

## **The United States: A General Survey Since 1865**

HIS 212-07

Fall 2016, MWF, MHRA 1215

(3:3) GE Core: GHP, CAR: GMO

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Office Hours: MW 12:45-1:45

### **Course Description**

This course is a general survey of American history from Reconstruction to the present. We will focus on American definitions of freedom and how the American understanding of freedom has changed throughout our history. We will examine how politics, the economy, foreign policy, American society and even culture have helped to shape and were shaped by how Americans understood what freedom would mean in their everyday lives and the nation's role in the world. If we are a nation built on the ideas of liberty and equality, what does that mean and how does it affect the everyday lives of Americans?

### **Student Learning Objectives**

General Education Student Learning Objectives

Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

### **Course Student Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to trace the major themes and events of American history from 1865 to the present.
2. Students will be able to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Students will be able to construct a historical argument using primary sources and support a thesis statement in a short essay.
4. Students will improve their ability to articulate their ideas both orally and in written form.

### **Course Readings**

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History, Volume 2, From 1865*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014 (Fourth Edition, ISBN: 9780393920314).
- Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History, Volume 2*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014 (available on Canvas).

## Grades

- Exams (3): 60%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to measure your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.
- Paper (1): 20%. Students will choose one option from several writing prompts. The five-page essay must include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, body paragraphs that support the thesis, a conclusion, and endnotes. The evidence to support your thesis must come from the two assigned textbooks (no outside sources, specifically internet sources, should be used). The papers must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with standard one-inch margins. A grading rubric and more specific instructions will be posted on Canvas. In addition, you must follow the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) or face disciplinary measures.
- Quizzes: (several) 20%. Students will be given quizzes on the course readings throughout the semester. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the unit study guide that is posted on Canvas, which provides the student learning objectives and identifications. The quizzes will be given promptly at the start of class and CANNOT be made up. To earn full credit it is recommended that assignments are read prior to class and to attend all classes.
- Class Participation: Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. To ensure that you are best engaged and not a distraction to others, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning laptops, cell phones, and other non-life sustaining electronic devices will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in a recorded absence and a request for you to leave the classroom.
- Attendance: All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that arrive late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. A student may miss three (3) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

## Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Reading Assignment</b>
1	8/22	Chapter 15 – “What Is Freedom?”: Reconstruction, 1865-1877 Text p. 554-591, Documents p. 1-27, <a href="#">Special Field Order No. 15</a>
	8/24	
	8/26	

- 2    8/29 Chapter 16 – America’s Gilded Age, 1870-1890  
Text p. 592-636, Documents p. 28-47.
- 8/31
- 9/2 Chapter 17 – Freedom’s Boundaries, at Home and Abroad, 1890-1900  
Text p. 637-680, Documents p. 48-72.
- 3    9/5 **Labor Day – Class Dismissed**
- 9/7
- 9/9
- 4    9/12 Chapter 18 – The Progressive Era, 1900-1916  
Text p. 681-724, Documents p. 73-99.
- 9/14
- 9/16 Chapter 19 – Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916-1920  
Text p. 725-767, Documents p. 100-130.
- 5    9/19
- 9/21
- 9/23 **Exam #1**
- 6    9/26 Chapter 20 – From Business Culture to Great Depression: The Twenties, 1920-1932  
Text p. 768-804, Documents p. 131-157.
- 9/28
- 9/30
- 7    10/3 Chapter 21 – The New Deal, 1932-1940  
Text p. 807-849, Documents p. 158-186.
- 10/5
- 10/7

- 8 10/10 Chapter 22 – Fighting for the Four Freedoms: World War II, 1941-1945  
Text p. 850-893, Documents p. 187-209.  
10/12  
10/14
- 9 10/17 **Fall Break – Class Dismissed**  
10/19 Chapter 23 – The United States and the Cold War, 1945-1953  
Text p. 894-928, Documents p. 210-243.  
10/21
- 10 10/24  
10/26 **Exam #2**  
10/28 Chapter 24 – The Affluent Society, 1953-1960  
Text p. 929-971, Documents p. 244-267.
- 11 10/31  
11/2  
11/4 Chapter 25 – The Sixties, 1960-1968  
Text p. 972-1019, Documents p. 268-300.
- 12 11/7  
11/9  
11/11 Chapter 26 – The Triumph of Conservatism, 1969-1988  
Text p. 1020-1060, Documents p. 301-323.
- 13 11/14  
11/16  
11/18 Chapter 27 – Globalization and Its Discontents, 1989-2000  
Text p. 1061-1102, Documents p. 324-340.
- 14 11/21  
11/23 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**  
11/25 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**

- 15    11/28    **Term Paper Due**
- 11/30    Chapter 28 – A New Century and New Crises  
                  Text p. 1103-1148, Documents p. 341-362.
- 12/2
- 16    12/5
- 12/7    **Exam #3 (12:00-3:00)**