

History 152
United States History Since 1877 - Spring, 2000

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course is a broad survey of the political, constitutional, social, and economic development of the United States from the Reconstruction period to the 1990s. We will devote particular attention to the growth of a corporate capitalist economic order, the emergence of a strong national government, the rise of the United States as a global power, and struggles to achieve justice for all Americans.

The basic format is that of a lecture course, but discussion will play an important role. We will discuss documents, as well as the three supplementary books for the course, at great length. Class participation, in other words, is important.

You should leave this course with a broad understanding of United States history since 1877, as well as with improved oral, written, and critical thinking skills.

Readings:

Nash and Jeffrey, The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society, fourth ed., vol. two, 1998.

Paul F. Boller, Jr. and Ronald Story, eds., A More Perfect Union: Documents in U.S. History, vol. II: since 1865, fifth edition, 2000.

Alan Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age, 1982.

Nancy Woloch, ed., Muller v. Oregon: A Brief History with Documents, 1996.

Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley, Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938, 1997.

Assignments and Grading:

Attendance is mandatory; if you must miss class because of illness, please notify me immediately, either by phone or by e-mail. Final grades will reflect attendance. You may assume that your final grade in this class will be no higher than the percentage of classes you attend. Grades will be determined as follows:

20% Class Participation/Map Quiz
20% Class Debate/Paper

40% Mid-term Examinations
20% Final Examination

Details on all of these assignments will follow. Copies of this syllabus, as well as all handouts and assignments sheets will be available on the Academic Volume in the file marked "Huebner."

Make up examinations will not be given without a verifiable medical excuse. All excuses are subject to the approval of the instructor. There will be no make-ups of the map quiz. Late papers will be accepted one **day** (not one class period) after the due date, with a one letter-grade penalty. Papers will not be accepted more than one day after the due date. All work, unless otherwise indicated, is pledged under the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Class Assignments:

Part I. The World the War Made, 1877-1900

1. Rise of Incorporation

(Nash, 540-572, 616-655)

Jan. 12 - Introduction to course

Jan. 14 - The Reconstructed Union

(Jan. 17 - King Holiday)

Jan. 19 - The West

(Trachtenberg, 3-37)

[Students are required to attend the lecture by Julian Bond, "2000: A Race Odyssey," 7 p.m., Bryan Campus Life Center]

Jan. 21 - Labor and Capital

(Trachtenberg, 38-100; Boller, 69-73)

Jan. 24 - Urbanization and Immigration

(Trachtenberg, 101-139)

2. Crisis and Reunion

(Nash, 578-612, 658-686, 690-720)

Jan. 26 - Agrarianism

(Ocala Platform - handout)

Jan. 28 - Crisis: 1893-1896

(Trachtenberg, 208-234; Boller, 82-87)

Feb. 2 - Racism
(Boller, 39-48)

Feb. 4 - **DEBATE ONE: DuBois v. Washington**

Feb. 7 - No class.

Feb. 9 - Expansionism
(Boller, 88-92)

Feb. 11 - EXAMINATION ONE

Part II. The Emergence of Modern America, 1900-1945

3. Progressivism and War

(Nash, 726-762, 766-795)

Feb. 14 - Progressivism
(Woloch, 3-40, 144-150)

Feb. 16 - Regulation and Reform
(Woloch, 58-73, 170-174)

Feb. 18 - Women's Suffrage
(video: "One Woman, One Vote")

Feb. 21 - The Great War and American Society
(Boller, 135-138)

Feb. 23 - Victory and Versailles
(video: "World War One")

Feb. 25 - **DEBATE TWO: The League of Nations**

4. The 1920s and the Age of Roosevelt

(Nash, 798-833, 836-872, 883-908)

Feb. 28 - Return to Normalcy
(Boller, 62-65)

Mar. 1 - Prosperity and Depression
(handouts)

Mar. 3 - The New Deal and its Critics
(Boller, 138-142)

Mar. 6-10 - Spring Break

Mar. 13 - **DEBATE THREE: The New Deal**

Mar. 15 - World War II and the Homefront
(Ambrose, 1-51)

Mar. 17 - **EXAMINATION TWO**

Part III. Modern America, 1945-1990s

5. The Cold War

(Nash, 914-944)

Mar. 20 - Truman and the Post-War World
(Ambrose, 52-126)

Mar. 22 - **DEBATE FOUR: The Atomic Bomb**

Mar. 24 - Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Containment
(Ambrose, 127-150, 171-189)

Mar. 27 - Cold War Culture
(Boller, 179-186)

6. The Age of Liberalism

(Nash, 992-1012, 1028-1040)

Mar. 29 - Warren and Judicial Activism - **Map Quiz**
(Boller, 216-219)

Mar. 31 - King and the Civil Rights Movement
(Boller, 227-232)

Apr. 3 - LBJ and the Great Society
(video: "LBJ")

Apr. 5 - LBJ and Vietnam - Guest lecture: Prof. Michael Drompp

(Ambrose, 190-223)

Apr. 7 - Social Protests and Changing Values
(handouts)

Apr. 10 - **DEBATE FIVE: The 1960s**

7. Conservatism and Beyond

(Nash, 1012-1024, 1040-1066, 1070-1110)

Apr. 12 - 1968 and the Backlash
(video: Chicago 1968)

Apr. 14 - No class - President Troutt's Inauguration

Apr. 17 - The Early 1970s
(Ambrose, 224-253)

Apr. 19 - Carter and Reagan
(Boller, 258-261)

Apr. 21 - Easter Break

Apr. 24 - The 1990s and Beyond
(Ambrose, 352-380)

Apr. 26 - **DEBATE SIX: The Clinton Presidency**

Apr. 28 - Summary and Review

FINAL EXAMINATION: May 3, 2000, 5:30-8:30 p.m.