

HIST 253 The United States since 1877

Semester: Winter 2010
Instructor: Elena Razlogova
Classroom: GN-M100
Time: Mon. 6-8:15 pm
Course website: <http://digitalhistory.concordia.ca/courses/modernushistory/>

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Course Overview

This class will present an overview of U.S. history since 1877. The class will explore general trends in political and social history, such as immigration, civil rights, and industrialization, as well as specific watershed events such as the Haymarket bombing, the Dust Bowl, and the Watergate scandal. Students will examine these events through secondary literature and a variety of online primary sources, including newspaper articles, films, music recordings, radio programs, photographs, advertisements, and posters.

Texts

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History*, Volume 2, Seagull Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2009), at the University bookstore at the Sir George Williams (downtown) campus.

Primary documents, all available online.

Use textbook chapters as background reading for each week. All assigned readings are available online. You are expected to print out the item so that you will have it with you in class.

Assessment

Successful completion of the course depends on regular attendance in class, evidence of preparation and application, active participation in class discussions based on close readings of the required texts, and completion of all assignments *on time*.

1. Wikipedia Assignment (due Feb. 1)- 15%
2. Midterm I (Feb. 15 in class) – 25%
3. Midterm II (Mar. 29 in class) – 25%
4. Research Paper (due April 12 in class) – 35%

Participation

Attendance at lectures is essential—to complete all written assignments you will need information provided during lectures.

Deadlines

The penalty for late assignments will be 5% of the grade per day. **No extensions will be granted except in cases of a DOCUMENTED emergency.**

Assignments

Wikipedia Assignment

Update a Wikipedia entry on post-1877 U.S. history. Choose an entry that needs refinement in content and explanation and concerns a topic you already know something about. Add 2-3 paragraphs conveying significant historical points, with details and references to **academic** articles or books (at least 2-3 references). You may not use lecture notes, encyclopedias, or textbooks as sources for this assignment. Grading will be based on historical significance of the information you added and the clarity of your explanation.

1. Go to Wikipedia Main Page and find an article on an aspect of post-1877 U.S. History.
2. Create an account (click on "create account" in the top right corner) and sign in.
3. Edit the article and save.
4. As a comment to this page, post your name, the link to the entry you edited, and your Wikipedia username.

You have to follow Instructions on how to cite in Wikipedia, in particular sections on Footnotes, Embedded Links, and Images.

Wikipedia Assignment is due Feb. 1.

Midterms I and II

Both midterm exams will consist of two parts, both based on lectures and assigned primary documents. Part A quotes will be taken from documents assigned before the break for the midterm, and after the break for the final. Three essay study questions will be given one week in advance.

Part A: Identify, situate chronologically (approximately), and briefly explain any THREE of the FOUR provided quotes from primary documents assigned for this class (worth 40%). Answer these questions about each: Who said it? What was he or she referring to? What major theme in post-1877 American history this quote relates to? Why are this quote and the person who said it important?

Part B: Answer any ONE of the TWO provided questions with a complete, well-organized essay (worth 60%).

Research Paper

Write a 7-10 page research paper analyzing an aspect of post-1877 U.S. history from the list provided in the online syllabus. Your paper **must** be based on **primary** sources provided for each topic and use 2-3 secondary books and articles for historical context. Your paper should present a clear thesis supported by evidence and footnotes. For citation guidelines, use the Chicago Manual of Style Quick Guide. You may not use lecture notes, encyclopedias, or textbooks as secondary sources for this assignment, but look in Wikipedia and lecture notes/slides for further references to primary documents and secondary studies.

Your Essay Must Have:

- a length of 7-10 pages, double-spaced, with your name, paper title, and page numbers
- primary sources that support your argument
- 2-3 secondary sources
- footnotes formatted in Chicago Style
- introduction, with a thesis statement—your main point
- several paragraphs providing evidence in support of your main point
- conclusion

Research Paper is due Apr. 12 in class.

Policies

Contact: If your question requires an extended answer, such as explaining a grade or advising on your paper topic, you should visit me during my office hours. For questions requiring a short answer you should contact me via email. Expect an answer over the phone only during my office hours—I do not check my voice mail regularly. I do not always check my email in the evenings or on weekends. Normally I will get back to you on the following working day. Check the syllabus and my email correspondence carefully before emailing your question—if it can be answered by reading my email announcements, assignment instructions, or other parts of the syllabus I will not get back to you. Make sure to include your full name in the signature—otherwise I will not know who sent the email. You may address me either as “Elena” or “Professor Razlogova.” It is inappropriate to begin your email with “Miss Razlogova,” “Hello Miss,” “Hello Professor,” or a standalone “Hello,” “Hi,” or “Hey.” Because your emails to me are official documents, you must use formal language (for example, full sentences and no “txt talk”) in phrasing your question. If the email is addressed, signed, or phrased inappropriately I will assume it is not addressed to me and will not answer it. Finally, course material is delivered during class time only. I will not summarize my lectures for you either over email or in person—if you miss a class, contact other students for their notes.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an affront to me and to your peers. Plagiarism is submitting work that is not your own as if it were yours. This includes copying material, even a few sentences, from published or unpublished sources, from the internet, or from another student without citing the source. It also includes presenting another person’s ideas or paraphrasing the work of another person without citing the source. Plagiarism also includes handing in bought papers, papers obtained from free essay websites, or having another person write your paper for you. Anyone suspected of copying other people’s work *without clear acknowledgement*, or of any comparable act, will be reported to the Faculty of Arts and Science for plagiarism.

Syllabus: I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the year if/as necessary. Please check the online syllabus before every class.

Schedule

Jan. 4 **Course Introduction**

Jan. 11 **The Gilded Age (Foner, Ch. 16)**

Documents:

Louis Ling, Address to the Court, *Famous Speeches of the Chicago Anarchists* (Chicago: 1912).
Reprinted in Dave Roediger and Franklin Rosemont, eds., *Haymarket Scrapbook* (Chicago:
Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1986), 46-47.

George Kills in Sight Describes the Death of Indian Leader Crazy Horse

Jan. 18 **Populism and Imperialism (Foner, Ch. 17)**

Documents:

Mary Elizabeth Lease, Speech to the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, 1890
Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden: The United States & The Philippine Islands,
1899.”

Jan. 25 **Progressivism and War (Foner, Chs. 18 and 19)**

Documents:

B.E.G. Jewett (Evansville, Indiana), “To the editor,” *Detroit Socialist*, 4 May 1878.
A. Mitchell Palmer, “The Case Against the ‘Reds,’” *Forum* 63 (1920): 173-185.

Feb. 1 The Twenties (Foner, Ch. 20)

Wikipedia Assignment due

Documents:

Calvin Coolidge, "Government and Business," *Foundations of the Republic: Speeches and Addresses* (New York, 1926), 317-332.

John Held, Jr., Cover of *Life*, 1926.

Leon "Bix" Beiderbecke, "Sorry," 1928.

Louis Armstrong, "Weather Bird," 1928.

Feb. 8 The New Deal (Foner, Ch. 21)

Documents

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933.

Joe Louis knocks out Max Schmeling, 1936.

Orr C. Fischer, *The Corn Parade*, 1941.

Walker Evans, *The Fields family, Hale County, Alabama, Summer 1936*.

Feb. 15 Midterm I

Feb. 22 No Class – Midterm Break

Mar. 1 World War II (Foner, Ch. 22)

Documents

A Marine Describes the Battle of Guam.

Yoshida Kashichi, "When Will This March End?" in Saburo Ienaga, *The Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1978), 144.

Justice Robert H. Jackson, dissenting, *Korematsu v. United States*, July 1944.

Mar. 8 The Cold War (Foner, Ch. 24)

Documents

X, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947.

Joseph McCarthy, Speech presented in Wheeling, West Virginia, February 9, 1950.

"Moscow 'Kitchen Debate' Nixon-Khrushchev Discussion," *New York Times* July 24, 1959.

Mar. 15 New Social Movements (Foner, Ch. 25)

Documents

Martin Luther King, Jr., Speech at Montgomery, Alabama, December 5, 1955.

Students for Democratic Society, "The Port Huron Statement," June 1962.

Daniel Barnes, Testimony, Dellums Committee Hearings on War Crimes in Vietnam, 1971.

Mar. 22 The Rise of Conservatism (Foner, Ch. 26)

Documents

Richard Nixon, Second Address to the Nation About the Watergate Investigations, August 15, 1973.

Ronald Reagan, Radio Address to the Nation on Domestic Social Issues, 22 January 1983.

Ed Clark, *C.P.O. Graham Jackson mourning the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Warm Springs, Georgia, 1945*.

Mar. 29 Midterm II

Apr. 5 No Class

Apr. 12 After the Cold War (Foner, Chs. 27 and 28)

Research Papers due in class.

Documents

Jane Cover, Emails sent during WTO protests in Seattle, December 1999.

John Marks, Personal account of WTO protests in Seattle, December 1999.

Adam Hochschild, "What's in a Word? Torture," *New York Times*, 23 May 2004, 11.

Barack Obama, "Race Speech," Philadelphia, March 18, 2008