

**History 102: The United States Since the Civil War
Spring 2014**

Lectures: M, W, F, 1:20-2:10

Lecture Location: 2650 Humanities

Professor William P. Jones

Office Hours: M, W, 1:30-2:30 (or by appointment)

Office: 5135 Humanities

Phone: (608) 263-1784

Email: wjones3@wisc.edu

Teaching Assistants:

Maureen Justiniano

justiniano@wisc.edu

Leah Webb-Halpern

webbhalpern@wisc.edu

Anthony Pietsch

adpietsch@wisc.edu

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 ends 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 100-200 pages of reading. The purpose of discussion is to deepen students’ 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%), two midterm exams (25% each), and a final exam (30%).

Participation will be measured by a combination of attendance, preparation and contribution to discussions. Five **unannounced quizzes** will be given during discussion sections, covering the assigned readings for that week. These cannot be taken at a different time, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quiz grades will be factored into the total participation grade.

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 include one essay question that covers the entire course.

Required Reading: There are five required books for this course. They can be purchased at A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 315 W. Gorham 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.

Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward, 2000-1887* (1888)
Chester Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go: A Novel* (1945)
Cheri Register, *Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir* (2000)
Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun* (2009)

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	Rebirth of a Nation
January 22	Introduction
January 24	The Promise of Reconstruction

No sections this week

Week 2	American Empire
January 27	Closing the Frontier
January 29	Immigration and Restriction
January 31	American Imperialism?

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 1-113

Week 3	The Gilded Age
February 3	Redemption and Reunion
February 5	The Labor Problem
February 7	Populism

Reading: Start Bellamy, *Looking Backward*

Week 4 **The Age of Reform**
February 10 Progress and its Limits
February 12 The New Women
February 14 The Wisconsin Idea

Reading: Finish Bellamy, *Looking Backward*

Week 5 **The Great War**
February 17 The New Radicalism
February 19 The New Progressives
February 21 A War to End All Wars

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 115-193

Week 6 **Modern Times**
February 24 Great Migrations
February 26 The New Exclusion
February 28 **First Midterm Exam**

No sections this week

Week 7 **Hard Times**
March 3 The Jazz Age
March 5 The Great Depression
March 7 Making a New Deal

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 195-247
Start Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*

Week 8 **The American Century**
March 10 Arsenal of Democracy
March 12 War without Mercy
March 14 The War at Home

Reading: Finish Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*

Week 9 **Spring Break**

Week 10 **The Affluent Society**
March 24 The Rise of Organized Labor
March 26 The Way We Never Were
March 28 The New Place of Poverty

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 249-273

Week 11 Origins of the Cold War

March 31 The Iron Curtain
April 2 **Second Midterm Exam**
April 4 The 'Third World'

No sections this week

Week 12 Contesting the New Deal Order

April 7 The Long Civil Rights Movement
April 9 Film: "Step by Step"
April 11 Rejecting the Nuclear Family

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 275-305
"Teaching the March on Washington," *American Educator* (Fall 2013), 22-43

Week 13 The Late Cold War

April 14 The Liberal Hour
April 16 The New Left
April 18 The Vietnam War

Reading: Register, *Packinghouse Daughter*

Week 14 The New Conservatives

April 21 Suburban Warriors
April 23 Massive Resistance
April 25 Film, "Mr. Conservative"

Reading: Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 308-332
Start Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Week 15 American Babylon?

April 28 A Crisis of Confidence
April 30 The New Immigration
May 2 The Reagan Revolution

Reading: Finish Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Week 16 Postmodern America

May 5 The Culture Wars
May 7 A New Gilded Age?
May 9 Review

Final Exam: Thursday, May 15, 5:05-7:05PM, Location TBA