CAS HI 152   The United States Since 1865   Spring 2014

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 Learn 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) attend class consistently; (2) complete the reading the week it is scheduled; (3) listen carefully during lectures and understand that they will not repeat the reading, but will provide supplementary contexts and alternative interpretations; (4) take notes during lecture and review your notes before the next class meeting; (5) attend the optional workshops; (6) budget plenty of time to complete the writing assignments and to study for the exams; and (7) submit essay drafts to your TF by his or her draft deadline.

Required Texts:

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 you should attend lectures consistently and review your notes from the previous lecture before arriving. If there is a quiz, it will be administered at precisely 9:34 am. If you arrive later than 9:33 am, you must wait outside the door until the quiz is over and you will not be allowed to take the quiz. No make-up quizzes will be administered for missed classes or late arrivals, but we will drop your two
lowest quiz scores. Make a friend the first day of class so that you can get the notes from any missed lectures, because neither the TFs nor the instructor will provide lecture notes.

Exams: There will be two in-class exams, a midterm and a final, covering (1) the material presented in lectures; and (2) material from American Horizons (the textbook). The format will consist of matching (to assess textbook comprehension), and short answers and IDs (to assess lecture comprehension). There will be no exam during the final exam period. No exam-day absences are permitted and no make-up exams will be administered. If you miss an exam you must accept the zero.

Written Assignments: There will be three papers, each requiring an analysis of one of the additional course readings: Plunkitt of Tammany Hall, Coming of Age in Mississippi, and Overthrow. The assignments will be distributed with a writing and style guide. Late papers will be penalized one-third of a grade per day late. We will grade only hard copies of the essays; no email submissions will be accepted. Please note that the third paper is due during final exam week.

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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 13</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #2</td>
<td>Apr 10</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay #3</td>
<td>May 7</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 optional workshops to help you navigate and understand the additional course readings. During “workshop weeks” each TF will offer the same workshop at 2 different times during the week. If you choose to attend, you must attend a workshop offered by your assigned TF. 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 a B- rather than a C+. To earn credit for workshop you must not only attend; you must also bring the reading material and participate.
Electronic devices: Electronic devices are impediments to lecture comprehension and to note taking. More importantly, they are profoundly distracting to students who are trying to pay attention. Therefore it is my policy to create a device-free environment in the front half of the classroom for students who want to take notes on paper and do not care to be distracted by a sea of screens, facebook pages, and youtube videos. **Therefore, if you choose to use a computer, tablet, or phone in class, you must sit in the back of the room.**

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:**

**NOTE:** The reading for the week appears under the lectures.

Jan 16  Course Introduction  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 15

Jan 21  Did Reconstruction fail?  
Jan 23  What happened to the economy after the Civil War?  
READING: *American Horizons* chaps. 16 & 17; *Plunkitt* Introduction (pp. 1-38)

Jan 28  What happened to workers after the Civil War?  
Jan 30  How did populism transform Gilded Age politics?  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 18; *Plunkitt* pp. 45-81  
**WORKSHOP MEETINGS**

Feb 4  Why is so much of the West owned by the public?  
Feb 6  Why did the United States become an empire?  
READING: *Plunkitt* pp. 82-102, 117-122; *American Horizons* chap. 19  
**WORKSHOP MEETINGS**

Feb 11  Why can’t we explain Progressivism without studying women?  
Feb 13  Now, who were the Progressives again?  
**ESSAY #1 DUE IN CLASS**  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 20
Feb 18  Was World War I important at all for U.S. history?  
Feb 20  What Was the Great Migration?  
READING: *American Horizons* chaps. 21 & 22

Feb 25  MIDTERM  CLASS MEETS IN SCI 109  
Feb 27  Why was the New Deal new?  CLASS MEETS IN SCI 109  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 23

Mar 4  Does war kill reform?  
Mar 6  Why is World War II remembered as “the good war”?  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 24; *Moody, Coming of Age* Part I (pp. 1-123)

Mar 10-14: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS  
READING: consider getting ahead in Moody!

Mar 18  *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*  
Mar 20  Whose fault was the Cold War?  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 25; *Moody* Part II (pp. 127-232)

Mar 25  How did the Cold War shape American society?  
Mar 27  Why does everyone love John F. Kennedy?  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 26; *Moody* Part III (pp. 235-280)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 1  Why is the “civil rights movement” a problematic name?  
Apr 3  When did politicians willingly call themselves liberals?  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 27; *Moody* Part IV (pp. 283-424)  
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 8  Who learned which lessons from the Vietnam War?  
Apr 10  Why were the 1960s “radical”?  CLASS MEETS IN SCI 109  
ESSAY #2 DUE IN CLASS  
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 28
Apr 15  Why are young women reluctant to call themselves feminists?
Apr 17  How did the rise of conservatism intersect with the politics of energy?
READING: *American Horizons* chaps. 29 & 30; *Overthrow* pp. 1-77

Apr 22  How will future historians analyze the Iraq War?
Apr 24  NO CLASS: Monday schedule. Start studying for final exam!
READING: *American Horizons* chap. 31; *Overthrow* pp. 78-169
WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Apr 29  **FINAL EXAM**
May 1  **OPTIONAL WORKSHOP MEETINGS DURING CLASS TIME**
READING: *Overthrow* pp. 170-322

**Wednesday May 7**  ESSAY #3 DUE TO YOUR TF BY 12 NOON