

Syllabus

Hist. 122.002L

Modern American History

Spring 2013 M/R : 11:00 – 12:15

LC 309

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- History is an attempt to understand the stories of the past. We must not ignore dates and facts, but interpretations define the way we view the world around us.

Course Description

Following the Civil War the United States began its climb to become the dominant economic, cultural, and military power of the world. While fueling this rise, corporations merged seamlessly into the political, economic, and cultural framework of America. The Stars and Stripes and the Bald Eagle came to represent a sense of pride for every American. In the process Americans have oppressed people at home and abroad, damaged the environment, and changed the country.

Over the course of this semester we will examine the events, people, and government that formed the society in which we are living today by tracing the path of America from Reconstruction to 9-11. We will look closely at the concepts of *“Imperialism,” Consumerism, Corporate expansion, and the reactions to these trends*, and you will determine for yourselves just what the United States of America has become..

Objectives

By the end of the semester you will:

- Develop your own understanding of how today’s economic, political, and cultural world has evolved as a direct result of the past.
- Organize your own ideas on exactly what America is, and what drives the American way of life.
- Be able to devise original arguments about historical trends and events and prove them using both primary and secondary information.

Expectations

-All written and verbal work should demonstrate your best effort to develop your own ideas and arguments on any given subject, and prove your assertions with the evidence you have available.

-The course will be a mix of lecture and daily discussion of both the subject matter and primary documents. You are expected to have read the assigned material listed on the syllabus before entering the classroom and be ready to take an active part in discussion.

You should always bring a copy of the assigned document(s) to class.

***Quizzes will be given if there is a need to enforce this expectation.*

-Attendance & Tardiness: The Classroom experience is an integral part of this course, and will only serve to benefit you. Attendance will be factored into participation.

-All assignments need to be submitted before the start of class on the assigned due date to receive full credit.

+**Late work** will be accepted after the due date for **half credit**.

+If legitimate problems arise be sure to contact me well in advance to make arrangements.

-All electronics need to be silenced before the start of class or I have the right to answer the incoming msg.

- Any **Cheating or Plagiarism** will result in an immediate **failure** of the assignment, and the incident may be reported to the Dean of Students.
 - =I do not care what you did before.....this is College and dishonest work will not be tolerated.
- Plagiarism = Any utilization of others *language or ideas* (including internet sources) without properly citing the author and the passage from the work.

-Texting or surfing the net for non class related material is not allowed in the classroom. If you need to do so, please leave the classroom. IF I SEE IT, I WILL STOP CLASS AND REQUEST YOU EXPLAIN YOURSELF..

-Any students needing special arrangements in test taking or other work should talk to me well in advance.

Course Materials

-*Give me Liberty* vol. 2, Eric Foner

Blackboard

This is a paperless course.

- Outside of this syllabus all assignments, notes, guides, will be posted on Blackboard.
- All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard.
- You will need to check Blackboard acct. weekly for updates.
- To access Blackboard = Log in to "My NOVA" <https://nvcc.my.vccs.edu/jsp/home.jsp>

Writing Aids

- Kinch's Writing Guide** (on Blackboard)
- Writing Center: LR 250
<http://www.nvcc.edu/loudoun/english/writingcenter/>
(I encourage you to make an appointment before the first paper)
- Chicago Manual of Style Online
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
(All papers will need footnotes in Chicago Style)

Assessment

	<i>10%= Homework</i>
	<i>there will be discussion questions on BB for each textbook chapter. You must do 10 over the course of the semester for full credit. You may do 2 more for EC. Due Wednesday before Midnight of the week assigned.</i>
A = 90-100	<i>10%= In Class Research Presentations</i>
B = 80-89	<i>Each student will do a group presentation.</i>
C = 70-79	<i>(failure to appear on the day the presentation is due will result in a "0".)</i>
D = 60-69	<i>20%= Participation & Quizzes</i>
	<i>Based on attendance and active engagement in daily discussions.</i>
F = 0 -59	<i>30%= 2- 3pg. papers</i>
	<i>Utilizing readings from primary sources, and the textbook.</i>
	<i>(All papers should be submitted via attachment on blackboard)</i>
	<i>10%= Midterm</i>
	<i>20%= Final 50%= Exam on second half of course.</i>
	<i>50%= 1 Cumulative -3-4pg typed essay question (on syllabus)</i>

Review sheets, containing multiple essay questions, will be posted a week before each exam.

Content:Week 1

Jan. 14 & 17- **Creating a New Economy** Reconstruction and the West *1865-1890*

Week 2

Jan. 21 - NO CLASS

Jan. 24-

Gilded Age Prosperity and Impact

1869-1900

Receive Paper 1 assignmentWeek 3

Jan. 28 & 31 Progressive Reaction

1890 -1914

Week 4

Feb. 4 & 7- Imperialism and the New Manifest Destiny

1865-1914

Paper 1 Due by start of class Thursday Feb. 7thWeek 5

Feb.11 & 14- WWI

1877-1920

Week 6

Feb. 18 & 21- Era of Paradox : Isolationism, Individuality, Conservatism, and Conformity

1920s

Receive Exam ReviewWeek 7

Feb. 25 & 28- Depression and the New Deal

1930s

Week 8

Mar. 4 & 7 - **Mid-Term Exam Thursday March 7**

Mar. 11 & 14 -----**Spring Break**-----

Week 9

Mar. 18 & 21 - WWII

Last day to withdraw without Grade Penalty= Mar. 25Week 10

Mar. 25 & 28- Dawn of the Cold War

1940s-50s

Receive Paper 2 assignmentWeek 11

Apr. 1& 4- Suburban Culture & Consumer Conformity

1950s

Week 12

Apr. 8 & 11- Civil Rights Movements

Paper 2 Due by start of class Tue. Apr.8thWeek 13

Apr. 15 & 18- A Changing Outlook: Vietnam and 1960s Activism

1960s & 70s

Week 14

Apr. 22 & 25- Collapse of Soviet Communism and the End of the Cold War

1980s-1990s

Group PresentationsWeek 15

Apr. 29 & May 2-Post Cold War American Dominance & Globalization

1990s - 2005

May 6 –

Final ExamFinal Exam Question

The United States is a military, political, and cultural power in the world today. Based on all you have heard, read, and seen this semester, how has America risen to such a position? What specifically enabled this to happen? Who is responsible? Will it continue?

(Evidence and Information must be used from 5 different weeks of the semester and 4 different primary documents to prove your **Argument**.)

****I reserve the right to change this syllabus at any time.****