Professor Sarah Phillips  
History Department  
226 Bay State Road, rm. 208  
sarahphi@bu.edu; 617-353-9914  
Office hours: Friday 12-3; by appt.

Teaching Fellows:  
Katie Moore: kamo@bu.edu, rm. 201  
Wed & Fri 12:00-1:00, by appt.  
Amy Noel: aknoel@bu.edu, rm. B-01  
Tues 5-6:00; Thurs 5-7:00, by appt.

CAS HI 152 The United States Since 1865 Spring 2012

This course will survey the major political, economic, and social developments in American history from the end of the Civil War to the present. Required readings are available at the BU Barnes & Noble and are on reserve at Mugar Library. Students will also find course materials on the Blackboard website.

In this course you will become familiar with the dynamic processes that shaped modern America. You will also acquire the ability to interpret primary sources and to craft written historical interpretations. You will do well in this class if you (1) complete the reading the week it is scheduled; (2) listen carefully during lectures and understand that they will not repeat the reading, but will provide new contexts, supplementary case studies, and alternative interpretations; (3) take notes during lecture and review your notes frequently; (4) attend the discussion workshops; (5) budget plenty of time to complete the writing assignments and to study for the exams; and (6) meet with your Teaching Fellow to discuss your papers in advance of the deadlines.

Required Texts:

William Riordan, Plunkitt of Tammany Hall, ed. Terrence J. McDonald (Bedford/St. Martins) ISBN 9780312084448
Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi (Dell) ISBN 9780440314882

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Pop Quizzes: We will not take attendance, but pop quizzes on the previous lecture are always a possibility, so it is in your interest to attend lectures consistently and to review your notes from the previous lecture before arriving. No make-up quizzes will be administered. No exam-day absences are permitted and no make-up exams will be administered. If you miss an exam you must accept the zero.
Exams: There will be two in-class exams, a midterm and a final, covering the textbook reading and the material presented in lectures. The format will consist of matching (to assess textbook comprehension) and short answers (to assess lecture comprehension). There will be no exam during the final exam period.

Written Assignments: There will be three papers, each requiring an analysis of the additional course readings: *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, and *The Oil Crisis of 1973-74*. The assignments will be distributed with a writing and style guide. No paper extensions will be granted. Late papers will be penalized one-third grade per day late. We will grade only hard copies of the essays; no email submissions will be accepted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component/Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quizzes</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #1</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>Apr. 12</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #3</td>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Teaching Fellows, Optional Workshops, and Workshop Incentives: In this course you will be assigned a Teaching Fellow (TF). Your TF will take an interest in your course performance, will grade your work, and will be available to meet with you to discuss paper drafts. The TFs will also hold 6 workshops to help you navigate and understand the additional course readings. During “workshop weeks” each TF will offer the same workshop at 3 different times during the week. You’ll have the option of attending one, and you’ll sign up in advance. These workshops are not required, but they are highly recommended, and they are obviously a *sine qua non* for any student wishing to perform well on the written essays. As an added incentive, a ½ percentage point will be added to your final course grade for each workshop you attend, to a maximum of 3 total points. 3 points can make a big difference; just consider how much more you’d enjoy an A- rather than a B+, or a B- rather than a C+.

Academic Integrity: It is your responsibility to read and understand the Boston University Academic Conduct Code (available at www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code) and to abide by its provisions. Any suspected cases of plagiarism or unethical academic behavior will be referred to the appropriate officials.
Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Jan 17  Course Introduction  
Jan 19  Did Reconstruction fail?  
READING: Of the People chaps. 16 & 17  

Jan 24  What happened to the economy after the Civil War?  
Jan 26  What happened to workers?  
READING: Of the People chaps. 18 & 19; Plunkitt Introduction (pp. 1-38)  

Jan 31  Why did the United States become an empire?  
Feb 2  Why is so much of the West owned by the public?  
READING: Plunkitt pp. 45-81; Of the People chap. 20  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS  

Feb 7  How did populism transform Gilded Age politics?  
Feb 9  Why can’t we explain Progressivism without studying women?  
READING: Plunkitt pp. 82-102, 117-122; Of the People chap. 21  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS  

Feb 14  Now, who were the Progressives again?  
Feb 16  Was World War I important at all for U.S. history?  
ESSAY #1 DUE IN CLASS  
READING: Of the People chap. 22  

Feb 21  NO LECTURE – MONDAY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES  
Feb 23  What Was the Great Migration?  
READING: Of the People chap. 23  

Feb 28  MIDTERM  
Mar 1  Why did the 1920s roar?  
READING: Of the People chap. 24  

Mar 6  Why was the New Deal new?  
Mar 8  Why is World War II remembered as “the good war”?  
READING: Of the People chap. 25; Moody, Coming of Age Part I (pp. 1-123)  

Mar 10-18: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS  
READING: consider getting ahead in Moody  

Mar 20  The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter  
Mar 22  Whose fault was the Cold War?  
READING: Of the People chap. 26; Moody Part II (pp. 127-232)
Mar 27  How did the Cold War shape American society?
Mar 29  ASEH MEETING: NO LECTURE
READING: *Of the People* chap. 27; Moody Part III (pp. 235-280)
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr  3  Why is the “civil rights movement” a problematic name?
Apr  5  Why did politicians willingly call themselves liberals?
READING: *Of the People* chap. 28; Moody Part IV (pp. 283-424)
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 10  Who learned which lessons from the Vietnam War?
Apr 12  Why are young women reluctant to call themselves feminists?
                ESSAY #2 DUE IN CLASS
READING: *Of the People* chap. 29

Apr 17  Were the 1970s more transformative than the 1960s?
Apr 19  Was there a Reagan Revolution?
READING: *Of the People* chaps. 30 & 31; *Oil Crisis* Introduction (pp. 1-27)

Apr 24  What can we learn from a history of Wal-Mart?
Apr 26  How will future historians analyze the Iraq War?
READING: *Oil Crisis*, pp. 31-85
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

May  1  Final Exam

READING: *Oil Crisis*, pp. 86-157
WORKSHOP MEETINGS MAY 7 & 8

**Friday May 11  ESSAY #3 DUE TO YOUR TF BY 12 NOON**