



Course: U.S. History 202<sup>50</sup>(30)  
Reconstruction to Modern Times

Time: F 1730 - 2140  
Semester: Fall Evening 1999

Instructor: Ms. Kimberly Clissold  
Office: 372-3166

## Syllabus

Text: Nash, Jeffery, Howe, Davis, Frederick, Winkler. The American People: Creating a Nation and a People. volume II: From 1865.

### Course Overview:

This course will discuss the political, economic, and social developments of the United States from Reconstruction to modern times. In addition, this course will attempt to understand the complex origins, achievements, and transformations of the United States from its nation building years to its unprecedented position as an economic and political world power. Focus will be given to the shifts in political, economic, and social ideologies and concerns as the United States moves from its isolationist agrarian roots to develop into an industrialized expansionist nation. This focus will be paired with attempts to identify and discuss the perspectives and myths that filter various views of the past.

It would be nearly impossible to give attention to all of the aspects and details that encompassed the past of America from Reconstruction to modern times. The main objective of this course is to look at the events, interactions, and reactions of various peoples contained throughout the history of the United States. The historic events that will be covered in this course present many avenues of discussion and analysis to take along the road to understanding America's past. This course is intended to provide a general scope of America's history and insights into the people and events that shaped that history.

## Requirements

### Attendance & Participation:

Students are expected to be on time, prepared, and to remain in attendance for each entire class session. While in class students are expected to actively listen and participate in class discussions and activities. If you are unable to attend a class session the instructor must be contacted with a reason for the absence. If you cannot contact the instructor directly a message at this number will suffice. [Ph. # 372-3166]

## **Readings:**

The core of this course is based on the readings assigned in the syllabus and assigned during classes. Students are expected to arrive at each class meeting with all reading assignments completed and with a willingness to discuss their views and analysis of each reading.

## **Assignments:**

All students will be expected to complete the following written requirements:

**Three:** two-page essays that discuss any of the readings assigned during the course. Due dates for each essay is located on the course outline attached to the syllabus. The essays must follow the format detailed below. No later papers will be accepted under any circumstances. (40 points each)

### **Essay Requirements: Format and Content**

#### **Format**

- Cover Sheet : Title, Student's Name, Instructor's Name, Course, Date  
The paper should be stapled in the upper left-hand corner.

- Length: 2 – 3 pages double spaced with 1-inch margins / 10-12 size font

- Citations: MLA citations and a Works Cited page for resources

#### **Content**

- Introduction: The introduction must contain a clear thesis statement and introduction of material being discussed in your essay.

- Body of the paper : The body of the paper must clearly state and analyze historic information and examples to support your thesis statement. Each essay should discuss not only the reading itself but also the surrounding historic themes and your own personal historic analysis of the events being discussed. Remember your personal historic views must always be accompanied by facts and analysis to support them.

- Summary : A clear conclusion should be present that ties all the information discussed in your paper to your thesis statement mentioned in the introduction of the paper.

#### **Guidelines for choosing a topic and developing a thesis for your essay**

- select a reading assigned during the course
- develop a thesis based on the reading you have selected, additional information from the text and your own historical analysis of event(s) you have chosen to write on.
- additional sources to those listed above may be used but are not required.
- be sure to properly cite any information paraphrased or quoted in your essay using MLA citations. All resources must be listed on your Works Cited page.

**\*\* No late papers will be accepted \*\***

**Course Assessments:**

Written Papers	(120 points)
Midterm	(200 points)
Final	(200 points)
Attendance & Participation	(40 points)

The exams will focus on facts, concepts, and themes discussed in the text, readings, class discussions, and lectures. The format of the exams will be discussed before both exams and review sheets will be provided to help in preparing for each exam.

**Grading Scale:**

560 - 519	A
518 - 474	B
473 - 418	C
417 - 390	D
389 - Below	F

## Course Outline

The schedule listed below is an outline of the dates and topics to be covered during each class session. This schedule will be followed as closely as possible throughout this course. All assigned readings are expected to be completed before class on the assigned dates listed below unless otherwise informed of a change by the instructor. If a change is to be made, students will be informed of that change as soon as possible.

### Week 1

Oct. 8

Introduction - Reading History  
Lecture: Post-Reconstruction America / A Mixed Legacy & Rural America's Move toward Urbanization.  
Video: *White Man's Image*

### Week 2

Oct. 15

Lecture: Industrialization & The Gilded Age  
Read: Chapter 18 & Chapter 19  
Handout  
Video: *Domesticating the Wilderness*

### Week 3

Oct. 22

Lecture: America builds an empire  
Read: Chapter 20  
Handout

### Week 4

Oct. 29

Lecture: The Progressive Era  
Read: Chapter 21 & 22  
Handout  
Video: *The U.S. in World War I, 1917-1918*

**Essay #1 Due**

### Week 5

Nov. 5

Lecture: The politics of frustration and the roaring 20's  
Read: Chapter 23  
Handout

### Week 6

Nov. 12

Midterm

**Essay #2 Due**

### Week 7

Nov. 19

Lecture: The Great Depression  
Read: Chapter 24  
Video: *The Grapes of Wrath*  
Handout

### Week 8

Nov. 26

Lecture: World War II  
Read: Chapter 25  
Video: *The Best Years of Our Lives*

Dec. 3

**Week 9** Lecture: The Cold War  
Read: Chapter 26  
Video: *Red Nightmare / Postwar Hopes, Cold War Fears*  
Handout

**Essay #3 Due**

### Week 10

Dec. 10

Lecture: Where is my piece of the American pie? - The struggle for social reform  
Read: Chapter 27 & 28  
Handout  
Video: *Eyes on the Prize*

### Week 11

Dec. 17

Final Exam