



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

HI903 American History Since 1865

Instructor Information	Henry Maar Home Institution: UC Santa Barbara Email: hrmaar@gmail.com Office Hours: Determined by Instructor		
Term:	May 25, 2020 - June 19, 2020	Credits:	4 units
Class Hours:	Monday through Friday, 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:	N/A		



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 the American Civil War. 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 By reading works of historical scholarship as well as original historical documents, students will see for themselves how historians ply their craft—what kinds of evidence they use and how they interpret that evidence to illuminate the past.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

Class Attendance	10%
Weekly Assignments (x4)	20%
Midterm	35%
Final exam	35%

Grading Scale

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
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 the Roaring 20s	American Yawp, Chapter 21, “World War I,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/21- world-war-i/ American Yawp, Chapter 22, “The Twenties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/22- the-twenties/
Day 5	The Great Depression; World War II	American Yawp, Chapter 23, “The Great Depression” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/23- the-great-depression/ American Yawp, Chapter 24, “World War 24,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/24- world-war-ii/
Day 6	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 7	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 8	JFK and Sixties Youth Culture; Cuban Missile Crisis	American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27- the-sixties/
Day 9	NO CLASS, STUDY FOR YOUR MIDTERM	
Day 10	MIDTERM EXAM	
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/



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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/
Day 16	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 17	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 18	The Recent Past, from Clinton to Obama	American Yawp, Chapter 30, “The Recent Past,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/30- the-recent-past/
Day 19	NO CLASS, STUDY FOR FINAL	
Day 20	Final Exam	