

HIST 122: 001 Development of Modern America

Fall, 2010

Professor Spencer Crew

Email: screw@gmu.edu

TR 10:30 –11:45 pm

East Building 122

Office Hours: East Building 207 B Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 – 1:00, and by appointment

NATURE OF THE COURSE AND ITS OBJECTIVES

This course will explore the events and the individuals that shaped the development of the United States from 1876 to the present. This is a time of tremendous change for the nation as it becomes a world power, experiences the immigration of millions of new people, undergoes a tremendous growth of its cities, is shaken by the dropping of the atomic bomb and the start of the cold war, copes with civil rights and anti-war activists, experiences a technology revolution, and elects its first African American president. How the nation reacts to and adjusts to these many changes is the focus of the course. It also will examine how these past events have impacted and shaped our present day world

EXAMINATIONS

Students are responsible for the material covered in lectures, texts, and class discussions. There are **three** exams in the course including the final examination. There will be no make-up exams without a medical doctor's written excuse or without the prior permission of the professor before the exam.

ATTENDANCE

Full attendance is expected as lectures and discussions will cover ideas not in the texts or readings. Attendance will be considered in the final grade. Participation in class discussions will also factor into the final grade. Students are expected to come to class on time, to have read the assignments, and prepared to contribute to class discussion.

CALCULATION OF GRADES

A total of 275 points are possible in this class. There are two exams during the semester and a final examination. The two exams will have a value of 75 points each and the final exam will have a value of 100 points. You are also expected to read a biography of an important **American** historical figure and write a two or three page book report. This will have a value of 25 points. Finally your attendance and participation in class discussions also will have an impact on your final grade. This will be judged on how well prepared you come to join in class discussions and on consistent on-time attendance of class. Missing class without a legitimate excuse approved by the professor before the class will result in a lower class participation score.

BOOK REVIEW

You are required to read and write a book review before the end of the semester. The book must be a biography of an important figure in **American** history. You may decide what book you wish to read and the person may come from any period from post-reconstruction to the present. *The book must be approved by the professor in order to get credit for the report.* The book review must be at least two pages and no more than three pages. It will be worth 25 points in the class.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students who choose to write a second book review on an approved book will receive 10 points of extra credit.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

If you require any type of special accommodation, testing or otherwise, please see me privately at the start of the semester. You must provide proper documentation and we will then make any needed adjustments. Also, if you have other issues in your life which arise that will affect the quality of your work; contact me *as early as* possible so we can discuss how to take these challenges into account.

Drop/Add deadlines:

Last Day to Add: September 14, 2010
Last Day to Drop: October 1, 2010
Selective Withdrawal Period: October 4 - October 29, 2010

EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE HONOR CODE IN ALL THE WORK THEY PERFORM. VIOLATION OF THE HONOR CODE WILL RESULT IN FAILURE ON THE ASSIGNMENT OR FAILURE IN THE COURSE, DEPENDING ON HOW SEVERE THE INFRACTION.

TEXTS

David Goldfield et al *The American Journey*, Volume 2: Since 1877

Michael P. Johnson **Reading The American Past Selected Historical Documents**, Volume II: From 1865

Larry Madaras and James M. SoRelle *Taking Sides Clashing Views in United States History*, Volume 2

CLASSROOM TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Sept. 2	END OF RECONSTRUCTION
	<i>American Journey</i> , pp. 451-457
	<i>Reading the Past</i> , pp. 18-21;84-88
Sept. 7	WESTWARD EXPANSION
	<i>American Journey</i> , Chapter 19
	<i>Reading the Past</i> , pp. 26-40
Sept. 9	THE WILD WEST
	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 2
Sept. 14	INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

American Journey, pp.487-503

Reading the Past, pp.41-55; 88-96

Taking Sides, pp. 54-55, 76-77

Sept. 16 IMMIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

American Journey, pp. 503-510, 512-519

Reading the Past, pp. 60-74

Taking Sides, Issue 4

Sept. 21. THE RISE OF SEGREGATION

American Journey, pp. 472-485

Sept. 23 BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AND ISSUES OF RACE

Reading the Past, pp. 115-122

Taking Sides, Issue 6

Sept. 28 EXPANDING BEYOND THE BORDERS

American Journey, Chapter 22

Reading the Past, pp. 97-101

Sept. 30 **First Test**

Oct. 5 NEW PERSPECTIVES AND THE PROGRESSIVES

American Journey, Chapter 21

Reading the Past, pp. 102-109

Oct. 7 DID THE PROGRESSIVES MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Taking Sides, Issue 7

Oct.. 12 ON THE WORLD STAGE

American Journey, Chapter 23

Reading the Past, pp. 123-133

Oct. 14 WILSON AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Taking Sides, Issue 8

Oct. 19 REBUILDING AFTER WORLD WAR I

American Journey, Chapter 24

Reading the Past, pp. 133-137,148-154

Oct. 21 WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND THE ROARING TWENTIES

American Journey, Chapters 24

Reading the Past, pp. 155-158

Oct. 26 THE GREAT DEPRESSION

American Journey, pp. Chapter 25

Reading the Past, pp. 144-147

Oct. 28 THE NEW DEAL

Reading the Past, pp.164-174, 181-185

Taking Sides, Issue 10

Nov. 2 WORLD WAR II AND THE ISSUE THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

American Journey, Chapter 26

Reading the Past, pp. 187-197, 204-207

Nov. 4 **Second Test**

Nov. 9 COLD WAR AND THE RISE OF Mc CARTHY

American Journey, Chapter 27

Reading the Past, pp. 214-225

Nov 11 1950'S AND ROCK AND ROLL

American Journey, pp. 784-802

Taking Sides, Issue 13

Nov. 16 THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

American Journey, pp. 803-813,825-830

Reading the Past, pp.239-243, 259-268.

Taking Sides, Issue 14

Nov. 18 VIETNAM AND THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT

American Journey, pp. 814-825,830-835

Reading the Past, pp. 251-258,276-281

Taking Sides, Issue 15

Nov. 23 THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Taking Sides, Issue 16
Reading the Past, pp.230-235, 268-271, 306-310

Nov. 30 CONSERVATISM AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER
American Journey, pp.835-846
Reading the Past, pp. 294-306
Taking Sides, Issue 17

Dec. 2 PARTICIPATING IN A GLOBAL COMMUNITY
American Journey, Chapter 30, pp. 883-904
Reading the Past, pp. 310-318

Dec. 7 IMPACT OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001
American Journey, pp. 904-913
Reading the Past, pp. 319-341

Dec. 9 THE ELECTION OF 2008
How Obama Won the Presidency: A look at social mood's role in Barack Obama's presidential victory – and how it will continue to influence his presidency.
<http://www.elliottwave.com/freeupdates/archives/2009/01/20/How-Obama-Won-the-Presidency.aspx>
How Obama Won The Presidency Confessions of a Closet Republican
<http://republicaninthearts.blogspot.com/2008/11/how-obama-won-presidency.html>

Book Review due

Dec. 14 **Final Exam 10:30 am – 1:15 pm**