

## HIST 253 The United States since 1877

*Semester:* Winter 2011  
*Instructor:* Elena Razlogova  
*Classroom:* H-620  
*Time:* Mon. 6-8:15 pm  
*Course website:* <http://digitalhistory.concordia.ca/courses/modernushistory/>

*Office:* LB 1041-11  
*Office Hours:* Mon. 1-3 pm and by appointment  
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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

#### Recommended:

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, and on reserve at the library.

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 Jan. 31)- 10%
2. Weekly Quiz (best 5) – 25%
3. Midterm (Feb. 28 in class) – 20%
4. Research Paper (due April 11 in class) – 25%
5. Final Exam (TBA) – 20%

### 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 Jan. 31.

### *Midterm and Final*

Both midterm and final 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. 11 in class.

## Policies

*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. 3 Course Introduction

Jan. 10 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. 17 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. 24 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.

Jan. 31 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. 7 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. 14 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.

Feb. 21 No Class – Midterm Break

Feb. 28 Midterm

Mar. 7 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. 14 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. 21 The 1970s (Foner, Ch. 26)

*Documents*

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

Mar. 28 The 1980s (Foner, Ch. 27)

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*.

Apr. 4 The 1990s (Foner, Ch. 28)

*Documents*

Jane Cover, Emails sent during WTO protests in Seattle, December 1999.  
John Marks, Personal account of WTO protests in Seattle, December 1999.

Apr. 11 Twenty-First Century America

Research Papers due in class.

*Documents*

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

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

Date TBA. Final Exam