

## United States History Survey 122 Syllabus

Dr. T. McCord, Spring 2012, Section 002

Mr. Scott Ackerman, MA, TA

TR 3:00-4:15; Robinson B 124

TEXTS: Tindall and Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Vol. II, 8<sup>th</sup> ed

Melosi, *Thomas Edison and the Modernization of America*

Youngs, *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Personal and Public Life*

### CLASSROOM TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Week of</u>	<u>General Topic</u>	<u>Tindall Chapters, etc</u>
Jan. 24	Introduction, New South and the West	19
31	Rise of Big Business (1/31 last add day; drop w/o penalty)	20
Feb. 7	Urban Growth, <b>Melosi Quiz</b>	<b>21</b>
14	Agrarian Revolt and Politics of late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	22
21	<b>Exam #1 (19-22); American Society 1890s</b> (24th last drop day)	21
28	Imperialism	23
Mar. 6	Progressive Movement (NO CLASS 11 <sup>th</sup> )	24
13	Spring Break	
20	World War I	25
27	1920s. (No class 29 <sup>th</sup> )	26-27
April 3	Exam #2 (23-27) Depression and New Deal	28
10	World War II; Youngs Quiz	29-30
17	Early Cold War and Truman Years.	31
24	Eisenhower Years	32-33
May 1	Civil Rights through Obama	34-37
15	Final Exam 10:30 am	

### NATURE OF THE COURSE

This survey in modern American history is designed to give the student a broad picture of the growth and development of the United States after Reconstruction, focusing on the transition from a rural agricultural nation to an urban industrial one. Surmounting the difficulties of this transition was a great challenge to the American people and their leaders throughout the first half of the 20th century. Rapid changes in technology, urban growth and immigration eventually led to a new definition of government responsibility, and also to new public attitudes. Moreover, the urban challenge has persisted, along with its social, political and economic implications, and has been manifested by cycles of reform and reaction. An important theme is the constant struggle with the ideal of pluralism. Another central issue during these years is America's rise to world leadership.

Because this is a general education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, students are expected to have demonstrated the following learning outcomes: "key concepts, terminology, principles or theories within the field," "methodological approaches to the field" and "how individuals, groups or institutions are influenced by contextual factors appropriate to the field."

## METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

To a great extent this is a lecture course that will be supplemented with films and with discussion of both the films and the assigned readings. The student must develop a style for taking notes and students are encouraged to ask pertinent questions and to make relevant comments on any material then before the class.

## EXAMINATIONS

The student will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, texts, and class discussions. There are three examinations and two quizzes listed in the syllabus. There will be no make-up examinations without a medical doctor's written excuse, or, without being cleared with the professor ahead of time.

## ATTENDANCE

Full attendance is expected and is necessary because lectures will cover points that are not in the readings, nor do the themes exactly follow the textbook chronology. It will be considered in the final grade. According to the university catalogue, "students are expected to attend the class periods of the course for which they register. In-class participation is important to the individual student and to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of non-participation."

## ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

For every two unexcused absences, there will be a full grade drop in one's participation grade. Any combination of being tardy or leaving class early five times without an adequate reason will result in a full grade drop. An excused absence must be supported with a written note from a medical doctor, or, through consultation with the professor.

## HONOR CODE

This code applies to all examinations and written work. This means that you may neither give nor receive any information during an examination. It also means that you may not use any material, written or oral, during an exam. Guidelines for assigned papers will be discussed as the projects arise, but at all times the student must guard against plagiarism.

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

In this survey class, computer skills are not required to complete the work; however, it is helpful to use e-mail, and it is virtually essential to know word processing.

#### CELL PHONES, ETC.

Cell phones, earphones, cameras, radios, or any communication devices are not to be used in class at any time! Please turn off your cell phones before the start of class. Lap top computers may be used in the front rows for taking notes, but not for exams or anything else; screens will be randomly inspected.

#### GRADING

Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade; the two quizzes are worth 20% combined; and participation is worth 20%.

#### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

If anyone has a physical condition that requires a special seating location, please see me after class.

#### OFFICE HOURS, E-MAIL ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBERS

My office is in Robinson B 226C, second floor

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:15-11:45 am; Wednesday 2:00-2:30 pm

Telephone: Department 703.993.1250; Home 703.222.7338

E-mail: [tmccord@gmu.edu](mailto:tmccord@gmu.edu)

E-mail: Scott Ackerman, [sackerm2@gmu.edu](mailto:sackerm2@gmu.edu)