History of the United States Since the Civil War  
HIS 203-830

Course Description: This survey course employs a lecture format to examine central issues and events in the history of the United States and its territories from the end of the Civil War to the present. Among the topics that will be considered are the post Civil War era including Reconstruction, industrialization, America’s emergence as an imperial power, the growth of the American labor movement, the Progressive Era, the Women’s Suffrage Movement, World War I, the Great Depression, World II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the War in Vietnam, and the post Cold War era.

Instructional Process: Instruction involves the utilization of multiple tracks, or sources. Each track is linked overall, and often times interdependent, but yet independent from the other tracks. The primary text constitutes only one track. The secondary text comprises another track. A third track is the ancillary reading, *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair. A fourth track is comprised of another ancillary reading, the book *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O’Brien. The class lecture (with notes) is another track. Films and videos constitute a sixth track. The seventh track consist of magazine articles or any other form of readings assigned and placed the class web site, on e-reserve on the library’s website, or e-mailed as an attachment. The student is responsible for all of the material of each source.


Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 am -12:40 pm; or by appointment.

Office Location: Room 212 Mahar  Mail: Campus- Political Science Department, 435 Mahar Hall

E-Mail: ruddy@oswego.edu  Note: Please list the course in which you are enrolled in the subject line.

Important: e-mail is the course’s primary mode of communication

Web site: www.oswego.edu/~ruddy  Telephones: Political Science Department: 312-2350

Telephones: During Office Hours Only: 312-3414  Home- 298-3634 (urgent messages only)

Course Objectives: Students will be able to:

(1) Gain knowledge concerning the interrelationships of political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual forces involved in historical change;

(2) Demonstrate a working knowledge of the social, cultural and historical context in which the significant events of American history have occurred;
(3) Demonstrate the skills necessary for critical and factual analysis about the study of American history not dominated by political ideology or cultural mythology;

(4) Know the major interpretations of crucial periods in American history and identify the impact of geographic, political, and cultural diversity upon the American social development in those periods;

(5) Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of historical events upon present-day America and an appreciation of present events as history.

Evaluation:

Tests: There are four tests covering the preceding lessons, including the primary text readings, secondary text readings, class notes, lectures, videos and articles. Two separate quizzes will be given regarding the ancillary readings. Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice and short essay. Tests missed must be made up during office hours within one week of your return to class. Absence from any testing requires either permission prior to the absence or an excuse from a medical professional, written on medical script.

Note: The Fourth Test will be part of the final exam, that is, attached to the front of the exam as a separate testing instrument.

Secondary Text Questions: Each of the four tests contain questions related to readings assigned each week from the secondary text.

Ancillary Readings Questions: There are two separate quizzes for two ancillary readings. Though there is specific testing on these sources there will be references to these readings in the lectures for which the student will be responsible.

Final Exam: The final exam is administered during the time set forth in the university’s exam schedule. The test is valued at 100 points. The test is divided into three sections; sixty multiple choice review questions (1 point each), brief broad overview questions, and essay questions.

Class Participation: Each student is expected to take notes and to contribute to the discussions of the class in a constructive manner (see “Conduct” below). This means reading the required material before class and participating in any discussions, debates, or teacher inquiries.

Point Values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test/Quiz #</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test # 1</td>
<td>30 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test # 2</td>
<td>30 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test # 3</td>
<td>30 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz # 1</td>
<td>25 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz # 2</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 300 points.

Grades:

- 280-300 = A
- 270-279 = A-
- 260-269 = B+
- 250-259 = B
- 240-249 = B-
- 230-239 = C+
- 220-229 = C
- 210-219 = C-
- 200-209 = D+
- 190-199 = D
- 180-189 = D-
- 0-179 = E
Student Requirements:

(1) **Attendance:** Attendance is taken at every class. Each student is expected to attend every class. Students are allowed two absences before five points for each absence will be deducted from the final point grade total. Students experiencing attendance problems must consult with the instructor. Acquiring information or fulfilling work missed by the student due to absences or tardiness is the sole responsibility of the student. Any assistance from the instructor regarding such materials, information, or exercises (including tests) is to be dealt with during office hours.

(2) **Tardiness:** Students are expected to be on time for class. Initially, students arriving after attendance has been taken will be charged as one-half an authorized absence. Students who have used their two allotted absences will be charged two points from their total grade for each tardiness. Students missing more than half the class are charged proportionately at the instructor’s discretion. The first five minutes of each class often contain important procedural announcements which the student must know.

(3) **Early Departure:** Any student who departs class without permission after having signed in and before the instruction has concluded will be required for the remainder of the semester to sign in at the end of class in the presence of the instructor to be counted as having attended the class.

(4) **Conduct:** Despite the tendency on television and radio to foster confrontational and rude behavior during discussions and debates, our class discussions require that all students be treated with, and respond with, the respect and courteous conduct essential to the practice of democracy.

(5) **Attentiveness:** Students must be fully attentive at all times. Inattentive students will be encouraged publicly to conform to class norms; i.e., no talking during lecture, no use of cell phones, audio devices, and no sleeping. There will be two warnings; a third violation the student will be asked to leave class.

(6) **Cheating:** No form of cheating or plagiarism is tolerated. Students involved as either the initiator or the accomplice will receive no credit for the test, exam or written assignment. Any student found cheating or plagiarizing will be required to take all remaining tests or exams in my office.

**Disabilities:** Any student diagnosed during elementary or secondary school as having a disability, a learning disability, or if you have not been diagnosed but you believe you are experiencing inexplicable or inordinate difficulty, you should refer to the Disability Services website on the college’s web page.

**Important Notice**

**Website Notes:** The basic outline of the class notes is posted on this course’s section of the website:

www.oswego.edu/~ruddy

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**However:** this accommodation should not be seen as a substitute for taking notes during class. In the event that the notes are not placed on the website or if there is a technology failure which prohibits access to the website edition of the notes, no steps will be taken to either offer an alternative source of the notes, to alter or postpone testing. In short, attend class, take notes, and use the website notes as merely a check on your own note taking or for emergencies.
Schedule of Classes

Week One

Tuesday—August 29—(1) Administrative Tasks; (2) **Lecture Topic:** Course Introduction; **Reading assignments:** (3) Ayers, et al., *A Guide to Using Primary Sources*, p. x.; (4) Ayers, et al., Chapter 15, *Blood and Freedom*, pp. 333-346; (5) Belmonte, 12.1 & 12.2; (6) Sinclair, Chapters 1 & 2.

Thursday—August 31—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Surrender and Dismantling of the Confederacy; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 15, *Blood and Freedom, 1863-1867*, pp. 346-357; (3) Belmonte, 12.3, 12.4 and 12.5; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 3 & 4.

Week Two

Tuesday—September 5—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Reconstruction of the South; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 16, *Reconstruction Abandoned 1867-1877*, pp. 358-370; (3) Belmonte, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8 and 12.9; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 5 & 6.

Thursday—September 7—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Post-Reconstruction Retrenchment; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 16, *Reconstruction Abandoned 1867-1877*, pp. 370-380; (3) Belmonte, 12.10, 12.11, 13.1 and 13.2; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 7, 8 & 9.

Week Three

Tuesday—September 12—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Post-War Industrial Expansion; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 17, *The Economic Transformation of America, 1877-1887*, pp. 386-398; (3) Belmonte, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5 and 13.6; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 10 & 11.

Thursday—September 14—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Concentrated Wealth and Political Power; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 17, *The Economic Transformation of America, 1877-1887*, pp. 398-410; (3) Belmonte, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 13.10 and 13.11 (4) Sinclair, Chapters 12, 13 & 14.

Week Four

Tuesday—September 19—(1) **Lecture Topic:** Grassroots Responses to Industrialism; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 18, *Urban Growth and Farm Protest, 1887-1893*, pp. 411-421 (3) Belmonte, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 15 & 16.

Thursday—September 21—(1) **Lecture Topic:** The Founders and Industrialism?; **Reading assignments:** (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 18, *Urban Growth and Farm Protest, 1887-1893*, pp. 421-433; (3) Belmonte, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7 & 14.8; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 17, 18 & 19.
Week Five

**Tuesday– September 26**– (1) Lecture Topic: Industrialism and The Pursuit of Empire; Reading assignments: (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 19, *Domestic Turmoil and Overseas Expansion, 1893-1901*, pp. 434-444; (3) Belmonte, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3 & 15.4; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 20 & 21.

**Thursday– September 28**– (1) Lecture Topic: America Acquires an Empire; Reading assignments for next class: (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 19, *Domestic Turmoil and Overseas Expansion, 1893-1901*, pp. 444-458; (3) Belmonte, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7 & 15.8; (4) Sinclair, Chapters 22 & 23.

Week Six

**Tuesday– October 3**– No Class– Monday, October 2


Week Seven


Week Eight


Week Nine

**Tuesday– October 24**– (1) Lecture Topic: The Origins of World War I; Reading assignments: (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 22, *The Impact of World War I, 1914-1921*, pp. 510-521; (4) Belmonte, 17.1, 17.2, & 17.3; (4) O’Brien, Chapter 4 & 5.
Thursday– October 26— (1) Lecture Topic: World War I and Its Legacy; Reading assignments: (2) Ayers, et al., Chapter 22, *The Impact of World War I, 1914-1921.* pp. 521-536; (3) Belmonte, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6 & 17.7; (4) O’Brien, Chapters 6, 7 & 8.

Week Ten


Week Eleven

Tuesday– November 7 – (1) Test #2: Ayers, et al., Chapters 19, 20, 21, & 22 and Belmonte 15.1 - 17.7; (2) Lecture Topic: The Collapse of the House of Cards; Reading assignments: (3) Ayers, et al., Chapter 24, *The Great Depression, 1927-1928.* pp. 562-573; (4) Belmonte, 18.5, 18.6, 18.7 & 18.8; (5) O’Brien, Chapters 10, 11, 12 & 13.


Week Twelve


Week Thirteen


Thursday— *No Class– Thanksgiving Holiday*

Week Fourteen


Week Fifteen


Week Sixteen

Monday–December 11 – Friday– December 15 – Exams

Note: The Fourth Test will be part of the final exam, that is, attached to the front of the exam but a separate testing instrument. Though you will be responsible for the materials covered, none of the materials covered since the Third Test will be in the review segments of the Final Exam.