



East China Normal University International Summer Session

History 17 – American History since 1865

Term: July 5th –August 8th, 2018

Instructor: Michael G. Vann

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Office hours:

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Course Description

This course focuses on the social, cultural, political and economic history of the United States after the Civil War examining significant landmark political events as well as the everyday experiences of women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups. It emphasizes key issues in American politics and society since 1865 including reconstruction, the growth of big business; changes in the lives of farmers, workers, and immigrants; the rise of the city; the emergence of America as a world power; and reform movements among rural and urban labor, and among minority groups.

No prerequisite.

Course Overview

This course will explore the social, cultural, political, and economic changes that defined American history from the late nineteenth century to the present. It will study major events (e.g. the World Wars, the Great Depression), social movements (e.g. labor struggles, civil rights, Chicano rights, women's rights, gay/lesbian rights), cultural trends (e.g. consumerism, youth cultures), and technological developments (e.g. the railroad, the atomic bomb, the television) and their effects on the daily lives of Americans. It will also examine the promises of American freedom made during this period and the limits based on race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexual orientation that prohibited many Americans from achieving full citizenship and the American dream.

Course Goals:

A student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

1. Describe the major political, economic and social changes in United States history with emphasis on the roles of people from various racial, ethnic, religious and minority groups.



2. Discuss the relationship of the United States to other regions and peoples of the world with particular attention to the incorporation of immigrants into American society.

3. Examine the boundaries and development of American citizenship and political rights.

4. Elaborate on the concept of freedom, paying special attention to the ways in which it has been redefined by social movements of women, working people, gays and lesbians, and people of racial and ethnic minority groups, all working within the framework of the Constitution.

5. Describe themes of social, political and cultural continuity in the American experience.

Required Text

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History*, fourth Seagull edition, volume 2 (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013)

Available via Kindle

ISBN-13: 978-0393920314

ISBN-10: 0393920313

Course Hours

The course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 110 minutes in length, for a total of 2750 minutes of in-class time. The course meets from Monday to Friday. Classes begin Thursday July 5th and end Wednesday August 8th. ECNU awards 4 credits for this course. Different universities may count course credits differently. Consult officials at your own home institution.

Attendance

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. ECNU policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Moreover, **ECNU policy is that a student who has more than 3 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.**

Grading Policy

ECNU awards grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F. Most colleges and universities do not award transfer credit for grades of D or F.

In this course, grading will be based on the following:

- 20% 4 in class quizzes
 - 20% 5 take home essays (1-2 pages)
- 20% Midterm exam
 - 20% Final exam



- 20% Classroom engagement (attendance, attention, participation in discussions)

General expectations

Students are expected to:

- *Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade. Moreover, ECNU policy is that a student who has more than 2 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.*
- *Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class.*
- *Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading.*
- *Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.*
- *Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class. Students who do not do this will be asked to leave the class.*
- *While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.*

Course Schedules

The planned schedule sketched out below may be modified to suit the interests or abilities of the enrolled students or to take advantage of special opportunities or events that may arise during the term.

WEEK ONE (July 5-6):

Thurs: Introduction

Fri: USA in a global context

WEEK TWO (July 9-13):

Mon: Reconstruction

Read: Chapter 15

Tues: The Gilded Age

Read: Chapter 16

Wed: Film: *Unforgiveable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (begin)

Thurs: Internal and External Colonialism

Read: Chapter 17

Film: *Unforgiveable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (continue)

Fri: The Progressive Era

Read: Chapter 18

Film: *Unforgiveable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson* (finish)

Quiz #1

WEEK THREE (July 16-20):



Mon: Class Discussion of Jack Johnson

Essay on Jack Johnson due

Tues: World War One

Read: Chapter 19

Quiz #2

Wed: The Jazz Age

Read: Chapter 20

Thurs: **Midterm Examination**

Film *Matewan* (begin)

Fri: Great Depression and New Deal

Read: Chapter 21

Film: *Matewan* (finish)

Class discussion of *Matewan*

WEEK FOUR (July 23-27):

Mon: Film: *The Massie Affair*

Essay on Matewan due

Tues: World War Two

Read: Chapter 22

Class discussion *The Massie Affair*

Wed: The Cold War

Read: Chapter 23

Essay on The Massie Affair due

Film: *Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (begin)

Thurs: Film: *Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (finish)

Class Discussion of *Dr. Strangelove*

Read: Chapter 24

Fri: The Civil Rights Movement

Essay on Dr. Strangelove due

Quiz #3

WEEK FIVE (July 30-August 3):

Mon: The Sixties

Read: Chapter 25

Tues: From Vietnam to Watergate

Read: Chapter 26

Quiz #4

Wed: New World Order

Read: Chapter 27

Thurs: Film: *Lone Star* (begin)

Fri: A New Global Crisis

Read: Chapter 28

Film: *Lone Star* (finish)

WEEK SIX (August 5-8):

Mon: Class Discussion of *Lone Star*

Essay on Lone Star due

Tues: Review

Wed: **Final Examination**

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Specifically, unless otherwise directed by the professor, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source, on examinations. Failure to abide by this may result in a zero on the examination, or even failure in the course.



Students are also expected to adhere to appropriate scholarly conventions in essays and research papers. This class includes paper assignment(s) in which students must give credit to all outside sources used by means of citations and a bibliography. Failure to do so may result in a zero on the paper assignment, or even failure in the course.