

Professor Andrew David
History Department, Boston University
226 Bay State Road (HIS), Rm. 501
andavid@bu.edu

Office Hours:
TR 3:30-4:30
F 2:45-3:45
or by appt.

Teaching Fellows:
Alyssa Kreikemeier
alyssakr@bu.edu
HIS Rm B09
Office Hours: TR 10-12 or by appt.
(Group 1 and 2)

Ryan Shaver
shaver@bu.edu
HIS Rm 506
Office Hours: T11-2 or by appt.
(Groups 3 and 4)

HISTORY 152

The Emerging United States, 1865-2017

Overview:

This course will survey the major political, economic, and social developments in American history from the end of the Civil War to today. We will consider the following questions: how did the United States evolve into a truly plural, mixed society? What drove the development of the modern American economy and the corresponding changes in the nature of work in America as well as the character of the workforce? How did the job of (and expectations on) the President change over time? How did the nation mature into a world power in international affairs and how did Americans transform their popular culture between the late 19th century and the present?

While most of this class is lecture-based, at several points during the semester we will meet in smaller discussion groups during class time to review the readings and ideas of the course in more detail. Your TAs will provide you with more information on these meetings and they are marked on the syllabus.

Required Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the BU bookstore (and other booksellers).

1. Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* (5th ed), 2017
2. David Margolick, *Strange Fruit*, 2001
3. Shane Hamilton and Sarah Phillips, *The Kitchen Debate*, 2014

Other readings (marked “Blackboard Readings” on the syllabus) can be found on the HI152 Blackboard site.

Course Requirements:

There will be two in-class exams (a midterm and final), and an analytical paper. You will also be graded on your participation in your discussion sections. You will receive more information on the analytical paper after Spring Break.

Grade Breakdown:

1. Midterm-25% (In class, March 1)
2. Analytical Paper-30% (Due at start of class, April 26)
3. Final Exam-30% (In Class, TBA)
4. Class Participation-15%

Attendance:

Students are required to attend lectures and discussions, and attendance will be taken at each lecture and discussion via a sign in sheet. Attendance will be taken into account when calculating your class participation grade, and students will be docked a full grade for every three classes they miss (i.e. 3 class gets you from an A to a B, 6 from a B to a C, etc.).

Technology:

Use of laptops (and other digital devices) is not permitted in class.

Plagiarism:

[Note: Just don't do it. Trust us on this. But see the below if you have any questions]

Plagiarism -- the presentation of another's work as your own, even by mistake -- will result in failing this course and possible further penalties. If you are in doubt, consult the professor or your TAs. BE SURE TO READ AND COMPLY WITH B.U.'s UNIVERSAL ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

Thursday, Jan 18-Introduction to the Course

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 15

Tuesday, January 23-Reconstruction

Thursday, January 25-The Gilded Age

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 16

Blackboard Readings:

General Reynold's Describes Lawlessness in Texas

Andrew Carnegie's Gospel of Wealth

Jacob Riis, "How the Other Half Lives"

Tuesday, January 30-Closing the West

Thursday, February 1-American Fights a War and Gains an Empire

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 17

Blackboard Readings:

William Jennings Bryan's A Cross of Gold Speech

William McKinley on American Expansionism

Mark Twain, "The War Prayer"

Tuesday, February 6-The Progressives

Thursday, February 8-Discussion 1

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 18

Blackboard Readings:

Jane Addams, "The Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements"

Eugene Debs, "How I Became a Socialist"

Woodrow Wilson on the "New Freedom"

Tuesday, February 13-Changing Nature of Politics and the Presidency

Thursday, February 15-Making the World Safe for Democracy: World War I and its Aftermath

Readings:

Blackboard Readings:

Ida B. Wells, "Lynch Law in America"

Emma Goldman on Patriotism

Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points"

Tuesday, February 20-**NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)**

Thursday, February 22-The 1920s: All That Jazz (but only some of that alcohol)

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 19

Blackboard Readings:

Warren G. Harding "Return to Normalcy"

Hebert Hoover "The Principals of the United States Government"

Lois Long (Lipstick), "Tables for Two", *The New Yorker* 9/12/25 and 10/17/25

Tuesday, February 27-Discussion 2

Thursday, March 1-**MIDTERM**

Readings:

Study for Exam

Tuesday, March 6-**NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

Thursday, March 8-**NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

Readings: NONE

Tuesday, March 13-The Struggle for Civil Rights (1)

Thursday, March 15-The Good Times End and the Great Depression Starts

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 20

Strange Fruit, "Forward" to "Café Society" (roughly p. 9-70)

Blackboard Readings:

Explanation of the Objectives of the Universal Negro Improvement Association

Tuesday, March 20-Franklin Roosevelt Saves the Day (for a while...)

Thursday, March 22-The Second World War

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 21 and 22

Strange Fruit, “Strange Fruit” to “It’s So Powerful” (roughly p. 74-152)

Tuesday, March 27-Discussion 3

Thursday, March 29-The Cold War (1): Enemies Foreign and Domestic, Old and New

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 23

Blackboard Readings:

George Kennan, “The Long Telegram”

NSC-68

Tuesday, April 3- The 1950s

Thursday, April 5-The Struggle for Civil Rights (2)

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 24

The Kitchen Debate, p. 2-62

Tuesday, April 10-The Cold War (2): The Cold War Gets Hotter

Thursday, April 12-The 1960s: From Camelot to Chicago

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 25

The Kitchen Debate, p. 62-121

Blackboard Readings:

“One Ride with Yankee Papa 13”

Tuesday, April 17-**NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)**

Thursday, April 19-Discussion 4

Readings:

Blackboard Readings:

The Port Huron Statement (1962)

John Lewis’ speech from the March on Washington (1963)

Barry Goldwater’s 1964 Republican Nomination Acceptance Speech

Tuesday, April 24-Watergate, and the 1970s

Thursday, April 26-The Rise of Conservatism

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 26

Paper Due to TAs at Start of Class on Thursday, April 26

Tuesday, May 1-From the Past to the Present (or, How We Get to 2017)

Readings:

Give Me Liberty, Chapter 27-28

Final Exam-TBA