Course Syllabus

Syllabus and Course Information

**COURSE NAME AND NUMBERS:** US History 2202.16

**SUBJECT:** US History from 1865 (Reconstruction) to the Present

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** James Ciment

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

**CLASS WEBSITE:** [www.cimenthistory.com](http://www.cimenthistory.com)

**TEXTBOOK:** Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!* (Seagull, 7th edition), Volume 2

INTRODUCTION:

This is an entirely asynchronous course, to be completed between Thursday, August 24, and Tuesday, December 12, 2023. The lectures of 1-1.5 hours I expect you to attend, the quizzes connected to those lectures, and the writing assignments will be posted each Saturday, by midnight, and due back on the following Sunday, by midnight. The readings will be available at all times.

VIRTUAL MEETING PLACES:

This course will take place in four online locations:

1. **CANVAS:** Most of the course is here.

A) Textbook will be found under the Modules tab.

1. Lectures and PowerPoint presentations will be found under the Modules tab.
2. Writing assignments will be found under the Assignments tab.
3. Quizzes and Exams will be found under the Quizzes tab.
4. All general announcements for the class will be found under the Announcements tab
5. **CLASS WEBSITE:** All additional reading and primary source material will be found here, plus suggestions for additional non-required study. Class website: [www.cimenthistory.com](http://www.cimenthistory.com) (to get to the readings, click on “US History 2202.16, 2202.17” button, then click on Course Materials button, then click on the “Week” you want to look at.
6. **ZOOM (FOR OFFICE HOURS):** I will be available live for virtual office hours on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5 pm, August 29 through December 5; and on Thursday afternoons, from 4-5pm, from August 24 through December 7. For Tuesday office hours, the link is: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/84101620251#success> ; for Thursday office hours, the link is: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/88032729707#success>
7. **EMAIL:** All personal communications to and from me will be through my email account: [jdciment@cpp.edu](mailto:jdciment@cpp.edu)

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There are two types of writing assignments:

1. Brief writing assignments connected to each week’s non-textbook readings; for the schedule of when these writing assignments will be available and when they are due see Course Schedule below.
2. Short(ish) essays connected to themes in the course, corresponding to the three parts of the course. Essay for Part 1 will be available by midnight, Saturday, August 26 and will be due by midnight on Sunday, September 24; Part II essay will be available by midnight, Saturday, September 23 and will be due by midnight, Sunday October 29; and Part III essay will be available from midnight, Saturday, October 28 and is due by midnight, Sunday, December 3.

QUIZZES AND EXAMS

Quizzes:

There will be a quiz that accompanies the lectures for each topic—30 in all (not including the initial introductory lecture about how the course works). The quizzes will be available at the same time as the lectures and will be due at the same time as the writing assignments.

Final:

Consist of True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill-in-the-Blank, and Short Answer Questions (More details will come in announcements shortly before the exams are given—see Course Schedule above for times).

GRADING

**Weekly Writing Assignments:**30 percent of grade

**Longer Term Writing Assignments:** 30 percent of grade

**Quizzes:**10 percent of grade

**Final Exam:**30 percent of grade

COURSE SCHEDULE

All the reading materials on the website, as well as the textbook, are available immediately and throughout the course. Weekly writing assignments, lectures, and lecture-based quizzes will be made available on the following schedule. All reading and writing assignments should be completed by the due dates listed immediately below:

**PART I**

**Week 0:**

Available immediately, due by August 24

**Week 1-2:**

Available August 26; due by midnight, Sunday, September 3

**Week 3:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, September 2; due by midnight, Sunday, September 10

**Week 4:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, September 9, due by midnight, Sunday, September 17

**Week 5:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, September 16; due by midnight, Sunday, September 24

**PART II**

**Week 6:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, September 23; due by midnight, Sunday, October 1

**Week 7:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, September 30; due by midnight, Sunday, October 8

**Week 8:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, October 7; due by midnight, Sunday, October 15

**Week 9:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, October 14; due by midnight, Sunday, October 22

**Week 10:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, October 21; due by midnight, Sunday, October 29

**PART III**

**Week 11:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, October 28; due by midnight, Sunday, November 5

**Week 12:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, November 4; due by midnight, Sunday, November 12

**Week 13:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, November 11; due by midnight, Sunday, November 19

**Week 14:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, November 18; due by midnight, Sunday, November 26

**Week 15:**

Available by midnight, Saturday, November 25; due by midnight, Sunday, December 3

OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT MATTER

This course will cover American history from the end of the Civil War in 1865 through the present-day.

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?

WEEKS

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

**WEEK 0: Course Orientation (please complete by August 24)**

Lecture 1:

Explaining how the course will operate, including scheduling, reading assignments, writing assignments, quizzes and exams, lectures, office hours, grading, etc…basically everything covered in the syllabus

Reading Assignment:

Syllabus

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

Lectures 1-3 (Note: for this topic only, there are 3 lectures; all other topics will have two):

Emancipation and Reconstruction

Redemption

Rise of Jim Crow

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Rise of Industrial Capitalism

Labor Movement and Industrial Conflict

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 Topic 2: Carnegie Memoir; Samuel Gompers: What Does the Working Man Want?; *Lochner v. New York* Supreme Court Decision

Writing Assignment:

Week 3 (Freedom of Contract)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Displacement and Cultural Genocide of the American Indian

Populism in the American West

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Immigration from Another Europe

The Rise of the City and Urban Culture

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)

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

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

Lectures 1-2:

Rise of Liberalism

A New Activist Government

Readings:

Text: Chapter 18 (The Progressive Era)

Class Website for Week 6: Progressive Era Cartoons

Writing Assignment:

Week 6 (The Progressive Era in Cartoons)

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

Lectures 1-2:

The “White Man’s Burden”

To Make the World “Safe for Democracy”

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

“The Business of the American People is Business”

Jazz Age vs. That Good Old-Fashioned Religion

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Wall Street Crash and Depression

Economic Recovery and a New Deal

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

On the Battle and Diplomatic Fronts

On the Home Front

Readings:

Text: Chapter 22 (Fighting for the Four Freedoms)

Class Website for Week 10: Four Freedoms speech

Writing Assignment:

Week 10 (Propaganda and War)

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

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

Lectures 1-2:

Foreign Affairs

Domestic Scares

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Conformism and the 1950s

Counterculture and the 1960s

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

The Struggle in the South

The Movement Moves North

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)

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

Lectures 1-2:

Liberation Movements

Environmentalism

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

Writing Assignment:

Week 14 (Social and Political Manifestoes)

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

Lectures 1-2:

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); Optional: Chapter 28 (A Divided Nation) to bring you up to the present

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

Writing Assignment:

Week 15 (Polls and Rising Distrust in Government)