

U.S. History 1865 to the Present

HIST 1302
3 credits

Del Mar College
Fall 2009

Section 003 – MW 8:00 - 9:20 HH 121
Section 007 – MW 9:30 - 11:00 HH 121

**It avails not, time nor place – distance avails not,
I am with you, you men and women of a generation, or ever so many generations hence. . .**

– Walt Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” (1881)

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Course Description

This course is a broad-based survey of the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present day. We will explore the nature and development of the United States and its people, focusing on such pivotal events as the conquest of the west; the rise of the business and leisure class; progressivism and the First World War; the Great Depression; World War II and its aftermath; Americans' responses to the Cold War; the quests for racial justice and equal rights for women; the cultural crises of the 1960s and 1970s; and the ongoing political and social challenges of our own time. In addition, we will examine a number of cultural developments that profoundly affected the nation's history and identity. Among these are the creation of a distinctive American identity; immigration and assimilation; the mythic significance of the land; the crucial influence of women and minority groups; the impact of science and technology; and the tremendous influence of religion on American society.

Course Objectives

In this course you will

1. sharpen your reading, writing, listening, and critical thinking skills; reflect on and discuss complex ideas; and improve your ability to interpret and evaluate historical evidence and differing points of view.

2. develop an understanding of what history is and what historians do, how narratives are constructed from primary and secondary documents, and why the study of history is important for understanding the world we live in today.
3. analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the development of the United States, and improve your understanding of the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
4. improve your ability to think critically and imaginatively about the past using a variety of original sources, including works of art, and to recognize how the world of the present is a product of the experiences, choices, and expressions of people who preceded us.

Texts

The required text for this course, available at bookstores near the Del Mar campus, is John Mack Faragher, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom, and Susan H. Armitage, *Out of Many: A History of the American People*. Vol. II (5th edition, Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition). This book includes a CD-ROM (be sure it's there!) which contains other required readings.

You will also need a package of Scantron 882-E forms and at least three blue books for taking the exams.

Assignments

Reading

Your primary responsibility from day to day will be keeping up with the **reading** assignments, which are listed on the accompanying schedule. To get the most from the lectures and class discussions, it is essential that you complete the reading assignments before coming to class, give them some thought, and be prepared to talk about them. Even if we don't discuss a particular assignment in class (and we generally won't), keeping up with the reading will help you better understand and remember the material we do cover and will lead to higher grades on the exams.

Attendance

I will **lecture** every day to provide historical background and to offer some new ways of thinking about the material. I will inevitably do most of the talking during lectures (that's what a lecture is, after all), but I encourage you to stop me at any time to ask questions, contribute ideas, or challenge my statements. *Attendance is essential* since I'll present a great deal of material in lectures that is not available in the textbooks. I strongly advise taking notes in class: no matter how good a listener you are, there will be far too much information for you to absorb without notes. Please do not ask *me* for copies of lecture notes: you are solely responsible for attending class or for making other arrangements to get the notes. It's fine to make recordings of lectures for your own use, also, but I'd appreciate knowing about it.

I will take roll every day, and excessive absences (more than seven) are grounds for failure in the course regardless of how you have done on the other assignments. Except in extreme circumstances (if, for example, you will be away for an extended period of time), it is not necessary to notify me in advance that you will miss a day. If you arrive late, I will count you absent unless you notify me immediately after class of your presence, and if lateness becomes a habit, I will begin counting your late arrivals as absences.

If you wish to withdraw from the course, *it is your responsibility to do so* before the November 23 deadline. I will not withdraw you for any reason, even if you have stopped attending.

Exams

There will be three **exams** spaced throughout the semester. These will cover primarily the lectures and class discussions, though there will also be questions taken from the textbook chapters and supplementary readings. The exam questions will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer, and the final exam will include a comprehensive essay question.

Make-up Policy: There will be no make-ups for the exams except in extreme conditions. In order to qualify for a make-up, you must contact me by phone, e-mail, or in person **before the exam begins** to let me know that you will miss it and why. If you miss an exam without contacting me in advance, you will receive a ZERO, regardless of your reason for missing it.

Papers

You will be required to write two short **papers**, a film review and a book review, due on the dates listed in the accompanying schedule. I'll give you details on these later (or you can find them any time on the course web site), but here are the requirements for all written assignments: **Papers are due without exception on the stated dates. You will lose a letter grade (10 points) for each class day they are late. A "page" must be typed and numbered, double-spaced, with a 1-inch margin all the way around, and in 12-point font (this size). Please staple your paper, but do not put it in a report cover or folder.** If you are unsure how to set your word processor to these specifications, just ask.

I'll be happy to talk to you about your works-in-progress and to review drafts with you. You may rewrite papers for a better grade, but you must discuss your plans for improvement with me first, and any late penalties applied to the original paper will still count against the rewrite. Rewrites may be turned in any time before the last class day, and *you must include the original paper* along with the rewritten version. (See "Academic Honesty" below for exceptions to the rewrite policy.) I will grade written assignments, including exams, on the basis of clarity, thoroughness, use of supporting evidence, accuracy, and originality. Using lots of detailed examples is the key to doing well on papers as well as on the written portions of exams.

If you would like additional help on papers, don't forget to take advantage of the DMC Writing Center (www.delmar.edu/engl/wrtctr). They provide all kinds of writing assistance for free, including online tutoring.

Online Discussions

Your participation in online discussions over assigned readings will be required. The discussions will occur on the MyDMC “Message Boards” for this class. These are accessible through mydmc.delmar.edu by using your Del Mar logon, clicking the “Student Resources” tab, then clicking on “Go to My Courses” and selecting this class from the list. If you have trouble logging on to MyDMC, contact the IT Help Desk at 698-2330.

You will be able to contribute to any online discussion at any time throughout the semester until the Final Exam begins. More information on these is coming later, and details are available on the course web site.

Extra Credit

The DMC Library sponsors a film series throughout the semester in which little-seen classic and independent films are presented for free. The screenings are on Friday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. in Room 530 of the White Library. If you wish to receive extra credit in this course, just attend a movie in the series and write a short (1 page) paper briefly describing the film and your response to it, due at the first class period after the screening. If adequately done, this paper will count for **five points** applied to any of your test scores.

Four of the films in the series (marked “History-in-Film Series” on the series schedules) are co-sponsored by the History Department because of their particularly good historical content and will be introduced by members of the History faculty. Extra-credit papers on these four films will be worth **ten points** (one full letter grade) applied to any of your test scores.

I’ll provide complete film schedules later, and they are also available on the course web site and the DMC Library web site (library.delmar.edu). I hope you will attend all of the film screenings, but *you can only receive a total of 20 points in extra credit.*

Grading

I will determine your final grade as follows:

Exams (3 averaged together)	60%
Papers (2 averaged together)	30%
Online discussions	10%

Ranges: 100-90%=A 89-80%=B 79-70%=C 69-60%=D 59-0%=F

There will be no curve on final grades. Class participation will be the determining factor in resolving borderline grades.

Academic Honesty

I encourage you to discuss the course material or project ideas with other students and to study in groups. On written assignments, exams and homework, however, your work must be entirely your own. Any time you use another’s words or ideas, either verbatim or paraphrased, you *must* give them proper acknowledgment.

Plagiarism Policy: If I catch you cheating on a test or paper, you will receive an F for that assignment. **A plagiarized paper may not be rewritten for a better grade, but it must be completed to my satisfaction within a week of my returning it to you or you will automatically and immediately fail the course.**

It's very easy for you to download papers from the web and to pass them off as your own work. But remember that it's just as easy for me to find out. If you care about passing this course, write the papers yourself.

Classroom Behavior

If you are to succeed in this class, as in the "real world" beyond college, certain mature and respectful behavior will be expected of you. My expectations in this class include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. **Arrive on time and remain seated until class is dismissed.** Traffic through the door is very distracting for all of us, so please stay put.
2. **Refrain from eating and chewing/spitting in class.** Drinks (non-alcoholic!) are fine with me, but food and tobacco are not. And smoking, of course, is forbidden in all buildings at DMC.
3. **Complete reading assignments on time.** If you don't do the reading, you'll almost certainly fail this class. If possible, please bring printouts of the readings from the CD-ROM to class with you, as we will occasionally refer to them. It is not necessary to bring the textbook to class.
4. **Pay attention and participate.** Listen attentively, take notes, and keep private conversations to a minimum. If you don't take notes, you'll wish you had when exam time comes. And please turn off your cell phones (including texting) when you come into the classroom – I'm so much more interesting than whoever's on the phone!

Class and Reading Schedule**Key**

Many: Faragher, Buhle, Czitrom and Armitage, *Out of Many* (5th edition), vol. 2 (numbers refer to **chapters**)

CD: Reading from CD-ROM (numbers refer to **chapter:reading**)

Week	Topic	Reading Assignments	Important Dates
T 8/25 – Th 8/27	Introductions / Civil War		
T 9/1 – Th 9/3	Reconstruction	Many : Ch. 17 CD : 17: Miss. Black Code 17: 14 th Amendment 17: State of the South	
T 9/8 – Th 9/10	The West of the Imagination and the West of Reality	Many : Ch. 18 CD : 14: Rudd, Diary 18: Indian Affairs 18: Chief Red Cloud	Th 9/10: Film Review
T 9/15 – Th 9/17	The Gilded Age: Consumption and Labor	Many : Chs. 19-20 CD : 19: Progress & Poverty 19: George Engel 20: William G. Sumner	
T 9/22 – Th 9/24	Immigration and City Culture	CD : 21: Shame of the Cities 21: Riordan, Plunkitt 21: Promised Land 23: Quota Act	Th 9/24: Exam 1
T 9/29 – Th 10/1	The Progressive Era: Hope and Catastrophe	Many : Chs. 21-22 CD : 21: W.E.B. Dubois 19: A Red Record 21: Hull House 22: Fourteen Points	
T 10/6 – Th 10/8	The Jazz Age: Puritans and Philistines	Many : Ch. 23 CD : 23: Advertisements 23: Bruce Barton	
T 10/13 – Th 10/15	The Great Depression and New Deal	Many : Ch. 24 CD : 24: FDR 1 st Inaugural	
T 10/20 – Th 10/22	World War II and the Origins of the Cold War	Many : Ch. 25 CD : 25: Four Freedoms 25: Japanese Relocation	
T 10/27 – Th 10/29	Cold War Diplomacy	Many : Ch. 26 CD : 26: Marshall Plan 26: Kennan, Containment 26: Truman Doctrine	Th 10/29: Exam 2

Week	Topic	Reading Assignments	Important Dates
T 11/3 – Th 11/5	The 1950s “Culture of Consensus”	Many: Ch. 27 CD: 26: Reagan, Testimony 27: Kinsey Report 27: Betty Friedan	
T 11/10 – Th 11/12	The Civil Rights Movement: “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize”	Many: Ch. 28 CD: 27: Brown v. Board 27 Student Nonviolent 28: Civil Rights Act	Th 11/12: Book Review
T 11/17 – Th 11/19	Vietnam, Feminism, and America’s Countercultures	Many: Ch. 29 CD: 28: Gulf of Tonkin 29: Vietnamization 29: Roe v. Wade 29: Nat. Org. for Women	
T 11/24 – Th 11/26	Malaise and Morning, in America	Many: Ch. 30 CD: 30: “Malaise” 30: Reagan, 1 st Inaugural	Th 11/26: Thanksgiving
T 12/1	September 11, 2001	Many: Ch. 31 CD: 31: Bush Address (2001)	T 12/1: Last Class Day All rewrites due
Th 12/3 – W 12/9	Finals Week		TBA: Final Exam and Last Day for Msg. Boards