**ASSIGNMENT #1**

*Provide a roughly 150- to 200-word answer to each of the following questions. The answers can be discerned from the text and the website readings, though you might also want to do some of your own research online.*

*Read the questions carefully before answering. Nothing will bring your grade down more than not providing an answer that meets the question. If you’re unsure, come to office hour or email me.*

*The answers are due by midnight, Sunday, February 28.*

Question 1: Reconstruction

The simple, dictionary definition of the word “reconstruction” means exactly that—rebuilding. But, in historical terms, for the period following the Civil War, what needed to be rebuilt? And why?

Question 2: Industrialization

During the great expansion of America’s economy in the late 19th century, capital and labor fought vigorously and sometimes violently over who should determine workplace conditions, such as wages, hours, the pace of production and safety and health issues. What did labor argue should justify their having a say in these things? What did capital argue?

Question 3: The West

Anthropologists define tribes—as in the Native American tribes of the trans-Mississippi West—as communities of people who define themselves as sharing a common origin, bonds of kinship (real or metaphorical) of some kind, and shared cultural beliefs and practices. In negotiating with Indian leaders over land, however, the U.S. government chose to see tribes as something else—as nations with sovereignty over a given territory and its inhabitants. How did these two definitions of the tribe clash and how does this clash explain the history of U.S.-Native American relations in the West in the decades after the Civil War?

Question 4: Immigration and Urban America

As the current debate over immigration shows, Americans continue to have mixed feelings about immigrants. During the last great wave of immigration—from roughly the 1870s through 1924 (that last date is crucial)—what were the different American attitudes and responses to the millions of immigrants landing on the country’s shores?