



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

HI903 American History Since 1865

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| Instructor: | Dr. Henry Maar | Email: | hrmaar@gmail.com |
| Instructor's Home Institution: | UC Santa Barbara | Office: | TBD |
| Office Hours: | TBD | | |
| Term: | May 27-June 27, 2019 | Credits: | 4 units |
| Classroom: | TBD | Teaching Assistant(s): | TBD |
| Class Hours: | Monday through Thursday, 120 mins per teaching day | | |
| Discussion Sessions: | 2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s) | | |
| Total Contact Hours: | 66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total) | | |
| Required Texts (with ISBN): | The American Yawp (free online text), http://www.americanyawp.com/ We will use this as our primary text, with supplementary readings as necessary. | | |
| Prerequisite: | | | |



Course Overview

This course explores how the United States completed the transformation, begun in the nineteenth century, from a rural and agricultural society to an urban and industrial one, and then moved into the post-industrial era. The course also charts America's transformation from a nation with relatively modest geopolitical ambitions to a superpower of global reach. The course considers both the efforts of governments and elites to manage these transitions and the struggles of ordinary people to advance their interests and reform the larger society. The course also explores the role of elite and popular culture in chronicling and transforming American politics and society.

Course Goals

The course has three main purposes. The first is to present students with information about and interpretations of American experiences since World War I. The course will emphasize the diversity of those experiences even as it seeks to discover common themes. The second purpose is to introduce students to (or deepen their familiarity with) the discipline of history. By reading works of historical scholarship as well as original historical documents, students will see for themselves how historians ply their craft—what kinds of evidence they use and how they interpret that evidence to illuminate the past. The third purpose of the course, closely related to the second, is to challenge students to think critically about U.S. history. Students will learn how to identify and critique scholarly arguments in the work of professional historians, and how to construct historical arguments of their own. This course will routinely explore sensitive and controversial topics. Your teaching assistant and I will not guide you to one single “right” answer—for there is no such thing. Instead, we will help you to develop your critical thinking skills through historical investigation. Although names, dates, and events are important, the learning emphasis will be on applying those methods in the construction of historical arguments using both primary and secondary sources.

Grading Policy

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| Class Attendance | 15% |
| Weekly Assignments (x5) | 15% |
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 20% |
| Final exam | 30% |



Grading Scale is as follows:

| Number grade | Letter grade | GPA |
|--------------|--------------|-----|
| 90-100 | A | 4 |
| 85-89 | A- | 3.7 |
| 80-84 | B+ | 3.3 |
| 75-79 | B | 3 |
| 70-74 | B- | 2.7 |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.3 |
| 65-66 | C | 2 |
| 62-64 | C- | 1.7 |
| 60-61 | D | 1 |
| ≤59 | F (Failure) | 0 |



Class Schedule

| Day | Lecture | Chapter |
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| Day 1 | Intro/Civil War and Reconstruction | American Yawp, Ch.14 “Civil War” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/14-the-civil-war and Ch. 15, “Reconstruction” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/15-reconstruction/ |
| Day 2 | Industrialization, Populism, and Life in the Gilded Age | American Yawp, Ch. 16, “Capital and Labor,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/16-capital-and-labor/ and Ch. 18, “Life in Industrial America” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/18-industrial-america/ |
| Day 3 | Empire Abroad, Progressivism at Home | American Yawp, Ch. 19, “The American Empire,” http://www.com/text/19-american-empire/ and Ch. 20, “The Progressive Era” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/20-the-progressive-era/ |
| Day 4 | World War I and Wilsonianism | American Yawp, Chapter 21, “World War I,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/21-world-war-i/ |
| Day 5 | The Roaring 20s and the Great Depression | American Yawp, Chapter 22, “The Twenties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/22-the-twenties/ and American Yawp, Chapter 23, “The Great Depression” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/23-the-great-depression/ |
| Day 6 | World War II at Home and Abroad | American Yawp, Chapter 24, “World War 24,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/24-world-war-ii/ |



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| Day 7 | The Cold War Abroad and the Red Scare at Home | American Yawp, Chapter 25, “The Cold War,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/25-the-cold-war/ |
| Day 8 | Exam 1 | |
| Day 9 | The Early Civil Rights Movement and the Cold War in the 1950s | American Yawp, Chapter 26, “The Affluent Society,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/26-the-affluent-society/ |
| Day 10 | JFK and Sixties Youth Culture; Cuban Missile Crisis | American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27-the-sixties/ |
| Day 11 | The Origins of the Vietnam War and the Kennedy Assassination | American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27-the-sixties/ |
| Day 12 | LBJ, Civil Rights, and the Great Society; Escalation in Vietnam | American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27-the-sixties/ |
| Day 13 | Nixon, the Pentagon Papers, and the end of the Vietnam War | American Yawp, Chapter 28, “The Unraveling,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/28-the-unraveling/ |
| Day 14 | Nixon in the World and the Watergate Scandal | American Yawp, Chapter 28, “The Unraveling,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/28-the-unraveling/ |
| Day 15 | The New Right and the New Cold War | American Yawp, Chapter 29, “The Triumph of the Right,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29-the-triumph-of-the-right/ |



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| Day 16 | Exam 2 | |
| Day 17 | American Culture in the 1970s and 1980s | American Yawp, Chapter 29, "The Triumph of the Right," http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29-the-triumph-of-the-right/ |
| Day 18 | Reagan's America and the End of the Cold War | American Yawp, Chapter 29, "The Triumph of the Right," http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29-the-triumph-of-the-right/ |
| Day 19 | The Recent Past, from Clinton to Obama | American Yawp, Chapter 30, "The Recent Past," http://www.americanyawp.com/text/30-the-recent-past/ |
| Day 20 | Final Exam | |