History 329: The Gilded Age, 1877-1914

Professor Louis Ferlger, Fall, 2019; Classes: TTThurs, 9:30-10:15, 226 Bay State Road, room 304; Department of History, Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11; Thursday, 10-11, 226 Bay State Road Office: H-402. or by appointment (ferlger@bu.edu); Office Phone: 353-8311
Course Outline and Requirements

This course is designed as a thorough examination of one of the nation’s critical time periods—from about the end of Reconstruction to the beginning of World War I. The focus of the course will be broad rather than narrow and the lectures and assigned readings will not only deal with the key individuals, events, regional and social conflicts in the historical development of the United States but also with related economic, business, organizational, political, cultural, institutional and social developments in American society as a whole.

The class will meet Tuesday and Thursday. There will be three exams: two during the term and a final exam. Exams will be based on classroom lectures and readings and each exam will be essay in format. The first and second exams will constitute 40% of the course grade. If you take both exams, I will drop the lower grade and count the higher grade equal to 40%. The final is 60% of your grade. There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam, the final exam will be worth 75% (and the single exam, 25%). There may also be class presentations and they will account for 10-20% of your lowest grade. The exams will emphasize the ability to explain and describe what happen rather than merely to memorize. Exam essays will be evaluated on the arrangement and orderly progression of ideas rather than only on the mere reproduction of factual information. Please be sure to review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on plagiarism in the Academic Conduct Code.

Completion of the reading and participation in classroom discussions constitute the very essence of the classroom experience. Your attendance reflects your respect and courtesy to your fellow students. If you must miss a class, please tell me in advance. If you must miss several classes, please talk to me as soon as possible. I will try to be as accessible as possible. Please feel free to interrupt my lectures whenever you have a question to ask, a contrary opinion or different interpretation, or an example that is relevant to the lecture or readings. I believe the course will be much more enjoyable and interesting to you if you become actively involved in it.

The course readings will provide you will a framework to understand and explore the material in the course. The texts and articles need to be read carefully and frequently, both to prepare for classroom discussion and exams. All articles are available at the blackboard site. Go to the site and click on Fall, 2019 (HI329 A1 The Gilded Ag, 1877-1914).

Required Books:


Plus Additional Readings and handouts

Class topics and readings

Business and Manufacturing

Readings:


Politics, Progressivism, Populism and Culture

Readings:

BC: chapt. 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13; CC: chapt. 9, 10, 12, 13

Labor

Readings:

Women, African-Americans, Immigrants, Native Americans; Agriculture and Government

Readings: