

By

**Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Evening Program
January 11-March 24, 1999
Schofield Barracks--Bldg. 560**

COURSE History 20210--**America: Since the Civil War**

TIME MTWR--1140-1240

INSTRUCTOR Dr. James P. Fitzsimmons

COMMUNICATIONS

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3140 Waiialae Avenue--Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

TEXTBOOK Nash, Gary B., and others. **The American People**.
Volume II. New York, HarperCollins, c1996.

INTRODUCTION/DESCRIPTION

History is the unfolding of reality, and its record--both oral and written--in infinite space and time, from the birth of the universe to its possible fiery end, or, alternatively, throughout its eternal continuous evolution. To understand this historical process, especially that of American history since the Civil War, we shall ask three main questions. **First**, what is history, particularly American history, and what does it consist of: what persons, events, processes and institutions do we need be aware of and understand? **Second**, how do we understand history; that is, what mental processes of thought and feeling (analytical, holistic) must we employ to achieve deep insight? **Third**, and most importantly, how and where do we place **ourselves** in the progression and meaning of historical time? Thus, the course is designed to: (1) help you become aware of American history since the Civil War--persons, events, forces, processes, institutions, issues and controversies; (2) help you gain the necessary skills to interpret and form **your own** historical understanding of America--its past, present and possible future; and (3) develop your ability to visualize your own place in the great pageant of America--in terms of your origins, present situation and desired future. Additionally, since history consists of events and observers of events, together with their perspectives, we will discuss some of the major philosophies and frameworks of historical thought, all in order to help us better comprehend our own place in time.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able:

- *To **acquire** a fundamental awareness of American history--persons, events, processes, institutions.
- *To **develop** their own historical thought process and to **formulate** their own conception of American history.

- *To **visualize** themselves as historical beings and their place in historical time.
- *To **communicate effectively, both orally and in writing**, about American history: its nature, content, seeming direction and their position in it.

CLASS FORMAT

The class will be an interactive, cooperative learning experience wherein both instructor and students participate and grow. The class will consist of a number of activities, including: lectures; multi-media events, such as videos and recordings; guest speakers; class discussions; a short--2 page--paper (required)/class presentation (optional, 5-10 minutes=5 extra points); a longer--5-7 page--course paper (to be approved by the instructor); a mid-term examination; and a final examination.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are expected to attend class prepared to participate in activities/discussions by: being open minded/ready to think critically; reading/keeping abreast of the news; and completing class readings/assignments.

The grading system will consist of the following:

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| 1. Class attendance/participation | 10 pts. |
| 2. Short paper (R)/class presentation (O) | 20 pts. |
| 3. Longer course paper | 20 pts. |
| 4. Mid-term examination | 25 pts. |
| 5. Final Examination | 25 pts. |
| 6. Extra Credit--1 Page Paper | 2 pts. |

100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59 AND BELOW=F

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>READING</u> (Chapter)
Week 1 JANUARY 11	Introduction Reconstruction, Rural America	16-17
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Week 2 18	Smokestack America--Politics and Reform	18-19
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Week 3 25	World Power--Progressives and Capitalism <u>SHORT PAPER/PRESENTATION</u>	20-21
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Week 4 FEBRUARY 1	The Great War--Affluence and Anxiety	22-23
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Week 5 8	Great Depression and the New Deal--WWII <u>MID-TERM EXAMINATION</u>	24-25
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Week 6 15	Cold War	26
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Week 7 22	Post War Growth--The Liberal State Complete Short Paper Presentations	27-28
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Week 8 MARCH 1	Social Reform--Conservatism	29-30
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Week 9 8	Overview/Integration--Review <u>LONGER COURSE PAPER DUE</u>	
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Week 10 15	<u>FINAL EXAMINATION</u>	