



Shanghai Jiao Tong University
HI903 American History Since 1865

Instructor Information	TBD		
Term	June 28, 2021 - July 23, 2021	Credits	4 units
Class Hours	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions	2.5 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		
The course might be moved to online delivery due to COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be notified once the decision is made.			



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 By reading works of historical scholarship as well as original historical documents, students will see for themselves how historians ply their craft—what kinds of evidence they use and how they interpret that evidence to illuminate the past.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

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Due to the on-going pandemic, there is a possibility that in-person courses move to online delivery. Students will be notified once the decision is made.

If the in-person courses are to be changed to online courses, we will make a few adjustments:

Lecture: Each lecture will be uploaded on SJTU SCE online learning platform on a daily basis. Students are required to watch them according to the course schedule.

Discussion: There will be 1 hour of open session on ZOOM every week. The attendance of the discussion is important as it is part of your final score.



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings
Day 1	Lecture 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	Lecture 2: The Gilded Age; Lecture 3: The Conquest of the West	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	Lecture 4: Life in the Industrial Age; Lecture 5: The American Empire	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	Lecture 6: The Progressive Era Lecture 7: World War I	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	Lecture 8: The Roaring ‘20s Lecture 9: The Great Depression	American Yawp, Chapter 23, “The Great Depression” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/23- the-great-depression/
Day 6	Lecture 10: World War III	American Yawp, Chapter 24, “World War 24,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/24- world-war-ii/
Day 7	Lecture 11: The Origins of the Cold War Lecture 12: The Red Scare at Home	American Yawp, Chapter 25, “The Cold War,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/25- the-cold-war/



Day 8	Lecture 13: The Early Civil Rights Movement Lecture 14: Duck and Cover (the Cold War in the 1950s)	American Yawp, Chapter 26, “The Affluent Society,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/26- the-affluent-society/
Day 9	NO CLASS, STUDY FOR YOUR MIDTERM	
Day 10	MIDTERM EXAM	
Day 11	Lecture 15: JFK and Sixties Youth Culture Lecture 16: Crises Abroad, From Berlin to Cuba	American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27- the-sixties/
Day 12	Lecture 17: The Origins of the Vietnam War and the Kennedy Assassination Lecture 18: LBJ, Civil Rights, and the Great Society	American Yawp, Chapter 27, “The Sixties,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/27- the-sixties/
Day 13	Lecture 19: Escalation in Vietnam Lecture 20: 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	Lecture 21: Nixon in the World and the Watergate Scandal Lecture 22: Gerald Ford and the Emerging Culture Wars	American Yawp, Chapter 28, “The Unraveling,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/28- the-unraveling/
Day 15	Lecture 23: Jimmy Carter and the American Decline Lecture 24: 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 16	Lecture 25: Reagan’s America and the End of the Cold War Lecture 26: George H.W. Bush and America in the Post-Cold War World	American Yawp, Chapter 29, “The Triumph of the Right,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29- the-triumph-of-the-right//
Day 17	Lecture 27: Bill Clinton and the Roaring 1990s Lecture 28: George W. Bush and the War on Terror	American Yawp, Chapter 29, “The Triumph of the Right,” http://www.americanyawp.com/text/29- the-triumph-of-the-right/



Day 18	Lecture 29: Barack Obama and the Recent Past	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	