

HIST 2020: AMERICA FROM 1865
Fall 2009, University of Toledo
Dr. Todd M. Michney

Meeting Place/Time: University Hall 3800 TR 12:30-1:45pm
Office/Office Hours: Tucker Hall 3115 F 11am-4pm, or by appt.
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Teaching Asst.: Mr. Richard Meader (richard.meader@rockets.utoledo.edu)

After the Civil War (1861-1865), the United States became an industrial giant and world power, and eventually the world's lone superpower. This course surveys the social, political, cultural, and economic history of the U.S. from then up to the near present. With a strong emphasis on reading original primary sources, students in the course will learn to analyze historical documents by situating them within the broad socioeconomic, cultural, and political trends of the period under study, and in the process hone their writing and verbal skills.

Required Text:

- Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History*, 2nd ed., vol. 2 (2008)

Recommended Text:

- James A. Henretta et al., *America: A Concise History*, 3rd ed., vol. 2 (2006)

Weekly Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Aug. 25 – INTRODUCTION; Emancipation and Reconstruction (L)
Aug. 27 – Emancipation and Reconstruction, cont. (L)
Read: Foner, #92, 93, 98

Week 2

Sep. 1 – Labor and Capital (L)
Sep. 3 – Politics in the Gilded Age (L)
Read: Foner, #100, 101, 106

Week 3

Sep. 8 – The American West (L)
Sep. 10 – The Rise of the City (L)
Read: Foner, #99, 104, 108

Week 4

Sep. 15 – The Rise of the City, cont. (L)
Sep. 17 – The Progressive Era (L)
Read: Foner, #102, 103, 109

Week 5

Sep. 22 – The Progressive Era, cont. (L)

Sep. 24 – An Emerging World Power (L)

Read: Foner, #110, 111, 113

Week 6

Sep. 29 – World War I (L)

Oct. 1 – World War I, cont. (L)

Read: Foner, #120, 122, 124

Week 7

Oct. 6 – NO CLASS; FALL BREAK

Oct. 8 – The 1920s (L)

Read: Foner, #129, 130, 132

Week 8

Oct. 13 – The 1920s, cont. (L)

Oct. 15 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9

Oct. 20 – The Great Depression (L); The New Deal (L)

Oct. 22 – The New Deal, cont. (L)

Read: Foner, #135, 136, 137

Week 10

Oct. 27 – The New Deal, cont. (L); World War II (L)

Oct. 29 – World War II, cont. (L)

Read: Foner, #144, 147, 148

Week 11

Nov. 3 – Cold War America (L)

Nov. 5 – The Affluent Society (L)

Read: Foner, #150, 155, 158

Week 12

Nov. 10 – The Other America (L)

Nov. 12 – The Vietnam Era (L)

Read: Foner, #162, 166, 167

Week 13

Nov. 17 – The Vietnam Era, cont. (L)

Nov. 19 – The Lean Years (L)

Read: Foner, #169, 170, 175

Week 14

Nov. 24 – Reagan's America (L)

Nov. 26 – NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15

Dec. 1 – Reagan’s America, cont. (L)

Dec. 3 – New Domestic and World Orders (L)

Read: Foner, #174, 177, 182

Dec. 8 – FINAL EXAM REVIEW (optional); CLASS PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 12:30pm

Grade Breakdown:

Class Participation	10%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Primary Source Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

Readings: Be sure to do the required readings every week, since they will form the basis of our class discussions and the four quizzes. Also, please be sure to bring the Foner text with you to class on the discussion days (Thursdays). NOTE: the suggested textbook, by Henretta et al., offers a parallel framework to help you understand the course material and could be a valuable study resource; however, the course will include lecture material not covered therein, nor will everything there be covered (for more on the importance of lecture material, read on).

Class Attendance and Participation: You should come to class prepared to participate; successful class discussions depend on it, and your participation over the course of the term will be taken into account in formulating your final grade (10%). Discussion, and thus participation, will center mainly around the Foner textbook. Lecture days (marked with an “L” on the schedule, subject to change at my discretion if necessary) will supply you with information needed for the midterm and final exams, so be sure to take good notes. **THE BEST WAY TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS IS TO ATTEND ALL LECTURES AND TAKE THOROUGH NOTES ABOUT WHAT I SAY. INDEED, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CERTAIN LECTURE MATERIAL AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPLETELY PREPARE FOR THE EXAMS IF YOU ARE LACKING THIS INFORMATION.** Attendance is mandatory, and more than FOUR unexcused absences will result in the *total forfeiture* of this portion of your grade. The University expects you to attend every class meeting, with absences to be excused only in a handful of situations and with official documentation. For details, see:

http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/missed_class_policy.html

Quizzes and Exams: There will be four (pop) quizzes, a midterm, a final exam and ONE SHORT PAPER required for this course.

The quizzes (worth 5% of your grade each) will be UNANNOUNCED but will be OPEN BOOK, in the form of a 20-minute writing on the week's assigned readings from the Foner text. Don't worry too much about this! If you just do the assigned readings beforehand and come to class, you should have no problem whatsoever.

The midterm (October 15) and final (December 10) exams will consist of three sections each: identifications (matching), short definitions, and an essay. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course, and the final from the second half. You will be given a study guide (including possible essay questions) for both the midterm and final, approximately one week in advance. Mr. Meader will be assisting me in the grading of your exams.

The paper (due by December 15) is to be 4-6 pages in length, and will be a musing on at least FIVE selections from the Foner text, of your choosing. All the readings treat the concept of "freedom" – what it has meant to different people from different backgrounds, at different times in American history. Your assignment is to analyze and discuss how notions of freedom have conflicted, evolved, shifted, or remained consistent. You may pick selections from the same or different time periods or regions, or relating to a particular topic, or written by particular groups (for example, women, immigrants, politicians, or any other group you can identify). Most importantly, BE SURE TO DISCUSS YOUR EXAMPLES IN DETAIL. You will get practice analyzing primary sources during class discussion, and I will supply you with more detailed information on this assignment over the course of the semester.

The paper should be typewritten, in a 12-point font, double-spaced (or 1.5), with 1-inch margins. Be sure to spell-check your papers. THERE IS TO BE NO SUBMISSION OF PAPER ASSIGNMENTS VIA E-MAIL WITHOUT MY EXPLICIT AND PRIOR APPROVAL. Papers turned in late will be penalized.

Grades: By my standards, "A" quality work demonstrates a mastery of the materials covered in the course; "B" work is characterized by a full understanding of the materials, but a less thorough evaluation of them; and "C" work shows a satisfactory understanding, but an even less-thorough evaluation. Work not showing an understanding of the course materials or a highly inadequate evaluation will earn either a "D" or an "F." On all assignments, you will receive letter grades along with a numerical score on the following scale: A=95-100; A-=90-94; B+=87-89; B=84-86; B-=80-83; C+=77-79; C=74-76; C-=70-73; D+=67-69; D=64-66; D-=60-63; F=59 and below.

Writing Assistance: For assistance in preparing the assigned paper, you may contact the Writing Center at Carlson Library (530-4939; see <http://www.utoledo.edu/centers/writingcenter/>). Both Mr. Meader and I would also be glad to glance over rough drafts of papers, provided you submit these to us at least five days in advance.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's ideas or verbiage without proper citation, and is completely unacceptable. It falls under the category of cheating; any offender will receive a "0" on the assignment in question, or else fail the course outright, depending on the severity. For more details on plagiarism, see http://www.utoledo.edu/catalog/2000catalog/admissions/academic_dishonesty.html

More on plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

Disturbances during Class: Cell phones and similar electronic devices must be turned off during class; repeated phone ringing may result in your class participation grade being lowered. Verbal disruptions or any other inappropriate conduct during class may also be penalized. Laptops are to be used for note-taking only.

Disabilities: If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please notify me after consulting with the Office of Accessibility (530-4981). Their website is: <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/>