**SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**COURSE NAME:** History 2202 (Section 12)

**SUBJECT:** US History Since 1865

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2023

**MEETING TIME:** Tu/Th 5:30-6:45 pm

**CLASSROOM:** Building 15 (Library Annex), Room 1822

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** James Ciment

**BOOK:** Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History* (Seagull Edition), Volume 2, 7th edition

**WEBSITE:** Cimenthistory.com

**EMAIL:** [jdciment@cpp.edu](mailto:jdciment@cpp.edu)

**OFFICE NUMBER:** Building 94, Room 326

**OFFICE HOURS (in person or over Zoom):** Tuesdays, 4-5 pm (Zoom link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/s/84101620251#success>) ; Thursdays: 4-5 pm (Zoom link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/s/88032729707#success>)

**WEBSITE AND CANVAS**

This class is based in TWO online spaces: Canvas and on my dedicated website at cimenthistory.com. All readings (except the textbook), visual and video materials will be available there. To find them, first click on the “US History 2202” tab, then the “Course Materials” tab, and then on the week in question. Once there, look for the “Required” section on the top right. There is also supplemental materials section below week for those of you interested in exploring the subject time period further but it is NOT required for the class.

Everything else will be found on Canvas. This includes all class announcements, quizzes/exams, writing assignments, recorded lectures, textbook, and, of course, grades.

**OVERVIEW**

This course will cover American history from the end of the Civil War to the present day. You do not need to have taken History 2201 (US History through the Civil War) though it helps to have some familiarity with the history of the United States from colonial times through the Civil War. I’ll fill in background when necessary.

While the course takes a more or less chronological in approach, we will be tackling five broad subject areas throughout. Not necessarily in order of importance, they are:

--Politics and governance

--Economics and Labor

--Identity (Race, Gender, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation)

--Society and Culture

--Foreign Affairs

Some of the questions we will be asking and trying to answer in this course include:

How has America realized the democratic promises of its founders? And why has it often fallen short? What explains our current political polarization?

How has America achieved economic dominance? Why has it been so technologically innovative? And why, at the same time, does it have some of the worst economic inequalities of any industrialized nation?

Why are this country’s race relations so complicated and even painful? What progress has been made in achieving equality for all? And what is left to be done? How has ethnic diversity strengthened, and challenged, America? Why has it taken women so long to approach political and economic parity with men? What gave rise to LGBTQ people insisting on equal rights, and what have they achieved?

What unites us a society? And what divides us? How did American popular culture emerge? What are the origins of mass consumerism?

Why did it take America so long to assert itself on the foreign stage? And what happened once we did? Why is America today so dominant in the world? Has this been a good thing or a not so good thing?

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

Lecture: Online (Available immediately Canvas, Go to Modules tab; please view prior to first in-person class on August 24)

Class lectures, sources, readings, assignments, attendance, grades, etc… will be discussed

Reading:

Syllabus (available on Canvas and class website)

**PART I: AMERICA IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY**

**Week 1-2: “A New Birth (and death) of Freedom”--Reconstruction and Jim Crow, 1860s-1890s**

Emancipation and Reconstruction

Redemption and the Rise of Jim Crow

Lectures: August 24, 29, and 31

Readings:

Text: Chapter 15 (Chapter: “What is Freedom?”: Reconstruction, 1865-1877); pps. 661-673 (Section: The Segregated South); 763-768 (Subsections: The Color Line, Roosevelt, Wilson and Race, W.E.B. Du Bois and the Revival of Black Protest, Military Service and the Promise of Freedom, The Great Migration and the “Promised Land,” Racial Violence, North and South; Rise of Garveyism

Class Website for Weeks 1-2: Freedmen’s Petition, Black Code, Lynch Law, Negro Question

Writing Assignment:

Weeks 1-2 Writing Assignment (Reconstruction Theater); Due: Midnight, Sunday, August 27

**Week 3: “Gilded Age”--Industrialization and Labor Movement, 1860s-1900s**

Rise of Industrial Capitalism

Labor Movement and Industrial Conflict

Lectures: September 5 and 7

Readings:

Text: pps. 605-627 (Chapter Intro and Sections: America’s Gilded Age, The Second industrial Revolution; Freedom in the Gilded Age; Freedom in the Gilded Age; Labor and the Republic); pps. 705-711 (Subsections: Industrial Freedom; The Socialist Presence; The Gospel of Debs; AFL and IWW; New Immigrants on Strike; Labor and Civil Liberties)

Class Website for Week 3: Carnegie Memoir; Samuel Gompers: What Does the Working Man Want?; *Lochner v. New York* Supreme Court Decision

Writing Assignment:

Week 3 (Freedom of Contract); Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 3

**Week 4: “Manifest Destiny”--Transformation of the West, 1860s-1890s**

Displacement and Cultural Genocide of the American Indian

Populism in the American West

Lectures: September 12 and 14

Readings:

Text: pps. 627-644 (Section: Transformation of the West, including sidebars on pps. 638-639); pps.653-61 (Section: The Populist Challenge)

Class Website for Week 4: “Kill the Indian and Save the Man;” Zitkala-Sa Memoir; Populist Party Platform

Writing Assignment:

Week 4 (Genocide and the American Indian); Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 10

**Week 5: “Huddled Masses”--Immigration and Urbanization: 1870s-1910s**

Immigration from Another Europe

The Rise of the City and Urban Culture

Lectures: September 19 and 21

Readings:

Text: pps. 695-705 (Section: An Urban Age and a Consumer Society); 755-761 (Section: Who is an American?

Class Website for Week 5: Passing of the Great Race; Bintel Brief; Photos: Urban Scenes of Early 20th Century America (images)

Writing Assignment:

Week 5 (Immigration by the Numbers); Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 17

**PART II: AMERICA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

**Week 6: “Muckrakers” and “Trust Busters”--Progressive Era, 1900s-1910s**

Rise of Liberalism

A New Activist Government

Lectures: September 26 and 28

Readings:

Text: Chapter 18 (The Progressive Era)

Class Website for Week 6: Progressive Era Cartoons

Writing Assignment:

Week 6 (The Progressive Era in Cartoons); Due; Midnight, Sunday, September 24

**Week 7: “White Man’s Burden”/”Over There”--Imperialism and World War I, 1890s-1910s**

The “White Man’s Burden”

To Make the World “Safe for Democracy”

Lectures: October 3 and 5

Readings:

Text: pps. 678-690 (Section: Becoming a World Power); Chapter 19 (Safe for Democracy)

Class Website for Week 7: Rudyard Kipling: “White Man’s Burden”; Mark Twain: Anti-Imperialism; Woodrow Wilson: War Declaration; Senator Borah’s Speech against League of Nations.

Writing Assignment:

Week 7 (Imperialism in Poetry); Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 1

**Week 8: “Birth of the Modern”—The 1920s**

“The Business of the American People is Business”

Jazz Age vs. That Good Old-Fashioned Religion

Lectures: October 10 and 12

Readings:

Text: Chapter 20 (From Business Culture to Great Depression, Except Section: The Great Depression, pps. 815-821)

Class Website for Week 8: Allen: Only Yesterday; Bryan: Closing Remarks at the Scopes Trial

Writing Assignment:

Week 8 (Culture Wars of the 1920s); Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 8

**Week 9: ”Worst Hard Time”-- Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1941**

“Fear Itself”

Economic Recovery and a New Deal

Lectures: October 17 and 19

Readings:

Text: pps. 815-821 (Section: The Great Depression); Chapter 21 (New Deal)

Class Website for Week 9: Roosevelt Fireside Chat on Banking; Children’s Letters to Roosevelt; Huey Long, Share the Wealth speech; Roosevelt’s Social Security Act signing statement

Writing Assignment:

Week 9 (Fireside Chat); Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 15

**Week 10: “The Good Fight”--World War II**

On the Battle and Diplomatic Front

On the Home Front

Lectures: October 24 and 26

Readings:

Text: Chapter 22 (Fighting for the Four Freedoms)

Class Website for Week 10: Four Freedoms speech

Writing Assignment:

Week 10 (Propaganda and War); Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 22

**PART III: AMERICA SINCE WORLD WAR II**

**Week 11: “Iron Curtain”--Cold War and Red Scare, 1940s-1960s**

Foreign Affairs

Domestic Scares

Lectures: October 31 and November 2

Readings:

Chapter 23 (The United States and the Cold War); pps.969-974 (Subsections: Massive Retaliation; Ike and the Russians; Emergence of the Third World; The Global Cold War; Origins of the Vietnam War; pps. 997-999 (Section Intro: The Kennedy Years, subsections: Kennedy and the World; Missile Crisis)

Class website for Week 11: Kennan’s Long Telegram, Joseph McCarthy Speech and Letter

Writing Assignment:

Week 11 (Inevitability of the Cold War); Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 29

**Week 12: “Baby Boom”—Conformism and Counterculture, 1940s-1960s**

From Conformism to Counterculture

Vietnam War

Lectures: November 7 and 9

Readings:

Chapter 24 (An Affluent Society, up to page 969); pps. 974-977 (Subsections: Mass Society and Its Critics; Rebels without a Cause; The Beats); pps. 1011-1020 (Section: Vietnam and the New Left)

Class Website for Week 12: Allen Ginsburg Poem: “Howl”; Mario Savio Speech; Martin Luther King, Jr.: Speech on Vietnam War

Writing Assignment:

Week 12 (Gender Relations and the TV Sitcom); Due: Midnight, November 5

**Week 13: “Eyes on the Prize”--Civil Rights Movement and Black Power, 1940s-1960s**

The Struggle in the South

The Movement Moves North

Lectures: November 14 and 16

Readings:

Text: pps. 977-989 (Section: Freedom Movement); pps. 993-996 (Section: Civil Rights Revolution); pps. 999-1004: Subsection: Kennedy and Civil Rights); Subsections: Civil Rights Act of 1964; Freedom Summer; 1964 Election; The Conservative 1960s; Voting Rights Act)); pps. 992-998 (Sub-Sections: Civil Rights Act of 1964; Freedom Summer); pps. 997-998 (Sub-Section: Voting Rights Act); pps. 1007-1011 (Section: Changing Black Movement)

Class Website for Week 13: Stokely Carmichael’s “Black Power” Speech; Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech

Writing Assignment:

Week 13 (Two Speeches: King v. Carmichael); Due: Midnight, Sunday, November 12

**Week 14: “The Times They Are a Changin’”--Social and Political Movements, 1960s-1970s**

Liberation Movements

Environmentalism

Lectures: November 21 and 28 (No class Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving)

Readings:

Text: pps. 1020-1033 (Section: The New Movements and the Rights Revolution; 1968)

Class Website for Week 14: Silent Spring; Advice to Housewives; Feminine Mystique; Gay Manifesto; Shirley Chisholm Speech on Equal Rights Amendment; Interview with Carlos Montes.

Writing Assignment:

Week 14 (Social and Political Manifestoes); Due: Midnight, Sunday, November 19

**Week 15: “Morning in America”--Era of “Malaise” and the Rise of the New Conservatism, 1970s-1990s**

Lectures: November 30 and December 5

Carter and the Era of Malaise

Reagan’s America to Clinton’s Triangulation

Readings:

Text: Chapter 26 (Conservative Turn) and Chapter 27 (A New World Order)

Class Website for Week 15: Jimmy Carter’s Crisis of Confidence Speech; Conservative Documents

Writing Assignment:

Week 15 (Polls and Rising Distrust in Government); Due: Midnight, Tuesday, November 28

**Last Day of Class: Review of Class and Update to 2023**

Lecture: December 7

Readings:

Text: Chapter 28

Writing Assignment:

None

**ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING AND ATTENDANCE**

**Readings:** You are expected to have all the readings and the writing/discussion assignment completed by midnight on the Sundays of the week in question.

**Writing and Discussion Assignments:** It is very important to complete the short assignments connected to each week’s readings (these will be available on each week of the website and the Assignments tab of Canvas), as this will be the basis for our discussions that week (I will be calling on people at random to present their assignments). Submit all assignments on Canvas by midnight on the Sunday prior to the first lecture for that week. So, for example, the week 3 assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, September 3.

REMEMBER: You must always be looking to the week ahead to see what is due that week. For example, if we are in week 3, you should be looking to week 4 to see what is due the next week.

**Longer Assignments for Each of the 3 Parts of the Course:** There will be 3 longer writing assignments related to the three parts of the course: America in the Late 19th Century (Assignment due: midnight, Sunday, September 24); America in the First Half of the 20th Century (Assignment due: midnight, Sunday, October 29); America Since World War II (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, December 3); Details about the assignments to come. When ready, the assignments will be found under the Assignments tab on Canvas. Submit all assignments on Canvas.

**Final (Online):**

Tuesday, December 12, 5-6:50 pm

(Note: there is NO MID-TERM for this class.)

**GRADES**

**Weekly Assignments:** 30 percent of grade

**Papers:** Each is worth 15 percent of your grade, for a total of 45 percent

**Final Exam:** 25 percent of grade

**ABSENCE AND TARDY POLICY**

**Absences:** One unexcused absence, no penalty. Every absence after that counts for 2 points off your total grade score.

**Tardy Arrivals:** Two unexcused tardies, no penalty. Every tardy arrival after that counts for 1 point off your total grade score, so long as you arrive within 15 minutes of the beginning of class. After that, you will be marked as absent.