

History 102, Section 1
The United States Since the Civil War
Spring 2007

Lectures: M, W, F, 12:05-12:55

Lecture Location: 1121 Humanities

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This course examines the social, economic, and political development of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. The main theme of the course involves the question of how Americans viewed themselves and their nation as the United States emerged as a political and economic superpower over the course of the 20th Century. We will begin during the 1870s, when the end of slavery, the conquest of the western territories, the arrival of “new immigrants,” and the rise of corporate capitalism all forced those living within the United States to rethink what it meant to be an American. We will then extend that question into the 20th Century, focusing on the changes to American identity brought by the two World Wars, the Depression, and the Cold War. The course will end in the post-Cold War period, when a new phase of immigration, the banning of race and gender discrimination, and the rise of global capitalism once again challenge Americans to define our roles in the nation and in the world.

Requirements: Weekly assignments for this course include three lectures (50 mins), one discussion section (50 mins), and 50-150 pages of reading. The purpose of discussion is to evaluate student’s understanding of lecture and reading materials so it is critical that they attend all lectures and complete the weekly assignment before their section meeting. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lectures, but they should also bring questions about lecture or reading material for discussion during sections.

Evaluation: Students will be graded according to their participation in discussion sections (20%), one short paper (20%), and three exams (20% each). Participation will be measured by a combination of attendance, preparation and contribution to discussions. Every student must answer one of the five short (5-7 pages) paper questions listed on the syllabus. They will be evaluated for content, argument and style. Exams will consist of two parts; identification of names, places or concepts defined in lectures and essays on lectures and required readings. Essays will be evaluated primarily according to content and argument, although sloppy writing can make it hard to appreciate strong evidence.

The midterm exams are not cumulative. The final will have one essay question that covers the entire course.

Required Reading: There are six required books for this course. They can be purchased at A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St. (257-7888). They are all available in paperback and students can purchase used copies where they are available. Reserve copies are also available for 3 hour loan at College Library.

Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*, (Princeton University Press, 2002)

Jacob A. Riis, *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York*, edited by David Leviathan (Bedford/St. Martins, 1996)

Kevin Boyle, *Arc Of Justice: A Saga Of Race, Civil Rights, And Murder In The Jazz Age* (Henry Holt & Co., 2004)

Roger Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II*, Revised Edition (Hill and Wang, 2004)

Cheri Register, *Packhouse Daughter: A Memoir* (Harper Collins, 2001)

Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US City* (Verso, 2001)

Academic Conduct: Students will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Instances of Academic Misconduct (including cheating and plagiarism) will be prosecuted according to the "Student Academic Misconduct Campus Procedures" of the UW System Administrative Code. Please familiarize yourself with those procedures and their definition of Academic Misconduct:

<<http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm>>

Abilities: Students who need special accommodation due to a disability should contact me privately. Please also contact the Mcburney Disability Resource Center <<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>> at 608-263-2741 (phone); 263-6393 (TTY); 263-2998 (FAX); FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Week 1 Re-Birth of a Nation

January 22 Introduction
January 24 The Promise of Reconstruction
January 26 The Cost of Reconciliation

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 3-43

Week 2 American Empire

January 29 Conquering the West
January 31 American Imperialism
February 2 Immigration and Restriction

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 44-80
Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, 1-77

Week 3 The Gilded Age
February 5 The Rise of Wall Street
February 7 Populism
February 9 The Labor Problem

Reading: Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, 120-177, 236-254

Short Paper #1 Due: David Leviathan writes that “*How the Other Half Lives* was produced during the less predictable stages of the nation’s drive to organize the national economy and culture by an immigrant in the process of making himself an American.” Do you agree with this statement? What economic and cultural changes shaped the America that Riis wrote in? To what extent were they unpredictable? Finally, how did those changes shape Riis’ view of what made him an American? A perfect essay will have a clear thesis, and will be supported by specific examples.

Week 4 The Age of Reform
February 12 Progressivism
February 14 Women’s Suffrage
February 16 Birth of Black Politics

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 81-127

Week 5 The Great War
February 19 The New Radicalism
February 21 The Great War
February 23 **First Midterm Exam**

Reading: Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 1-169

Week 6 Modern Times
February 26 “Birth of a Nation”
February 28 Great Migrations
March 2 The New Exclusion

Reading: Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 170-346

Short Paper #2 Due: What explains the difference between Ossian Sweet’s experience in Detroit in the 1920s and Jacob Riis’ experience in New York four decades earlier? Your answer should address not only the racial differences between the two men, but also the timing of their moves and the social, economic, and political changes occurring in the United States at each time.

Week 7 The New Deal Order
March 5 The Great Depression
March 7 Making a New Deal
March 9 Limits of the New Deal

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 128-237

Week 8 World War II
March 12 Mobilization and Migration
March 14 The War Abroad
March 16 The War at Home

Reading: Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial*, 1-133

Short Paper #3 Due: In what respects were Japanese and German Americans treated differently during the Second World War and what accounts for those differences? Your answer should draw on Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial* and Gerstle, *American Crucible*, and should address the immediate causes of Japanese internment as well as the longer historical differences in treatment of European and Asian immigrants.

Week 9 The Cold War
March 19 Origins of the Cold War
March 21 Hot Wars in the Cold War
March 23 The Cold War at Home

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 238-267

Week 10 Affluent Society
March 26 Reconversion and Stratification
March 28 The Rise and Fall of Organized Labor
March 30 **Second Midterm Exam**

Reading: Register, *Packinghouse Daughter*, 1-98

Week 11 Spring Break

Week 12 Cracks in the Order
April 9 Women and Work in Postwar Society
April 11 The Early Civil Rights Movement
April 13 Birth of a Gay Identity

Reading: Register, *Packinghouse Daughter*, 99-275.

Short Paper #4 Due: In what respects was Cheri Register's life shaped by her status as a "packinghouse daughter," and to what degree was she shaped by an effort to escape that status? How was her experience shaped by her race and gender?

Week 13 Challenging Liberalism

April 16 The New Right
April 18 The New Left
April 20 The Vietnam War

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 268-345

Week 14 The New World Order

April 23 The Late Cold War
April 25 Crisis of the Global Economy
April 27 The End of History?

Reading: Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, 1-82

Greg Grandin, "AHR Forum: Your Americanism and Mine: Americanism and Anti-Americanism in the Americas. [The American Historical Review](http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/111.4/grandin.html) 111.4 (2006): 45 pars. 19 Dec. 2006 <<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/111.4/grandin.html>>. [Note: You may need to access this from a campus computer]

Week 15 The Culture Wars

April 30 The New Immigration
May 2 The "Family Crisis"
May 4 AIDS and Gay Liberation

Reading: Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism*, 83-175

Short Paper #5 Due: Compare and contrast Americans' reception of Mexican immigrants at the end of the 20th century with that of Eastern and Southern Europeans at the end of the 19th. What accounts for the similarities and differences?

Week 16 Globalization and its Discontents

May 7 What is Globalization?
May 9 What Changed on 9/11?
May 11 Review

Reading: Gerstle, *American Crucible*, 268-345