

HIST 233-01 US in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Saxe - Section #13521, Buckman 309, 9:30-10:45 TR

E-mail - [saxer@rhodes.edu](mailto:saxer@rhodes.edu); Phone – 843-3249

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

Required Texts:

Theodore G. Dyer, *Theodore Roosevelt and the Idea of Race*

Bret Easton Ellis, *Less Than Zero*

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*

Richard Polenberg, *The Era of Franklin Roosevelt, 1933-1945*

There will be shorter readings throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

**Exams**

First Exam, October 9 – 15% of final grade

Second Exam, December 11 – 20% of final grade

**Essays**

Response essays throughout semester – 10% of final grade

Essay 1, due in class September 18 – 15% of final grade

Essay 2, due in class December 4 – 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. Late assignments will receive a failing grade. 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:

Thursday, August 23

Introduction

Tuesday, August 28

Crisis of Jefferson's America: The Decline of the Independent Farmer  
(Foner, Ch. 15-16, pg. 629-640)

Thursday, August 30

Pulling Up by the Bootstraps: America and Industry

Tuesday, September 4

"Twoness": The Rise of Jim Crow  
(Foner, 641-649)

Thursday, September 6

Huddled Masses and Melting Pots: First Wave Immigration and Social Darwinism  
(Foner, 649-655; **Dyer, all**)

Tuesday, September 11

The Scramble for the World: The United States and Imperialism  
(Foner, 655-671)

Thursday, September 13

The Progressives: Reform or Control?  
(Foner, Ch. 18)

Tuesday, September 18

The Progressives: Conservative or Progressive?

**Essay 1, due in class September 18 – 15% of final grade**

Thursday September 20

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Begins: America and WWI  
(Foner, Ch. 19)

Tuesday, September 25

Roaring: Politics, Economics and Culture in the 20s  
(Foner, 757-786)

Thursday, September 27

Fighting Fear Itself: The Great Depression and the New Deal  
(Foner, 787-834; **Polenberg, 1-24, 37-190**)

Tuesday, October 2

The Good War: Fighting Abroad  
(Foner, 835-847; **Polenberg, 24-36, 191-228**)

Thursday, October 4

The Good War: World War II at Home  
(Foner, 847-878)

Tuesday, October 9

**First Exam, October 9 – 15% of final grade**

Thursday, October 11

Free Peoples of the World - Origin of the Cold War Abroad  
(Foner, 879-901; **Gaddis, Preface, Ch. 1**)

Tuesday, October 16

Fall Break

Thursday, October 18

Better Dead than Red - Cold War at Home  
(Foner, 901-913)

Tuesday, October 23

From Korea to Castro – the Cold War Continues  
**(Gaddis, Ch. 2- 4)**

Thursday, October 25

The Good Life – the Growth of Consensus Culture and its Challengers  
(Foner, 914-942)

Tuesday, October 30

Building the Dream - The Civil Rights Movement  
(Foner, 942-962)

Thursday, November 1

Creating the Dream – The Liberal Consensus and the Great Society  
(Foner, 962-973)

Tuesday, November 6

Challenging the Dream – Vietnam and Black Power  
(Foner, 973-984)

Thursday, November 8

Fracturing the Dream - The Rebellions of the Sixties  
(Foner, 984-1002)

Tuesday, November 13

Burying the Dream – Watergate and Malaise  
(Foner, 1003-1025)

Thursday, November 15

Renewal – the Rise of Conservatism  
(Foner, 1024-1037)

Tuesday, November 20

A Unipolar World – America Wins the Cold War  
(Foner, 1038-1050; **Gaddis, Ch. 5-7, Epilogue**)

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 27

The Schizophrenic 80s – Who are We Now?  
**(Ellis, all)**

Thursday, November 29

“Can’t We all Just Get Along?” – Race at the End of the Century  
(Foner, 1050-1057)

Tuesday, December 4

A Fractured Country – Culture Wars, Red & Blue States and More Clichés  
(Foner, 1057-1084)

**Essay 2, due in class December 4 – 30% of final grade**

Tuesday, December 11

**Final Exam – 5:30 PM**