

# *American History in a Global Context, Civil War to Present*

**HIS 212-01** (CRN: 10053):  
**Instructor:** Steven Peach  
**Spring 2015:** Thur., 6:30-9:20 P.M.

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**Office Hours:** Thur., 4:30-5:30 P.M.  
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## **I. Course Summary**

This course examines the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments in American history since the Civil War era. We will situate those developments in the context of global history by tracing the impact of America on the world and the influence of world history on America. Since the Civil War—and certainly before then—America has been enmeshed in global networks of exchange in peoples, commodities, and ideas. As such, the American story is global as well as domestic. Throughout the course, you will read a textbook and several primary sources to gain a deep understanding of American history and its global parameters. Through primary source analysis, moreover, you will enhance your critical thinking skills. Skills that will be evaluated include source analysis, change and continuity, cause and effect, historical significance, and development of a thesis.

## **II. Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

A. Command a thorough knowledge of the diversity and complexity of American history in a global context:

- i. Political, economic, social, and cultural developments in America
- ii. Trace those developments in a global framework

B. Fulfill General Education requirements (GHP):

- i. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize both primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives. (LG3)
- ii. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally, and in writing. (LG1)

C. Fulfill additional institutional markers:

- i. GMO: Historical Perspectives on Western Culture

## **III. Required Reading: Primary-Source Collection**

Schaller, Michael et al. *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context*. Vol. 2. Oxford University Press, 2015.

**IV. Course Requirements**

- A. **10%: Participation.** I expect you to attend each time, to participate both verbally and in writing, and to contribute your thoughts both individually and in group activities.
- B. **15%: Assessment One.**
- C. **25%: Midterm.**
- D. **20%: Assessment Two.**
- E. **30%: Final.**

Note:

- A. All discussions and assignments are in-class, so please bring the textbook and other relevant materials to every class.
- B. All four assignments require a Blue Book. Please purchase at least four as soon as possible.
- C. I do not accept late work. However, if an emergency arises, please contact me for an extension.
- D. You are permitted two excused absences with no penalty. No questions asked. But 5% will be deducted from your final grade for each additional class period you miss.

**V. Evaluation of Final Grade**

**A** = Student demonstrates a thorough comprehension of learning objectives and rigorous application of general education requirements.

**B** = Student demonstrates a thorough comprehension of most learning objectives and strong application of general education requirements.

**C** = Student demonstrates a moderate comprehension of learning objectives and mediocre application of general education requirements.

**D** = Student demonstrates a weak comprehension of learning objectives and applies little effort to general education requirements.

**F** = Student has completed no work.

\*\*\* Should you have any questions about the course, the history department, or me, please ask. I am here to help you succeed!

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*Course Schedule*

**Week One (1/15): Civil War & Reconstruction**

Course introduction

**Week Two (1/22): American Expansion**

Please read Preface (pp. xxi-xxii), Chapter 15 (pp. 505-39), and Chapter 16 (pp. 541-75)

**Week Three (1/29): Capital & Labor**

Please read Chapter 17 (pp. 577-611)

**Week Four (2/5): Urbanization & Immigration**

Please read Chapter 18 (pp. 613-49)

**Week Five (2/12): The Progressive Era**

Please read Chapter 19 (651-57 and 676-79) and Chapter 20 (pp. 681-92 and 704-15) *Assessment One*. Please bring a Blue Book and other materials to class.

**Week Six (2/19): America in the First World War**

Please read Chapter 21 (pp. 717-51)

**Week Seven (2/26): The 1920s, a "New Era": Race, Gender, and Consumer Culture**

Please read Chapter 22 (pp. 753-75 and 781-87)

**Week Eight (3/5): Government and Society: FDR and the New Deal**

Please read Chapter 23 (pp. 789-808, "Global Passages," and 816-23) *Midterm*. Please bring a Blue Book and other materials to class.

**Week Nine (3/19): America in the Second World War**

Please read Chapter 24 (pp. 825-61)

**Week Ten (3/26): The 1950s: The "Cold" War and American Affluence**

Please read Chapter 25 (pp. 863-71, "Global Passages," and 879-82) and Chapter 26 (899-901 and 909-28)

**Week Eleven (4/2): The 1960s: "Great Society," Civil Rights, and Vietnam**

Please read Chapter 27 (pp. 939-53 and 957-73) and Chapter 28 (pp. 975-981 and 986-89)

**Week Twelve (4/9): Reagan, Religion, and American Conservatism**

Please read Chapter 29 (pp. 1009-43)

*Assessment Two.* Please bring a Blue Book and other materials to class.

**Week Twelve (4/16): Bush, Clinton, and the Cold War Aftermath**

Please read Chapter 30 (pp. 1045-77)

**Week Thirteen (4/23): America in the 21st Century**

Please read Chapter 31 (pp. 1079-1115)

**FINAL EXAM (Tuesday, May 5, 7-10 P.M.)**

*Cumulative final exam.* Please bring a Blue Book and other materials to class.