

**HISTORY 232-01**  
**THE UNITED STATES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**  
**SPRING SEMESTER 2009**

Instructor: Matthew Hild

Office: Buckman Hall room 206

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-11:00 AM; Wednesday, 12:00-1:00 PM; or by appointment

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Required books:

Robert C. McMath, Jr., *American Populism: A Social History, 1877-1898*

Hugh Tulloch, *The Routledge Companion to the American Civil War Era*

Sean Wilentz, *Andrew Jackson*

Course description: This course will examine major social, political, economic, and cultural changes in the United States during the nineteenth century, including U.S. relations with Native North Americans, antebellum reform, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and industrialization and urbanization. Other major themes covered will include the growth of political parties and the changing role of the presidency, the rise and decline of sectionalism, immigration, and American imperialism.

Course objectives: In addition to gaining an understanding of the major themes and developments in the history of the United States during the nineteenth century, students should also develop their critical reading and listening skills, analytical skills, writing skills, and speaking skills.

Examinations, assignments, and grading:

There will be three examinations in this course (including a non-cumulative final exam), each of which will consist of short answer identification questions and an essay question. There will also be three written assignments of about two-to-three double-spaced typed pages each (see the schedule of assignments below for details).

Class participation (participating in class discussions or asking questions) will also be factored into your course grade. More than three absences will adversely affect this component of your grade unless you have a documented excuse for your absences (illness, death in your family, or jury duty or subpoena). You must also have a documented excuse in order to take a makeup for a missed exam. Student athletes who will miss an exam due to an athletic event must inform the instructor of this at least one week before the exam.

Grading scale: Exams 20% each (60% total)

Written assignments 10% each (30% total)

Class participation 10%

A=92.50 or above; A-=89.50-92.49; B+=86.50-89.49; B=82.50-86.49; B-=79.50-82.49; C+=76.50-79.49; C=72.50-76.49; C-=69.50-72.49; D+=66.50-69.49; D=62.50-66.49; D-=59.50-62.49; F=59.49 or below

Classroom etiquette: All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class.

Academic honesty: All assignments and examinations in this course must be done in compliance with the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Disability services: Any student needing accommodations in this course for a disability should consult with the Office of Student Disability Services (901-843-3994, located in the modular building behind McCoy Theater).

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If any deviations are necessary, they will be announced in class.

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, exams, and assignment due dates:

Week 1 (January 14 and 16): Course introduction (1/14); Federalists and Antifederalists (1/16)  
Reading assignment: Begin reading *Andrew Jackson*.

Week 2 (January 21 and 23) Major topics: The presidential election of 1800; *Marbury v. Madison*; the Louisiana Purchase; the Hamilton-Burr duel  
Reading assignment: Handouts (*Marbury v. Madison*, "Pistols at Weehawken"); continue reading *Andrew Jackson*.

Week 3 (January 26, 28, and 30)  
Documentary film on January 26: *The Louisiana Purchase*  
Major topics for January 28 and 30: the War of 1812; the Bank of the United States and economic expansion; the demise of the first party system; the "Era of Good Feelings"; the Panic of 1819  
Reading assignment: Finish reading *Andrew Jackson*.

**First written assignment due at the beginning of class on January 30** (paper on Louisiana Purchase film or book review of *Andrew Jackson*).

Week 4 (February 2, 4, and 6) Major topics: the Missouri Compromise; the Monroe Doctrine; the "corrupt bargain" of 1824; the rise of Jackson and Jacksonian Democracy; the nullification crisis; slave revolts and abolitionists  
Reading assignment: *American Civil War Era*: Introduction (pp. 1-5), Chronological Table (pp. 9-15), Politics ("American Parties," pp. 37-39), Primary Documents ("Slavery" and "Abolitionism," pp. 63-72), "Abolitionism" entry in glossary (pp. 139-140); consult maps, biographies, and glossary as needed.

Week 5 (February 9, 11, and 13) Major topics for February 9 and 11: The Whig Party and the second party system; Indian removal/the “Trail of Tears”; the Panic of 1837; Manifest Destiny and westward expansion; the Seneca Falls Convention

Reading assignments: Handouts (Pres. Jackson’s State of the Union Address (1830) and Memorial of Protest of the Cherokee Nation (1836)); *American Civil War Era: Elections, 1832-1848* (pp. 39-42); Seneca Falls Declaration (pp. 72-74); Seneca Falls Convention glossary entry (p. 159); biographical entries for Susan Brownell Anthony (p. 112) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (pp. 131-132)

**Exam # 1, February 13 (covers material from weeks 1-5)**

Week 6 (February 16, 18, and 20) Major topics: the Mexican War; the intensification of the sectional crisis; the Civil War

Reading assignment: *American Civil War Era: Elections, 1852-1864* (pp. 42-45); maps on pp. 47-48; Social and Economic Factors (pp. 50-57); Military Strategy (pp. 58-62); Primary Documents, pp. 74 (Ralph Waldo Emerson) – 97 (Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address); consult biographies and glossary as needed.

Week 7 (February 23, 25, and 27)

February 23: Civil War documentary film

Topic for February 25 and 27: Reconstruction

Reading assignment: *American Civil War Era: Elections, 1868-1876* (pp. 45-46); maps on p. 49; primary documents on Reconstruction (pp. 97-102) and literature (pp. 103-107); glossary entries on: Black Codes (1865-66); Carpetbaggers; Civil Rights Act of 1875; Civil Rights Cases, 1883; “40 acres and a mule”; Freedmen’s Bureau; Ku Klux Klan; Mississippi Plan, 1875; *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896; Radical Republicans; Reconstruction; Reconstruction Act, March 1867; “scalawags”; sharecropping; Slaughterhouse Case, 1873; Wade-Davis Bill

**Second written assignment due at the beginning of class on February 27** (paper on the Civil War documentary film shown on Feb. 25 or on any primary document or pair of related primary documents in *American Civil War Era*)

Week 8 (March 2, 4, and 6) Major topics: The New West; the New South

Reading assignment: *American Populism*, Introduction and chapter one

Week 9 (March 9, 11, and 13) Major topics: the Rise of Big Business; the Knights of Labor and the Great Upheaval

Reading assignment: *American Populism*, chapter two plus handout (The Purposes and Program of the Knights of Labor, 1878)

Week 10 (March 16-20) Spring break

Week 11 (March 23 and 25) Major topics: The American Federation of Labor and the Homestead and Pullman Strikes

Documentary film on the Homestead Strike on March 25

**No class on Friday, March 27 (free study period for exam on March 30)**

**Week 12 Exam # 2 on Monday, March 30 (covers material from weeks 6-11)**

Major topics for April 1 and 3: Gilded Age Politics; Immigration; Urbanization

Reading assignment: Continue reading *American Populism*; handout (“The Political Culture” by Charles Calhoun)

Week 13 (April 6 and 8) Major topics: New South race relations; the farmers’ revolt and Populism

Reading assignments: Handouts (*Plessy v. Ferguson*; Booker T. Washington; W.E.B. Du Bois); continue reading *American Populism*

Week 14 (April 13, 15, and 17) Major topics: Panic of 1893; Election of 1896; pre-Progressive reform movements

Reading assignment: Finish reading *American Populism*.

Week 15 (April 20, 22, and 24) Topic: American imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Reading assignment: Handouts (primary source documents)

Documentary film on the Spanish-American War, part 1, on April 24

Week 16 (April 27, 29, and May 1)

Documentary film on the Spanish-American War, part 2, on April 27

Topic for April 29: William McKinley and the changing role of the American presidency

May 1: Review for final exam

**Third written assignment due at the beginning of class on May 1** (paper on Spanish-American War documentary or book review of *American Populism*)

**Final exam: Monday, May 4, 1:00 PM (covers material from weeks 12-16)**