

HIST 2020-001
America from 1865
Fall 2009
Mondays and Wednesdays 5:45-7:00
Rocket Hall 1547
3 Credits

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:15, and by appointment

Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish. And the war came Fondly do we hope -- fervently do we pray -- that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. --- Abraham Lincoln

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men. – Lyndon B. Johnson

Text: Berkin, Carol, et al, *Making America* Vol. II from 1877, 5th ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 2008).

Introduction:

This course will introduce students to the major concepts, debates, themes, and events in American history from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the present. We will not only explore the standard questions of “who,” “what,” and “when,” but will push further and analyze the historiographic debates surrounding questions of causation, motivation, and broad-scale significance.

Course Structure and Student Evaluation:

1. **Exams (100 points each)** - Students are required to take a **midterm and a final exam**. Exam questions will be based on a combination of material from class lecture and the assigned reading. Each exam will consist of two parts: **FIVE “identification” questions** and **ONE short essay**. For the “identifications,” (IDs) you will be asked to define a particular person, location, event, idea, etc. **To receive full credit, you must also state WHY the person, event, or movement is important. Did it have significance independent of other events? Was it the beginning of a trend? Did it reflect broader trends and/or themes in history?** For both the identifications and the essay, you will have a choice as to which questions you answer. The instructor will provide a study guide one week prior to each scheduled exam. The dates of the midterm

and the final are indicated in the “Class schedule and Assignments” section of this syllabus.

2. **Quizzes (25 points each)** Students will be required to take **four quizzes**. Quizzes will consist of 25 questions and will be multiple choice. Of the twenty-five questions, roughly fifteen will be taken from lecture and ten from the assigned reading. The dates are indicated in the “Class Schedule and Assignment” section of this syllabus.

Students are NOT permitted to make up exams or quizzes unless they present a valid excuse in writing documenting a medical or personal emergency.

3. **Written Primary Source Assignments (5 points each)** There will be **SIX** primary source assignments during the semester. Students are required to complete **FIVE of them**. If you are absent on one of the days that an assignment is given this is the one that will be dropped at the end of the term. These may be completed individually or in small groups. All group members will receive the same grade. The instructor will hand out the assignments at the end of class on the day they are assigned. Students will turn them in at the beginning of the following class period. **Email submissions will not be accepted.**

4. **Quality Class Participation/Attendance (25 points)** Thoughtful, enlightened comments and observations are encouraged and will be rewarded. Also, please see the “Attendance” section of this syllabus.

Grading: – All grades for this course are based on the University of Toledo standard.

A	Achievement of outstanding quality	93-100
A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality	90-92
B+	Achievement of slightly better than high quality	87-89
B	Achievement of high quality	83-86
B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality	80-82
C+	Work of slightly better than average quality	77-79
C	Work of average quality	73-76
C-	Work of slightly less than average quality	70-72
D+	Work well below the average quality	67-69
D	Poor but passing	63-66
D-	Barely above failing	60-62
F	Failing	59 and below

After the 14-day add/drop period, but before the tenth week of class, if a student decides to withdraw from the course, he or she must obtain a withdrawal petition from the Registrar’s Office. The student must then complete the petition and return it to the Registrar’s Office within the specified time. Students are **not** required to obtain the instructor’s permission to withdraw from the course. However, if a student chooses to withdraw, a grade of “W” will appear on their transcript. In addition, there is no refund during the withdrawal period, which begins after the 14th day of the semester and concludes at the end of the tenth week of the semester. Also, the grade of IW (instructor

withdrawal) no longer exists at the university. In other words, you are responsible for initiating and concluding the withdrawal process. Students who are enrolled in the course at the end of the tenth week will receive a letter grade.

NOTE - **Friday, October 30** is the last day to withdraw from fall 2009 classes.

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged. Because the exams and quizzes will be based on a combination of material from the assigned readings and class lectures, it will be to your advantage to attend class. In addition, students are **NOT** permitted to make-up missed writing assignments. Finally, the instructor reserves the right to consider attendance in cases where a student's final grade is borderline. The instructor will circulate an attendance sheet near the end of each class.

Student Conduct Standards:

1. Students must conduct themselves in a manner which is conducive to learning for themselves and others. Disruptive behaviors are not acceptable and may affect a student's final grade, or in severe cases result in a student being removed from class.
2. Respect for your classmates and your instructor is required at all times. The classroom should serve as a forum for discussion and debate. However, derogatory remarks directed toward other students or the instructor are never acceptable.
3. Please arrive to class on time. However, if you are late, enter the classroom quietly and make an effort to minimize the distraction. Likewise, if you need to leave early, do so quietly and in a manner that evidences respect for others.
4. Turn off cell phones, pagers, and all other devices that may distract others.

Academic Dishonesty:

All forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this class. Students caught cheating will receive an F for the course. In addition, a letter will be filed with the Dean of the college in which the student is enrolled and the student will not be permitted to withdraw from the course. Students are encouraged to review the "Policy Statement on Academic Dishonesty" on page 29 of The University of Toledo 2006-2008 General Catalog. The Catalog may be found online at: <http://catalog.utoledo.edu>.

Office of Accessibility:

If you have a disability which may require a classroom accommodation, you need to register with the Office of Accessibility, Room 1820 Rocket Hall (Voice 419.530.4981, TTY 419.530.2612), if you have not already done so. Information shared with the Office of Accessibility will be kept confidential to the extent consistent with State and Federal law. To discuss your specific classroom concerns, please see me during office hours as soon as possible. Accommodations for exams must be made well in advance of the actual test date and must be arranged through the Office of Accessibility. Any and all discussions about your disability will be kept confidential.

Class Schedule and Assignments:

1. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings prior to coming to class.
2. Dates are tentative and are subject to change.
3. We will cover roughly half a chapter per class period.

Wk 1: Introduction and begin Chapter 15 (Reconstruction)

Monday, August 24 – Course introduction

Wednesday, August 26 – Lecture 1

Wk 2: Finish Chapter 15 and begin Chapter 16 (An Industrial Order Emerges)

Monday, August 31 – Lecture 2

Wednesday, September 2 – Lecture 3

Wk 3: Finish Chapter 16 (An Industrial Order Emerges)

Monday, September 7 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 9 – Lecture 4 & hand out primary source #1

Wk 4: Chapter 17 (Becoming and Urban Industrial Society)

Monday, September 14 – Lecture 5 & Primary source #1 due

Wednesday, September 16 – Lecture 6 & QUIZ #1 (chapters 15-16)

Wk 5: Chapter 18 (Conflict and Change in the West)

Monday, September 21 – Lecture 7

Wednesday, September 23 – Lecture 8

Wk 6: Chapter 19 (Economic Crash and Political Upheaval)

Monday, September 28 – Lecture 9 & hand out primary source #2

Wednesday, September 30 – Lecture 10 & primary source #2 due

Wk 7: Begin Chapter 20 (The Progressive Era)

Monday, October 5 – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS

Wednesday, October 7 – Lecture 11

Wk 8: Finish Chapter 20 and begin Chapter 21 (The U.S. in a World at War)

Monday, October 12 – Lecture 12

Wednesday, October 14 – Lecture 13 & QUIZ #2 (chapters 17-20)

Wk 9: Finish Chapter 21 (The U.S. in a World at War)

Monday, October 19 – Lecture 14

Wednesday, October 21 – MIDTERM EXAM (covers chapters 15-20)

Wk 10: Chapter 22 (Prosperity Decade)

Monday, October 26 – Lecture 15 & hand out primary source #3

Wednesday, October 28 – Lecture 16 & primary source #3 due

Wk 11: Chapter 23 (The Great Depression and the New Deal)
Monday, November 2 – Lecture 17 & hand out primary source #4
Wednesday, November 4 – Lecture 18 & **primary source #4 due**

Wk 12: Begin Chapter 24 (America's Rise to World Leadership)
Monday, November 9 – Lecture 19 & **QUIZ #3 (chapters 21-23)**
Wednesday, November 11 – **VETERANS DAY – NO CLASS**

Wk 13: Finish Chapter 24 and Begin Chapter 25 (Truman & Cold War America)
Monday, November 16 – Lecture 20 & hand out primary source #5
Wednesday, November 18 – Lecture 21 & **primary source assignment #5 due**

Wk 14: Finish Chapter 25 (Truman & Cold War America)
Monday, November 23 – Lecture 22
Wednesday, November 25 – **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**

Wk 15: Chapter 26 (Quest for Consensus)
Monday, November 30 – Lecture 23 & hand out primary source #6
Wednesday, December 2 – Lecture 24 & **primary source #6 due**

Wk 16: Chapter 27 (Great Promises, Bitter Disappointments)
Monday, December 7 – Lecture 25 & **QUIZ #4 (chapters 24-26)**
Wednesday, December 9 – Lecture 26 & brief overview of the major remaining themes of the period.

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 14 – **5:00-7:00 (covers chapters 21 – 27)**