

History 70B
Spring 2015
TTh 11-12:15, Hum 203

Professor Liss
Hum. 214, x73541
OH: Tues. 4:15-5:30; Thurs. 12:15-1:15

Introduction to Modern U.S. History

How do we understand the past and why does it matter? Focusing on the period since the Civil War, this course introduces students to the interpretive work of history through analysis of primary documents and different historical arguments. Topics include the politics of Reconstruction, the growth of industrial society, reform and radicalism, imperialism and war, the Great Depression, race and ethnicity, civil rights, feminism, the student movement and the New Right.

The following books are available at Huntley Bookstore and on reserve at Honnold Library:

Eric Foner, The Story of American Freedom ISBN: 9780393319620
Michael P. Johnson, Reading the American Past, 5th ed., vol. 2 ISBN: 9780312563776
Susan A. Brewer, Why America Fights ISBN: 9780199753963
Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow ISBN: 9781595586438

*Other readings (marked with *) are in the Resources folder on Sakai

Three films will be screened outside of class:

The Birth of a Nation
The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter
Hearts and Minds

Course learning objectives:

- To understand the major contours of events and themes in U.S. history since the Civil War
- To understand and critique historical arguments (class participation, written work)
- To understand and interpret primary sources (class participation, written work)
- To articulate historical arguments in a group discussion (class participation, presentation)
- To develop clear, analytical writing—about primary sources (written analyses #1 and #2); by evaluating a scholarly work (written analysis #3); and by using primary and secondary sources to advance an argument (papers and final exam).

Course requirements and grading policy are on the next page.

Course requirements and grades:

Participation, incl. attendance and presentation	20%
Written analyses: (three as indicated below)	30% (10% each)
4-page papers: due Friday, March 13 and Monday April 20	30% (15% each)
Final exam: May 12, 7 p.m.	20%

Students must complete all assignments to pass this course.

Participation, incl. attendance and presentation: This class will be primarily focused on discussion, with brief, introductory lectures, as needed. In class we will do the work of historians: interpret primary sources and evaluate historical arguments. Students are expected to come to class having completed the assignment for the day as indicated on the syllabus and prepared to participate in the discussion. In order to help us achieve these goals, laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted, except in the case of individual academic accommodations (in which case, please speak to me and see below*). If necessary, there may be in-class writing assignments. Students should bring assigned readings to class, including Sakai materials that will need to be printed out. Unexcused absences will affect your grade.

Each student will give a 5-minute presentation and lead discussion on a document (signups during wk. 2).

Written analyses: Two-page analysis of the following, due at the beginning of class (no late papers accepted):

- Birth of a Nation (Jan. 29)
- Political cartoons (Feb. 17) or World War I posters (Feb. 26)
- Alexander, The New Jim Crow (May 5)

Papers: 4-page papers due Monday March 13 and April 20 (topics will be distributed two weeks prior)

Final exam: May 12, 7 p.m. The exam will cover the entire course.

Expectations regarding academic honesty: It should go without saying that students are expected to adhere to the norms and rules regarding academic honesty. This means that all work must be your own, fully cited according to the standards of academic scholarship and produced for this class. Academic dishonesty is grounds for failure on the assignment and/or the course and possible suspension or expulsion.

* Students seeking academic accommodations must see the disability coordinator at their home college: sdelator@scrippscollege.edu; julia.easley@claremontmckenna.edu; nayers@hmc.edu; Jill_Hawthorne@pitzer.edu; Jan.Collins-Eaglin@pomona.edu

I. Civil War and Emancipation

Jan. 20 Intro: Why start with the Civil War?

Jan. 22 Emancipation: Foner, introduction, ch. 5; *documents on emancipation (all readings marked with an * are on Sakai in Resources folder)

II. Reconstruction and Redemption

Jan. 27 Reconstruction: Reading the American Past (RAP), ch.16

Jan. 29 The Birth of a Nation, dir. D. W. Griffith, (1915), screening tba

*Birth of a Nation documents

Written analysis due at the beginning of class

III. Industry and Labor

Feb. 3 New Industrial Order: Foner, ch. 6, RAP, ch.18-2,3,4

Feb. 5 Industrial Labor & Its Discontents: RAP, ch. 19-1, 2; 20-4, *Populist Party Platform

IV. Conquest and Empire

Feb. 10 The West: *Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest, selections; RAP, ch. 17-4,5

Feb. 12 Empire: Brewer, Why American Fights, introduction, ch. 1; *Beveridge, *American Anti-Imperialist League Platform; RAP, ch. 20-5

V. Citizenship, Race, and the Law

Feb. 17 Immigration: *Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues, selections; RAP, ch. 17-1

*Political cartoons on immigration: **written analysis due at the beginning of class**

Feb. 19 Race and Jim Crow: *Plessy v. Ferguson (1896); RAP ch. 21-5, 6

VI. Progressivism at Home and Abroad

Feb. 24 Progressive Reform: Foner, ch. 7; RAP, ch. 21-1,2,4

Feb. 26 World War I : Foner, ch. 8; Brewer, ch. 2; RAP, ch. 22-1,2

*World War I posters: **written analysis due at the beginning of class**

VII. 1920s Struggle over Modernity

Mar. 3 The Tribal Twenties: RAP, ch. 22-4,5; 23-1,3

Mar. 5 The “New Woman” and the “New Negro”: RAP, ch. 23-4,5; *Harlem Renaissance poems

VIII. Great Depression and New Deal

Mar. 10 Hard Times: Foner, ch. 9; RAP, ch. 24-1,2,4; *FDR, Second Inaugural Address

Mar 12 Popular Front & New Deal: RAP, ch. 24-3,5; *FSA photos

Mar. 13 Paper #1 due by noon

SPRING BREAK

IX-X. Hot War and Cold War

Mar 24 WWII & the American Century: Foner, pp. 219-236; Brewer, ch. 3; *FDR, Four Freedoms;

Why We Fight: Prelude to War, dir. Frank Capra, 1942 (selections in class)

Mar 26 War at Home: Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter, dir. Connie Field (1980), 65 min., arr. TBA;

Foner, pp. 236-247; *Randolph; *Korematsu v. U.S. (1944)

Mar 31 Anti-Communism: Foner; pp. 249-262; Brewer, ch. 4; RAP, ch. 26-2,3,4

Apr 2 Affluence and Its Discontents: Foner, pp. 262-273; RAP, ch. 27-4,5; 28-1; *Friedan

XI. In Struggle: Civil Rights and Social Justice

Apr 7 The Movement: *Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement”; Eyes on the Prize: Ain’t Scared of Your Jails, dir. Orlando Bagwell, (1986), 60 min.
Apr 9 CRM: Foner, pp. 275-287; RAP, ch. 28-2,4; *Malcolm X

XII. Vietnam and the End of the Cold War Consensus

Apr 14 Vietnam: Hearts and Minds, dir. Peter Davis, (1975), 112 min. screening TBA;
Brewer, ch. 5
Apr 16 Vietnam: Foner, pp. 287-305; *Potter; *King; RAP, ch. 29-5;

XIII-XV. Political (Re)alignments: Back to the Future

Apr 20 Paper #2 due by 9 a.m.

Apr 21 Foner, ch. 13; *Carter; RAP, ch. 30-4

Apr 23 *McGirr, “Piety and Property”; *Sanchez “Face the Nation”

Apr 28 Alexander, The New Jim Crow, Foreword, Preface, Introduction, ch. 1-3

Apr 30 War on Terror: Brewer, ch. 6, concl.; *Foner, “The Story of American Freedom—
Before and After 9/11”; RAP, ch. 31- 3,5

May 5 Alexander, ch. 4-6: **written analysis due at the beginning of class**

May 12, 7 p.m.: Final exam (seniors will take the final during the last week of the semester)