

HIST 202 – Survey of American History II

Spring 2012

T/Th, 8-9:15, 9:30-10:45

Classroom: Capers 402

Office Hours: T/Th, 1:00-2:30, 4:00-5:00, or by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Joe Renouard

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Office: Capers 425A

This course provides an introduction to the history of the United States since 1877. We will use a variety of materials to facilitate our understanding of modern American history, and we will consider the nation's development against the backdrop of the classic conflicts of the modern world: democracy vs. elitism; individualism vs. collectivism; majority rule vs. individual and minority rights; federal vs. local power; and the like. Major topics will include the Gilded Age, social movements, the world wars, popular culture, consumerism, the Vietnam War, and globalization.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- George Tindall & David Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 8th ed., Vol. 2 (WW Norton, 2010) **[We will refer to this book as *Tindall*.]**
- Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day* (Simon and Schuster, 1994)
- Jack Black, *You Can't Win* (AK Press/Nabat, 2000)
- Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation* (Harper Perennial, 2005)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Quizzes

There will be five quizzes. These will normally consist of questions based on that day's readings or the previous day's notes. *Quizzes will begin when class begins, so show up on time.* Makeup quizzes are not allowed, except in the case of a documented emergency.

2. Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The material for these exams will come from classroom lectures and our three paperbacks.

3. Paper

You will write a 5-7 page paper on a modern U.S. history topic. Further details will be distributed early in the semester.

4. Student-Led Discussions

Everyone is required to lead the class discussion once during the semester. On your discussion day, you must turn in a 1-page outline of ideas and discussion questions. Further details will be distributed early in the semester.

5. Attendance and Participation

Your participation grade will be calculated from the quality of your comments during discussions. Our regular discussion sessions are marked in the schedule below. Be sure

to bring the relevant books to class on those days, and be prepared to discuss the material. I will clarify each discussion assignment beforehand. A few brief homework assignments will also be counted as part of your participation grade.

CLASS RULES:

- Make-up exams will only be allowed for documented medical or family emergencies. If you must miss an exam in order to participate in a school activity, contact me before the exam to work out an alternative time.
- Attendance and participation are expected. I may call on you at any time. Arrive on time and to be prepared to participate. Sleeping or “zoning out” will not be tolerated. Have a pen and notebook with you at all times.
- If you do not turn in an assignment on time, I will deduct ten points immediately, and I will deduct ten additional points for each late day thereafter. I will not accept e-mailed papers or papers that are more than one week late.
- ****E-mail policy:** I prefer face-to-face contact, which is more beneficial for both the student and the teacher. If you need to speak with me, I suggest that you see me after class or visit my office during normal office hours.
- You may bring drinks to class, but please do not bring food.

Final grades will be determined in the following manner:

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	20%
Paper	20%
Discussion Leading and Participation	20%

90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, 0-59 = F

Course Schedule

1/12 – Introduction: Major Themes

1/17 – **Defining Citizenship: Reconstruction, the South, and the West**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 18-19

***First homework assignment due (1/17)**

1/19, 1/24, 1/26 – **Wealth or Commonwealth?: Labor and Big Business**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 20-22

1/31 – **Riding the Rails: The Criminal Underworld**

READ: Jack Black, *You Can't Win*, Foreword, Ch. 1-15, 24 (the other chapters, Afterword, and Appendix are recommended)

****QUIZ** and student-led discussion

2/2 – *You Can't Win* (continued)

2/7, 2/9 – **Americans Look Abroad: Foreign Relations, Imperialism, and War**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 23

***Second homework assignment due (2/9)**

2/14, 2/16 – **Reform at Home and Abroad: Progressivism and World War I**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 24-25

2/21, 2/23 – **The Interwar Years: Consumerism, Depression, and New Deal**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 26-28

****QUIZ** and student-led discussion on Ch. 26-27 (2/21)

2/28 – **From Isolation to World War**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 29 (Ch. 30 recommended)

3/1 – ****MIDTERM EXAM**

3/6 – **D-Day**

READ: Ryan, *The Longest Day*, Parts I and III (Part II recommended)

****QUIZ** and student-led discussion

3/8 – **Hiroshima and the War's End**

In class: Atomic bomb debate, Van Kirk interview

***Third homework assignment due**

3/13, 3/15 – **From World War to Cold War: Truman, Containment, and *Film Noir***

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 31-33

3/20 – **Conformity and Dissent: McCarthyism**

3/22 – **Civil Rights, Vietnam, and the Turbulent 60s**

SPRING BREAK: 3/23-4/1

4/3, 4/5 – The 60s (cont'd)

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 34

****QUIZ** and student-led discussion on Ch. 34 (4/5)

4/10, 4/12 – **The Sexual Revolution and Women's Liberation**

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 35

In class: Sexual revolution and women's rights debate

4/17 – **America in the Age of Globalization: How We Live, Work . . . and Eat**

READ: Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*: Introduction, Ch. 1-8, Epilogue (Ch. 9-10 optional)

****QUIZ** and student-led discussion

4/19 – Globalization and *Fast Food Nation* (cont'd)

READ: TINDALL, Ch. 36-37

4/24 – Last Class Session

****Final Paper due**

****FINAL EXAM**, details TBA