

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Semester Spring Year 1983

Course No.
History 102

Course Title
American History Since 1865

Instructor
Hollingsworth

Prerequisites

While this course focuses on American history since 1865, the problems with which it is mainly concerned are very present day oriented. Thus, the course is concerned with providing an understanding to some of the following questions:

Why has there been such poor performance in the American economy in recent years?

Why has the role of the state and the central government increased during the twentieth century?

What have been the basic dilemmas in American foreign policy in the twentieth century?

Why has there been such a substantial decline in political participation, and why has the change in the nature of American political parties occurred?

What has been the nature of ethnic and race relations in America since the Civil War?

While these are questions which are very much a part of contemporary American society, they will be analyzed within an historical context.

Examinations: There will be two take-home examinations and one in-class examination.

Grading: Take-home exams will count 55 percent of the grade, the in-class exam 25 percent, and class participation in discussions 20 percent.

Readings

1. Richard Current, et al. The Essentials of American History Since 1865 - a relatively brief history textbook.
2. C. Vann Woodward. The Strange Career of Jim Crow.
3. Stephen Ambrose. Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy, 1938-1980.
4. Rogers Hollingsworth. American Expansion in the Late Nineteenth Century.

All of the above are to be purchased at the University Bookstore.

In addition, there is a xerox packet of supplementary reading to be purchased at the Poly-U Copy Center at the corner of University Avenue and Park Street. This contains short articles and essays.