

## **HIST 132: AMERICAN HISTORY SINCE 1865, SPRING 2017**

Dr. Jason Sellers

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\*please allow 24 hours on weekdays/48 hours on weekends

Office: 218 Monroe Hall

Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:30, TR 2-3, and by appointment

Class times/locations: MWF 10-10:50 (Sec. 01) and 11-11:50 (Sec. 02), Monroe 111

### **Course description:**

This course surveys the development of the United States since 1865. It considers the United States' ascension to world power status, its role on the world stage during the World Wars and Cold War, and the relation between international affairs and domestic policy and economic developments. This course also considers how diverse Americans shaped and were impacted by those international affairs as they contested definitions of American citizenship, rights, and liberty, and participated in creating American culture. Central themes will include race, the role of government, capitalism's relation to environment and labor, and human rights.

### **Course objectives and outcomes:**

Students in this course will:

1. Be introduced to the discipline's methods and processes.
2. Exposed to primary sources and modern authorities, which they will analyze in critical fashion.
3. Be able to explain human and social experiences and activities from multiple perspectives.
4. Be able to draw appropriate conclusions based on historical evidence.
5. Be able to transfer knowledge and skills learned to novel historical situations and documents.
6. Improve their ability to write with clarity about the past.

This course fulfills the Human Experience and Society general education requirement; along with HIST 131, this course meets survey requirements for History majors.

### **Readings:**

Students are not required to purchase any textbooks for this class. HOWEVER, the academic articles, primary sources, and websites listed/linked on the schedule below are required, and are accessible through the library website or online. Learning to both locate and critically read these sources is a critical element of this course. We will not always address these extensively in class, but you are responsible for their contents, and they will be necessary for you to complete the written assignments.

Suggested supplementary resources (online textbooks):

1. *The American Yawp* <http://www.americanyawp.com/>
2. *Digital History* <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

These websites are valid resources for supplementing lecture materials and for citing in your written work; use them, rather than sites like Wikipedia.

### **Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance will be taken regularly, and you are expected to attend having completed the assigned reading for that day. After the third absence, additional absences will result in the loss of 1/10 of your participation points, and more than six absences will result in a participation grade of 0. If it becomes clear from discussions that students are not completing the readings, I reserve the right to substitute reading quizzes (graded P/F) in place of simple attendance. To avoid quizzes, please actively contribute to conversations with your questions and ideas. I will utilize PowerPoint to display basic outlines of class sessions, key terms, names that might be difficult to spell, and visual materials; I will post a simplified version of these PowerPoints online so students can access the visual materials and primary source excerpts, but those versions do not substitute for attendance and note-taking.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

Attendance/participation: 10%

Written assignments (2): 15% each/30% total

Final written assignment: 20%

Midterm: 15%

Final: 25%

There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester, though you may only receive extra credit once. However, you may repeat *one* written assignment for a higher grade. If you elect to do so, you will need to complete an entirely new assignment, submit the new assignment within one week of the original assignment's return, *and turn in the original work along with the new assignment* (I will not grade rewrites unaccompanied by the original assignment with my written feedback). This option is available only if you have turned in the original assignment by the due date.

If you think you may need an extension, you *must* request it in advance; I will not grant extensions after assignments are due. I prefer that you submit assignments electronically on Canvas or via email, but paper copies are also acceptable. If the assignment is not in my possession in some form at the time it is due, it will be considered late. Late assignments will receive an automatic deduction of one-third of a letter grade, and an additional deduction every day thereafter; I will not accept assignments that are more than one week late.

While I am willing to discuss assignment grades with students, you will need to wait at least 24 hours and have carefully reviewed my comments on your work. You have one week after the return of graded assignments to speak with me; after one week, grades are final.

Students who have missed more than 6 classes, and/or who have not submitted papers receiving passing grades, will be reported as *unsatisfactory* on mid-semester reports.

Numerical grades in this course correspond to the following letter grades: A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D+ (67-69); D (60-66); F (59 and below). I do not round grades, so for instance, a 79.7% is a C+.

### **Requirements for written assignments**

All assignments should adhere to the department's standard style: 1" margins; 12 pt. Times New Roman font. For information on proper bibliographic format for your sources, consult the helpful UMW library guide to citations at

<http://libguides.umw.edu/content.php?pid=245752&sid=2029722#6812498>

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Office of Disability Resources has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through the Office of Disability Resources and require accommodations for this class, make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. If you have not contacted the Office of Disability Resources and need accommodations, I will be happy to help you contact it. The office will require appropriate documentation of disability. The office is located in 401 Lee Hall, and can be reached by phone at 540.654.1266 and email at [ods@umw.edu](mailto:ods@umw.edu).

### **Honor System**

Please write and sign the University of Mary Washington honor pledge ("I hereby declare upon my word of honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized help on this work") on every written assignment. More information about the Honor System is available at <http://students.umw.edu/fredericksburghonorcouncil/> You are welcome to discuss your work on assignments with classmates and work together to refine your writing, but your ideas and language must be your own.

### **Class and Reading Schedule**

\*Please bring your primary sources (listed/linked below) and the assigned academic articles to class (printed or in electronic form) so you can refer to them for discussions.

#### **Week 1: Backgrounds and beginnings**

W 1/18: Introductions and syllabus; Background lecture on the U.S. in 1865

F 1/20: Reconstruction

+Mississippi Black Code:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/reconstruction/mississippi-black-code-1865/>

+Freedmen petition to Andrew Johnson:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=TpInTOhPflsC&pg=PT36&lpg=PT36&dq=%22we+the+freedmen+of+edisto+island%22&source=bl&ots=q6ty5w3MSv&sig=ZNPjhcXcgtNQ34vDFx7mFp5esw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwilqPLO35rKAhVJND4KHW8uBk0Q6AEIzAB#v=onepage&q=%22we%20the%20freedmen%20of%20edisto%20island%22&f=false>

#### **Week 2: The newly United States**

M 1/23: Ending Reconstruction and the legacy of the Civil War

+Frederick Douglass on remembering the Civil War:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/reconstruction/frederick-douglass-on-remembering-the-civil-war-1877/>

+John Marshall Harlan's dissent in *Plessy v. Ferguson*:

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/nclc375/harlan.html>

W 1/25: Gilded Age politics and the Populist challenge

+The Omaha Platform: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/16-capital-and-labor/the-omaha-platform-of-the-peoples-party-1892/>

F 1/27: Big business and an emerging labor movement

+William Graham Sumner on Social Darwinism:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/16-capital-and-labor/william-graham-sumner-on-social-darwinism-ca-1880s/>

+Henry George, selections from *Progress and Poverty*:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/16-capital-and-labor/henry-george-progress-and-poverty-selections-1879/>

### **Week 3: Expansionism and Imperialism**

M 1/30: Cowboys, Indians, and whiteness in the American West

+Peter Iverson, "When Indians Became Cowboys," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 45, no. 1 (Winter, 1995): 16-31. [UMW Simpson Library]

W 2/1: Spanish-American War and the Philippines

+Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden":

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/19-american-empire/rudyard-kipling-the-white-mans-burden-1899/>

+William McKinley on American Expansionism:

<http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/19-american-empire/william-mckinley-on-american-expansionism-1903/>

F 2/3: Urban and working-class cultures

+Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/18-industrial-america/jacob-riis-how-the-other-half-lives-1890/>

### **Week 4: Progressive Era**

M 2/6: Environments, conservation, and American identity

+Theodore Roosevelt's Seventh Annual Message to Congress:

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3989](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3989)

W 2/8: Policies of reform, regulation, and the search for order

+Woodrow Wilson on "The New Freedom": <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/20-the-progressive-era/woodrow-wilson-on-the-new-freedom-1912/>

F 2/10: Progress and perils of industry

+Websites on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/> and <http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/triangle/trianglefire.html>

### **Week 5: Progressive Era continued**

M 2/13: Introducing and modeling Assignment 1: Primary Source Analysis

+Progressive Party platform:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/tr-progressive/>

W 2/15: The "new" immigration and American identity

+Mary Antin: [http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3649](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=3&psid=3649)

+*North American Review* article on immigration:

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4053](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4053)

F 2/17: Immigration restriction, gatekeeping, and eugenics; Erika Lee discussion  
+Erika Lee, "The Chinese Exclusion Example: Race, Immigration, and American Gatekeeping, 1882-1924," *Journal of American Ethnic History* 21, no. 3 (Spring 2002): 36-62. [UMW Simpson Library]

### **\*Week 6: World War I**

M 2/20: America abroad

+Woodrow Wilson requests war: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/21-world-war-i/woodrow-wilson-requests-war-april-2-1917/>

W 2/22: America at home

+1918 Sedition Act: <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/21-world-war-i/the-sedition-act-of-1918-1918/>

+W.E.B. DuBois, "Returning Soldiers": <http://www.americanyawp.com/reader/21-world-war-i/w-e-b-dubois-returning-soldiers-may-1919/>

F 2/24: 1918 influenza epidemic and the public health response

\*Assignment 1 due 2/24 in class

### **\*Week 7: The Roaring Twenties** (Week 7 content will not be required for the midterm)

M 2/27: The Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age, and threats to the American Way

+A. Mitchell Palmer's Case Against the "Reds":

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3992](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3992)

W 3/1: Pluralism and culture wars

+Ellison DuRant Smith speaks against immigration:

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5080>

+Robert H. Clancy opposes immigration restriction: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5079>

\*F 3/3: Midterm exam

### **Spring Break, 3/6-3/10**

### **Week 9: The Sputtering Thirties**

M 3/13: Great Depression

+Depression and New Deal photographs:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsahtml/fahome.html> and [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/S?ammem/fsaall:@FILREQ\(@field\(SUBJ+@od1\(United+States--Virginia--Fredericksburg+\)\)+@FIELD\(COLLID+fsa\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/S?ammem/fsaall:@FILREQ(@field(SUBJ+@od1(United+States--Virginia--Fredericksburg+))+@FIELD(COLLID+fsa)))

+Lora Albright remembers 1930s vagrants: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/30>

W 3/15: Dust Bowl

F 3/17: FDR's New Deal

+Herbert Hoover opposes the New Deal:

<http://www.columbia.edu/~gjl10/hoover.newdeal.html>

+Franklin D. Roosevelt to DNC: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=15314>

### **Week 10: World War II**

M 3/20: No class

W 3/22: War in Europe; introducing Assignment 2: Article summary

+FDR's Four Freedoms:

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4061](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4061)

F 3/24: War in the Pacific

+Edmund P. Russell, "'Speaking of Annihilation': Mobilizing for War Against Human and Insect Enemies, 1914-1945," *Journal of American History* 82, no. 4 (March 1996): 1505-1529. [UMW Simpson Library]

### **\*Week 11: World War II and the Cold War**

M 3/27: Home front in World War II

+A Japanese American man recalls evacuation/internment:

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5152>

+Milton Eisenhower justifies Japanese internment: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5153>

W 3/29: Containment and international relations

+Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam:

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5139/>

+Harry Truman describes his doctrine:

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/trudoc.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp)

F 3/31: Nuclear-age technologies and the space race

+Duck and Cover: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0K\\_LZDXp0I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0K_LZDXp0I)

\*Assignment 2 due 3/31 in class

### **Week 12: Cold War; Affluence and its discontents**

M 4/3: Paranoia—Witch-hunts, espionage, and blacklists

+Joseph McCarthy's accusations of disloyalty: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456>

W 4/5: Advertising and consumerism

+Richard Nixon, "What Freedom Means to Us": [http://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/richard\\_nixon-freedom.html](http://www.speeches-usa.com/Transcripts/richard_nixon-freedom.html)

+Advertisements: <http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/>

F 4/7: Eisenhower

### **Week 13: Affluence and its discontents; Civil Rights movements**

M 4/10: Suburbia and families; Introduction to Assignment 3: Essay

W 4/12: Background and grassroots activism

+Simon Hall, "Civil Rights Activism in 1960s Virginia," *Journal of Black Studies* 38, no. 2 (Nov., 2007): 251-267. [UMW Simpson Library]

F 4/14: National Scene and international pressures

+The Southern Manifesto:

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/rights/sources\\_document2.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/rights/sources_document2.html)

### **Week 14: The Sixties**

M 4/17: Social movements

+Port Huron Statement (read Introduction up to "Values," skim through the rest to get a sense of major concerns): <http://coursesa.matrix.msu.edu/~hst306/documents/huron.html>

W 4/19: LBJ and the Great Society Programs

+Lyndon Johnson's commencement address at Howard University:

<http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/speeches.hom/650604.asp>

F 4/21: Vietnam and counterculture

**\*Week 15: The Conservative Turn**

M 4/24: Barry Goldwater and the rise of the New Right

+Political campaign ads: <http://www.livingroomcandidate.org/> (watch a few from across time, with a special focus on Goldwater's ads)

W 4/26: Nixon's conservatism, Reagan and the realization of the New Right

\*Final assignment due by class on Wednesday, 4/26

F 4/28: No class--History Department Symposium

\*Final Exam Period:

--MWF 10-10:50 class (Sec. 01): W 5/3, 8:30-11am

--MWF 11-11:50 class (Sec. 02): F 5/5, 12-2:30pm