

History 206-013: History of the United States, 1865-2000

University of Delaware
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Office hours: Thurs. 11-12 and 3-4, and by appointment

Department of History
Spring 2010
Tues. and Thurs., 2:00-2:50 p.m.
Kirkbride 206

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Fri 10-11 and 12:15-1:15, and by
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Course Description

With a special emphasis on the concept of freedom, this course will introduce students to the major social, political, and cultural changes in American life since the Civil War.

Graded assignments

- * Dates quiz - In section, Feb. 18/19 (10%)
- * Midterm exam – In section, Mar. 25/26 (20%)
- * Paper – Due in lecture, on May 6/7 (25%)
- * Final exam – May 25, 1-3 pm (30%)
- * Discussion Section: Attendance and *active* participation (15%)

Participation

A word about participation: Learning is an active process, not a passive one. If you don't understand something in lecture or discussion, ask! It is expected that every student will engage with the course materials and will participate intelligently in discussion sections. On a much cruder level, talking, text-messaging, and falling asleep, in class will NOT be tolerated; it is rude and distracting to those around you.

Handing in Papers / Late papers

All papers must be handed in at the *beginning* of class on the day they are due. Late papers will be penalized one whole letter grade the first day they are late and one third of a letter grade for every day after that. No papers will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date. All papers must be handed in on paper, unless you have made special arrangements with your instructor or TA to accept a version as an email attachment. Under no circumstances will a paper be accepted if it is pasted into the body of an email.

Policies: Email, Texting, Grading, and Plagiarism

Email: A word about email etiquette. When you email your friends, you can be as informal as you like. When you email a professor or a TA, however, it is a good idea to be polite and to present yourself well. "Hey" might be fine in the subject line to a friend; it's not in the subject line to a professor. Your friends might not care if you don't capitalize when you write them, but to your TA, it might look like you just don't care enough to write properly or don't know better.

I may communicate with the class--occasionally--via email. You will be responsible for reading and responding accordingly to these emails. If you have questions about them (or any other aspect of the course) it is your responsibility to ask.

(Some of you may prefer to use outside email accounts--hotmail or whatever--instead of your UD address. However, because I will be emailing the class only through the UD email addresses, you will need to insure that your UD email is forwarded to whatever account you use. Instructions for email forwarding can be found [here](#).)

Attendance: Attendance is required in both lecture and discussion section. If you miss class, you are responsible for you miss. I will not provide notes or Power Point slides to those who are absent.

The main purpose of the sections is to give you the opportunity to engage with the course material more actively and directly than is possible in lecture. This is an essential part of the class, which depends on you--your mind as well as your body--coming to section and being ready to participate. If you are forced to miss section because of illness or other short-term emergency, please contact your section leader (either me or your TA) before the section meets. For longer term absences, you will have to get documentation from the Assistant Dean's Office.

Behavior in class: texting, emailing, surfing the web, etc.: Texting in class? Emailing? Surfing the web? *Don't even think about it.* Well, why not? Three reasons: (1) it's disrespectful to your instructor; (2) if you're texting, etc., you're not paying attention; (3) it's distracting and disrespectful to other students around you.

Consequences – This course will have a “zero tolerance” policy about texting, emailing, and surfing the web during class. This applies to both lectures and discussion section. There's nothing confusing about asking you not to text, email, or surf the web during class, so there's no need for any “gentle reminders.” If you are texting, emailing, surfing the web during class, your electronic device—including laptops—will be confiscated and brought to the history department office, where you can retrieve it at the end of the day. Repeat offenders will simply be asked to leave class. Three-time offenders will be asked to leave class and not come back.

Grading: Grades will be awarded according to the following scale.

A - Superb work: ideas and opinions are supported by thorough and persuasive use of evidence - lucid, polished writing (well-organized, with clear transitions, free of grammatical, syntactical and typographic errors) - thoughtful, original thinking - sophisticated appreciation of complexities and ambiguities in evidence and analysis - no factual errors

B - Good work: clear ideas, supported by appropriate evidence - solid writing skills, with few grammatical, syntactical or typographical errors - generally accurate command of factual material - reasonable analysis and interpretation - competent grasp of historical context and conceptual frameworks

C - Acceptable but undistinguished work: writing contains significant factual errors and/or lacks a clear argument - weak or shallow grasp of historical context and/or conceptual frameworks - written work reflects superficial or spotty reading - ideas are unclear, contradictory, inaccurate, obvious - arguments inadequately supported by evidence - weak writing skills (including poor organization, awkward or nonexistent transitions, serious or recurring errors in grammar, syntax, or spelling)

D / F - Unacceptable work: fails to fulfill the assignment in significant ways - total absence of evidence to support arguments - major and/or recurring factual errors - insufficient grasp of historical context and/or conceptual frameworks - serious reading problems or comprehension of sources - too short - poor organization of writing - no transitions between ideas - severe problems with language skills (syntax, grammar, spelling) - sloppy, overrun with typographical errors

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of presenting someone else's work as your own. It is a form of dishonesty--a form of cheating, in fact--and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Plagiarism is not limited to using another person's exact words; using someone else's ideas without attribution is also a form of plagiarism. The amount you plagiarize doesn't matter: cheating is cheating. The good news about plagiarism is that it is easily avoided by clearly citing your sources. If you do, you can safely sidestep even the hint of improper usage of someone else's work. Any student found to have plagiarized on any assignment will not be permitted to pass the course. If you have any questions about plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask.

Readings

The following books are available through the UD Bookstore. They are all also available on reserve at Morris Library.

- Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, *Major Problems in American: Vol. 2, Since 1865* (Wadsworth, 2006)
- William Loren Katz and Laurie Lehman, eds., *The Cruel Years: American Voices at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century* (Beacon, 2001)
- James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time* (orig. published 1963—any edition will do)

- Harvey Pekar, Gary Dumm, and Paul Buhle, *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History* (Hill and Wang, 2009)

All books will be on one-day reserve at Morris Library.

Other readings will be available via Sakai. They are marked “S” below.

Film Screenings

There will be two required film screenings:

- *Hearts and Minds* (dir. Peter Davis, 1974) – Monday, Apr. 26 or Wednesday, Apr. 28, 7-10 p.m. – The film will be followed by a discussion
- *American Dream* (dir. Barbara Kopple, 1990) – Monday, May 10 or Wednesday, May 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Course calendar

2/9/10

Week 1 – Introduction / Reconstruction

- *Major Problems in American History* (henceforth abbreviated *MP*), chap. 1

2/16/10

Week 2 – Capital and Labor

- Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America*, chap. 3
- William Katz and Laurie Lehman, eds., *The Cruel Years*, pp. 41-6, 68-89, 105-2, 149-59, 217-34, 248-55

S

In section: Dates quiz

2/23/10

Week 3 – Expansion and Empire

- *MP*, chap. 4
- Katz and Lehman, *The Cruel Years*, pp. 47-67, 121-9, 160-83, 198-210, 265-71

3/2/10

Week 4 – Progressivism

- *MP*, chap. 3, document 8; chap. 5, all
- Triangle Factory Fire website, www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/
Instructions for how to read this website will be available on Sakai

3/9/10 –

Week 5 – World War I

- *MP*, chap. 6
- David Kennedy, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society*, ch. 1 S
- Randolph Bourne, “War Is the Health of the State” (1918) (excerpt) S

3/16/10

Week 6 – American Modernity: The 1920s

- *MP*, chap. 7
- Sinclair Lewis, *Babbitt* (1922), chap. 5-6 S
- Warren Susman, “ ‘Personality’ and the Making of Twentieth-Century Culture,” in *Culture as History* (1984), 271-85 S

3/23/10

Week 7 – The Era of the Great Depression

- *MP*, chap. 8

Midterm Exam – In section

3/30/10

Week 8 – Spring Break

4/6/10

Week 9 – World War II

- *MP*, chap. 9
- John Armor and Peter Wright, *Manzanar: Photographs by Ansel Adams, Commentary by John Hersey* (Vintage, 1988), all S

4/13/10

Week 10 – Politics and Culture of the Cold War

- *MP*, chap. 10 and 11

4/20/10

Week 11 – Fighting for Rights

- *MP*, chap. 12
- James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time* (1963), all

4/27/10

Week 12 – Politics and Culture in the 1960s

- *MP*, chap. 13
- Harvey Pekar, Gary Dunn, and Paul Buhle, *Students for a Democratic Society: A Graphic History* – all

Film Screening: *Hearts and Minds* (1974) – location TBA

- Monday, Apr. 26, 7-10pm *or*
- Wednesday, Apr. 28, 7-10 pm

Both screenings will be followed by a brief discussion.

5/4/10

Week 13 – Things Fall Apart: The 1970s

- Selected documents on Sakai

S

Paper Due in lecture, Thurs., May 6

Discussion sections will not meet this week

5/11/10

Week 14 – The Resurgence of the Right: The 1980s and Beyond

- Selected documents on Sakai

S

Film Screening: *American Dream* (1990) – location TBA

- Monday, May 10, 7:00-8:30 pm *or*
- Wednesday, May 12, 7:00-8:30 pm

5/18/10

Week 15 – Conclusion

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History*, ch. 27

S