

United States in the Twentieth Century
History 233, Spring 20001

Russell Wigginton

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45-11:15; by appointment

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide a general knowledge of the social, political, and economical developments in the United States during the twentieth century. In doing so, we will look closely at major events, ideas, institutions, and people over approximately 100 years. Hopefully, investigating such aspects of twentieth century America will provide the student with a historical context for more specific components of the American experience(s).

Readings

Tindall and Shi, America: A Narrative History

One additional “outside” book approved by the teacher

Grading

Grades will be determined from the following course requirements:

1. **30%** - Two 4-5 page “reaction” papers. Throughout the semester, students will write two essays in response to assigned readings.
2. **20%** - Exam I. This examination will consist of a few short answers (4-8 sentences) as well as at least one longer answer (10-15 sentences).
3. **20%** - Final Exam. This examination will consist of short answers (6-8 sentences) that will cover material from the entire semester.
4. **15%** - Attendance/Participation. Although lectures will take up much of class time, student discussion is an important part of the course.
5. **15%** - Book Review. Students will choose one book from the list provided and write a 5-7 page book review. Instructions on the format of the book review will be discussed in class.

***Late Policy** - There will be no extensions given on any written assignments without a letter grade per day penalty (this includes papers handed in on the same day but after the designated time). The only exceptions will be those that the College deems as “acceptable” in the Student Handbook. Students should also note that having other exams and papers due on the same day will not be considered a valid excuse.

Class Assignments

Postwar 19th century America

- 1/11 Introduction
- 1/16 The New South--Tindall and Shi, chapter 19
- 1/18 The New West--Tindall and Shi, chapter 19
- 1/23 Business and Labor--Tindall and Shi, chapter 20
- 1/25 Immigration--Tindall and Shi, chapter 21
- 1/30 Theories of Social Change--Tindall and Shi, chapter 21
- 2/01 Gilded Age Politics--Tindall and Shi, chapter 22
- 2/06 Problems of Farmers-Tindall and Shi, chapter 22
- 2/08 The Course of Empire--Tindall and Shi, chapter 23
- 2/13 **Paper 1 Due (15%); no reading**

20th century America (Progressive Era)

- 2/15 Progressivism: Roosevelt, Taft, and Wilson--Tindall and Shi, chapter 24
- 2/20 Wilson and The Great War--Tindall and Shi, chapter 25
- 2/22 The Fight for the Peace at Home and Abroad--Tindall and Shi, chapter 25
- 2/27 **Exam 1 (20%)**

Post-WWI Society

- 3/01 The Modern Temper--Tindall and Shi, chapter 26
- 3/13 Republican Resurgence and Decline--Tindall and Shi, chapter 27

FDR and the New Deal

- 3/15 From Hooverism to the New Deal--Tindall and Shi, chapter 28

3/20 The Social Effects of the Depression--Tindall and Shi, chapter 28

3/22 From Isolation to Global War--Tindall and Shi, chapter 29

Wartime

3/27 The World at War--Tindall and Shi, chapter 30

3/29 **Paper 2 Due (15%);** The Fair Deal and Containment--Tindall and Shi, chapter 31

The Second Reconstruction

4/03 Through the Picture Window--Tindall and Shi, chapter 32

4/05 Conflict and Deadlock--Tindall and Shi, chapter 33

4/10 New Frontiers--Tindall and Shi, chapter 34

4/17 Nixon: Vietnam and Watergate--Tindall and Shi, chapter 35

4/19 The 1980s--Tindall and Shi, chapter 36

4/24 Cultural Politics--Tindall and Shi, chapter 37

4/26 **Book Review Due (15%); no reading;** Exam Review

4/30 Final Exam (20%); -1:00-3:30