

History 212-09
Fall 2007
HHRA 1214
MWF 11-11:50

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This course will survey both chronologically and topically the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War in 1865 through most of the twentieth century. We will seek to understand the events of our modern history in terms of individual decisions and the forces that shaped them, creating a unique our American culture.

1. Required text: Alan Brinkley, American History, A Survey. Vol. II: Since 1865. You may purchase the current edition at the bookstore, or go online to find an earlier edition at a reduced price. In your reading assignments, the chapters cited refer to the Brinkley text. It is very important for you to read your text BEFORE coming to class. You should read approximately one and a half chapters each week.
2. Attendance: You are expected to attend class regularly. (You are held responsible for material presented in lectures, which may not appear in your text.) You are allowed 4 unexcused absences, and will be dropped from the class if you exceed this. To be excused, contact me within 48 hours after your absence. Most acceptable excuse: you are too ill to be in class.
3. Research projects/student presentations: Some topics in America's social history deserve to have more time spent on them than your text can give. So each student will be asked to do some research on one of these and make a 5 to 7 minute oral presentation on your research to the class. Option: If you prefer, you may instead write a 3 page paper, due on the same day your topic is to be presented orally. In either case, you must use 3 sources in your research, and turn in your list of sources. Topics and instructions are listed separately.
4. Tests and grades: There will be two one- hour tests and a final exam. These will each consist of an essay question and a few short answer questions. Your answers should show your understanding of the material by relating the facts which illustrate the significance of the events in question. You will be given study guides for each. The tests are each 25% of your final grade, your research report or paper is 25%, and the exam is 25%.
5. This class follows a lecture format. You should take notes as you listen, and feel free to ask questions or contribute your comments at any time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

8/20. Introduction.

Week of 8/20. Chapter 15: Reconstruction and the New South.

Week of 8/27. Chapter 16: Conquest of the Far West.

9/3. NO CLASS. Labor Day.

Week of 9/3: Chapter 17: Industrial Supremacy.

Week of 9/10. Chapter 18: Age of the City; Chapter 19: From Stalemate to Crisis.

Week of 9/17. Chapter 20: Imperial Republic; Chapter 21: Rise of Progressivism.

Week of 9/24. Chapter 22: Battle for National Reform.

9/28. Oral presentations by students on topics from chapters 16-19.

Week of 10/1. Chapter 23: America and the Great War.

10/5. Oral presentations on topics from chapters 20-23.

Week of 10/8. Chapter 24: The New Era.

10/10. TEST.

10/15. NO CLASS. Fall Break.

Week of 10/15. Chapter 25: The Great Depression.

Week of 10/22. Chapter 26: The New Deal.

10/26. Oral presentations on topics from chapters 24-26.

Week of 10/29. Chapter 27: Global Crisis. Begin Chapter 28.

Week of 11/5. Chapter 28: America in a World at War.

11/9. Oral presentations on chapters 27 and 28.

Week of 11/12. Chapter 29: The Cold War.

11/16. TEST.

Week of 11/19. Begin Chapter 30: The Affluent Society.

11/21 and 11/23. NO CLASSES. Thanksgiving.

Week of 11/26. Chapters 30 and 31: The Ordeal of Liberalism

Week of 12/3. Chapter 32: Crisis of Authority.

12/10. Last class.

12/17 EXAM at 8 a.m.