



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

HI903 American History Since 1865 (Online)

Instructor Information	Henry Maar Home Institution: UC Santa Barbara Email: hrmaar@gmail.com		
Term	June 28, 2021 - July 23, 2021	Credits	4 units
Course Delivery	The class will be delivered in the format of online. Other than recorded lecture videos, the instructor will arrange 2-6 hours' real-time interactions with students per week (via discussion forum, zoom meeting, and WeChat). The workload students are expected to complete to properly pass this course is about 15-20 hours per week.		
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 By reading works of historical scholarship as well as original historical documents, students will see for themselves how historians ply their craft—what kinds of evidence they use and how they interpret that evidence to illuminate the past.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.

Online Teaching Arrangements

Each day will usually have two pre-recorded lectures lasting approximately 50 minutes (simulating the in-class experience where we have a ten-minute break between lectures). Some days will only have one lecture as the topic is large and the lecture will go longer than usual. In conjunction with the class TA, students will meet with the instructor approximately 1 hour each week for a Zoom meeting. All slides will be available both as PowerPoint and as smaller PDFs.

Note: I strive to get back to students via email very quickly! However, due to time zone differences, you may not receive a response right away. If at any point in the class you have a question about lecture, homework, or the exams, please email me or send me a message on WeChat. I love the material very much and am happy to explain things or help out if you are feeling behind.



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



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings	Online Teaching Arrangement
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA



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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
Day 6	Lecture 10: World War III	American Yawp, Chapter 24, "World War II" http://www.americanyawp.com/text/24-world-war-ii/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA



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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
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/	Approximately 50 minutes for each lecture video; 1 hour weekly Zoom meeting arranged by our TA
Day 19	NO CLASS, STUDY FOR FINAL		
Day 20	Final Exam		