

HIST 1502-001—United States History since 1877
University of Connecticut, Fall 2011
Professor Micki McElya, Department of History
Lecture, Monday & Wednesday, 10:00-10:50, and Discussion, Friday
Physics Building, Room 36

Office Hours/Contact Info:

McElya, Tuesdays, 11:00-12:45, and by appointment
226 Wood Hall
e-mail: micki.mcelya@uconn.edu

Teaching Assistants:

Kate Aguilar, katelyn.aguilar@uconn.edu, sections 001, 004, 007
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Kevin Finefrock, kevin.finefrock@uconn.edu, sections 003, 006, 009
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Allison Horrocks, allison.horrocks@uconn.edu, sections 002, 005, 008
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30, and by appointment, 206 Wood Hall

Course Description and Expected Outcomes:

This course examines the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. Engaging a range of approaches, we will consider political, economic, cultural, and social histories while paying particular attention to gender, race, sexuality, class, region, nation, and shifting global contexts. We will explore the ways in which we learn and narrate stories of America's past, individually and collectively, and address the profound consequences this holds not only for general historical understanding and practice, but also for analyzing the nation's present, future, and the wider workings of power. This class draws upon a variety of texts, including narrative history, journalism, government documents, legal decisions, visual culture, fiction, music, material culture, and documentary and feature film.

Students in this class will:

- Acquire a set of themes, narratives, and questions for thinking about the broad sweep of U.S. history since 1877
- Examine the diversity of American histories in this period
- Understand race, gender, class, sexuality, region, and nation as interdependent categories of identity, experience, and historical analysis
- Situate contemporary events, politics, and American experiences in their historical contexts
- Become more conversant with a range of methodologies for the study of American history
- Hone critical reading, verbal expression, writing, and test-taking skills

The course is structured around two lectures and a discussion section each week. On Mondays and Wednesdays we will all meet together in PB 36 where Professor McElya will provide analytical frameworks, pose questions, and present information and documents that are not necessarily covered in the textbook. These lectures **will not** be reiterations of factual information from assigned readings, but are designed with the understanding that you are reading the texts on the schedule described below. On Fridays you will meet with your TA to discuss information from lectures, the textbook chapters, documents from the reader, and the (mostly) visual sources posted weekly on HuskyCT. You will also use this time to go over assignments, get feedback, and review for exams. *It is critical that you complete all reading assignments for the week and take a look at the course HuskyCT site before Friday meetings.* The best approach is to read assigned textbook chapters for Mondays and documents for Fridays. This

will allow you to get the most out of lecture and discussion. You should make it a habit to check HuskyCT regularly for course announcements, helpful links, and documents.

The HuskyCT main page for this class can be reached at:
<https://lms.uconn.edu/webct/logon/365463527011>

Requirements and Class Policies:

Participation: Your success in this class requires thoughtful participation and the completion of all readings and assignments. Each student is expected to attend every class meeting, to be on time, to have read completely and with care all assignments, and to engage actively and intelligently in discussions. While attendance does not comprise a numerical part of your grade, it bears noting that you cannot participate if you are not in class.

The assignments are:

- **Five Response Papers** of no more and no fewer than two pages on questions provided a week in advance due at the beginning of section on the Fridays of your choosing. The questions will be posted on HuskyCT by Friday morning a week before they are due. Response papers cannot be e-mailed to the professor or TAs. You must hand them to your TA at the beginning of section in hardcopy. You have control over your response writing schedule and should make plans based on your interests, your other assignments and exams for this course, and the work and due dates in your other classes. It is to your best advantage not to wait until the second half of the term to get started, however. Late response papers *will not be accepted*. Please see the grading rubric for more detail on this assignment.
- **A 50-minute midterm and 2-hour final exam** to be written in class using exam books that will be provided for you. We will hand out review sheets in advance. You will be allowed to bring one 8.5 x 11” sheet of paper with notes to the exam that you must hand in with your test book.

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Participation	=	15%
Response Papers	=	30%
Midterm exam	=	25%
Final exam	=	30%

Accessibility: To request accommodations for a disability you must first contact the Center for Students with Disabilities. Located in room 204 of the Wilbur Cross Building, you can also reach them at 860.486.2020, csd@uconn.edu, or on the web at <http://www.csd.uconn.edu>. You must have the appropriate forms from this office before we can arrange accommodations.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct: I take academic honesty and integrity very seriously, and expect everyone in my classes to do so as well. Cheating and plagiarism, which includes the misrepresentation of another’s ideas as your own as well as copying word-for-word from another source, will not be tolerated. Any case of misconduct will be handled in accordance with the guidelines established in *The Student Code* as they are outlined at http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code_appendixa.html.

Cell phones: I don’t want to see or hear them in class. Please turn ringers off before we start and no texting! Laptops are permitted for note taking, but please do not surf the web. It is not only distracting for you, but to everyone around and behind you.

Readings:

The following books are required for the course. They are bundled and available for purchase at the Cop and on reserve at Homer Babbidge Library.

Roark, et. al., *The American Promise: A Compact History* volume two, from 1865, fourth edition (2010).

Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents* volume two, fourth edition (2009).

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**Week One: The Ends of Reconstruction, 1865-1877**

Monday, 8/29—What is the American Promise? (course introduction)

Wednesday, 8/31—*The American Promise*, Chapter 16

Friday, 9/2—Documents 16-2, 16-4 & HuskyCT documents

Week Two: The West, 1870-1890

Monday, 9/5—**Labor Day! No class.**

Wednesday, 9/7—*The American Promise*, Chapter 17

Friday, 9/9—Documents 17-2, 17-3, 17-4 & HuskyCT documents

Week Three: The Gilded Age

Monday, 9/12—*The American Promise*, Chapter 18

Wednesday, 9/14—*The American Promise*, Chapter 19

Friday, 9/16—Documents 18-2, 18-4, 19-1, 19-2 & HuskyCT documents

Week Four: Changing U.S. Imperialism, 1890-1900

Monday, 9/19—*The American Promise*, Chapter 20

Wednesday, 9/21—*The American Promise*, Chapter 20

Friday, 9/23—20-1, 20-2, 20-5 & HuskyCT documents

Week Five: The Progressive Era, 1900-1916

Monday, 9/26—*The American Promise*, Chapter 21

Wednesday, 9/28—*The American Promise*, Chapter 21

Friday, 9/30—21-1, 21-5, 21-6 & HuskyCT documents

Week Six: Making the World Safe for Democracy? 1914-1920

Monday, 10/3—*The American Promise*, Chapter 22

Wednesday, 10/5—*The American Promise*, Chapter 22

Friday, 10/7—22-2, 22-4 & HuskyCT documents

Week Seven: The “New” Era and Great Depression, 1920-1932

Monday, 10/10—*The American Promise*, Chapter 23

Wednesday, 10/12—*The American Promise*, Chapter 23

Friday, 10/14—23-3, 23-4, 23-5 & HuskyCT documents

Week Eight: The New Deal, 1932-1940

Monday, 10/17—*The American Promise*, Chapter 24

Wednesday, 10/19—*The American Promise*, Chapter 24

Friday, 10/21—24-2, 24-3, 24-5 & HuskyCT documents

Week Nine: Midterm Exam & WWII, 1941-1945

Monday, 10/24—MIDTERM

Wednesday, 10/26—*The American Promise*, Chapter 25

Friday, 10/28—25-3, 25-4, 25-5 & HuskyCT documents

Week Ten: Cold War, Affluence, and Disparity, 1945-1960

Monday, 10/31 —*The American Promise*, Chapter 26

Wednesday, 11/2—*The American Promise*, Chapter 26

Friday, 11/4—26-2, 26-3, 26-4 & HuskyCT documents

Week Eleven: *film screening in class*—“Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (1956)

Monday, 11/7—*The American Promise*, Chapter 27

Wednesday, 11/9—*The American Promise*, Chapter 27

Friday, 11/11—HuskyCT documents

Week Twelve: From Freedom to Liberation, 1960-1968

Monday, 11/14—*The American Promise*, Chapter 28

Wednesday, 11/16—*The American Promise*, Chapter 28

Friday, 11/18—28-1, 28-3, 28-4, 28-5 & HuskyCT documents

Week Thirteen: Monday, 11/21 – Friday, 11/25—Thanksgiving Break, No Class!

Week Fourteen: Vietnam, Conservatism, and “Culture Wars,” 1968-1988

Monday, 11/28—*The American Promise*, Chapter 29

Wednesday, 11/30—*The American Promise*, Chapter 30

Friday, 12/2—27-5, 29-1, 30-1, 30-3 & HuskyCT documents

Week Fifteen: Globalization and Neoliberalism, 1989-2011

Monday, 12/5—*The American Promise*, Chapter 31

Wednesday, 12/7—*The American Promise*, Chapter 31

Friday, 12/9—final exam review and course wrap

Final Exam (preliminary time): Monday, December 12, 10:30-12:30