion of MIDTERM EXAM handed out

WEEK 8: Midterm Exam

date	Topic
10/13	MIDTERM EXAM
10/15	in-class: research and writing activity

WEEK 9: WWII and the Homefront, screen *Atomic Cafe*

date	Reading Due	Assignments
10/20	GML, Chapter 22	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
10/22	FTR: “The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima,” 263-4, “If the Atomic Bomb Had Not Been Used,” 265-268	

WEEK 10: Cold War Politics

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
10/27	GML, Chapter 23 FTR: “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” 272-274, “Democrats and Communists,” 280-281	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
10/29	Elaine Tyler May, “Baby Boom and Birth Control: The Reproductive Consensus,” from <i>Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 11: Legislating the “Affluent Society”

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
11/3	GML, Chapter 24 FTR: “Up From the Potato Fields,” 289-291, “What TV is Doing to America,” 291-294	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
11/5	Lynn Spigel, “Television in the Family Circle,” from <i>Make Room for TV</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 12: "The Sixties": Civil Rights and Student Activism

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
11/10	GML, Chapter 25 FTR: "Letter from Birmingham Jail," 323-371, "Black Power," 338-340 and "Port Huron Statement" 373-377	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
11/12	T.V. Reed, "Singing Civil Rights: The Freedom Song Tradition," from <i>The Art of Protest</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 13: Politics and Policy in the 1960s and 1970s

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
11/17	GML, Chapter 26 FTR: "Inaugural Address," 319-320, "Peace Without Conquest," 351	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
11/19	Susan Douglas, "I am Woman, Hear Me Roar," from <i>Where the Girls Are</i> (D2L)	due: RESEARCH PROPOSAL (1 page)

WEEK 14: NO CLASS // THANKSGIVING BREAK**WEEK 15: The Reagan Revolution, the Bush and Clinton 1990s**

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
12/1	GML, Chapter 27 FTR: "Evil Empire," 390-393, "The Cold War is Over," 397-99	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
12/3	Melani McAllister, "Iran, Islam, and the Terrorist Threat, 1979-1989," in <i>Epic Encounters</i> (D2L)	

WEEK 16: Moments of Change

Date	Reading Due	Assignments
12/8	GML, Chapter 28 FTR, "Setting Right a Dangerous World," 412-417, "Bush Address" (D2L)	Quiz due on D2L before class meeting
12/10	David Roediger, "Colorblind Inequalities: How Race Survived Modern Liberalism" from <i>How Race Survived US History</i> (D2L)	due: RESEARCH PAPER

FINAL EXAM: Wed., Dec. 17, 2:45-4:45 p.m.