

HIST 233 US in the 20th Century

Saxe – CRN 12352, Buckman 309, 11-11:50 MWF

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Office Hours – MF 10-11 or by appointment, 207 Buckman

US in the 20th Century

Required Texts:

James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*

Richard Polenberg, *The Era of Franklin Roosevelt*

Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*

The professor will provide additional readings throughout the course.

Course Requirements:

Exams

First Exam, October 10 – 15% of final grade

Second Exam, December 2 – 20% of final grade

Essays

Short essays throughout semester – 10% of final grade

Essay 1, due in class September 19 – 15% of final grade

Essay 2, due in class November 21 – 30% of final grade

Class Participation

Active participation in class discussion – 10% of final grade. Active participation in class discussion is the best way to achieve a good class participation grade. Class participation also includes good conduct. Failure to participate in class, neglecting to do the reading for the day, sleeping or leaving during class, playing games on your laptop or doing text messaging during class may all have a negative impact on your grade.

Course Policies:

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed three absences without penalty. Students are required to find out what they missed in class on the day of their absence. If students miss more than three classes, they are required to meet with the professor to discuss their absences. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one third grade point for every absence over three. Please consider this policy when planning for extracurricular activities (sports, mock trial, etc.).

Due dates and times for writing assignments and exams are fixed. All assignments are due in class, not in the professor's mailbox. Late assignments will receive a failing grade. All assignments must be turned in to the professor. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a failing grade for the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please talk to me directly.

The professor supports the Rhodes College Honor Code. To demonstrate commitment to the Code, each student must write "pledged" and sign his/her name on every assignment.

Course Calendar:

August 24, 26

Introduction

Crisis for Jefferson's America: The Decline of the Independent Farmer
(Foner, Ch. 16, pg. 597-608)

August 29, 31 September 2

Pulling Up by the Bootstraps – America and Industry

(Foner, Ch. 16, pg. 608-624)

September 5 - Labor Day; no class

September 7, 9

How "Progressive"? – The Progressive Era and Reform; The Color Line, 1900-1929
(Foner, Ch. 18)

September 12, 14, 16

Exporting American: Imperialism and World War I
(Foner, pg. 624-636, Ch. 19)

September 19, 21, 23

Years of Plenty, Seeds of Disaster in the Roaring 20s
(Foner, Ch. 20)

First Essay due September 19

September 26, 28, 30

The American Dream Imperiled – The Great Depression and the New Deal
(**Polenberg, 1-15, 37-183**; Foner, Ch. 21)

October 3, 5, 7

The "Good War" - World War II and Its Effects
(**Polenberg, 16-36, 184-228**; Foner, Ch. 22)

October 10

First Exam

October 12, 14

Exporting America II - Origin of the Cold War Abroad
(Foner, Ch. 23)

October 17 (fall break)

October 19, 21
Better Dead than Red - Cold War at Home and the Consensus Culture
(Foner, Ch. 24)

October 24, 26, 28
Building the Dream – The Great Society, The Liberal Consensus, and the African-American
Freedom Struggle
(**Baldwin, all**; Foner, pg. 912-928)

October 31, November 2, 4
Is This My America? – Black Power and Vietnam
(Foner, pg. 928-943)

November 7, 9, 11
The End of the Consensus –The Movements of the Sixties
(**Thompson all**; Foner, pg. 943-956)

November 14, 16, 18
Malaise and Decline – Watergate; the Rise of Conservatism
(Foner, 957-982)

November 21
Renewal and Fracture - the Schizophrenic 80s
(Foner, 982-995)
Essay 2, due in class November 21

November 23, 25 - Thanksgiving

November 28, 30
The End of the Cold War; A Divided Nation? - America in the 90s
(Foner, Ch. 27)

December 2
Final Exam

December 5
Century's End

December 7
Evaluation