

HISTORY 2710
U.S. HISTORY, 1877-2000
Fall Semester 2005

Professor Tim Wolters (twolters@hass.usu.edu; 7-1295)

Class: MWF, 1:30 - 2:20pm, Old Main 115

Teaching Assistant: David Vail (ddvail@cc.usu.edu; 7-0146)

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Office hours: MWF, 2:30 - 3:30pm, Old Main 323F, or by appointment (Prof. Wolters)
MWF, 12:00 - 1:00pm, Old Main 321N, or by appointment (TA)

Course Description and Objectives:

This course serves as an introduction to American history from 1877 through the end of the twentieth century. It will cover a broad range of topics, including American culture, politics, foreign relations, military conflicts, social movements, and economic, scientific, and technological developments. Although primarily a lecture course, students' questions and comments are encouraged, both in and out of class.

The objectives of this course are: (1) to provide students with a basic understanding of the American experience from the end of Reconstruction through the Presidential Election of 2000, (2) to expose students to a wide range of historical sources, including but not limited to letters, speeches, memoirs, and work by professional historians, (3) to teach students how to analyze these types of sources, (4) to introduce students to the richness and diversity of the American experience, (5) to improve students' analytical abilities and written communication skills, and (6) to help achieve the university's declared mission of preparing citizen-scholars "to serve the people of Utah, the nation, and the world."

Required Reading:

John Mack Faragher, Mari Jo Buhle, Daniel Czitrom, and Susan H. Armitage, *Out of Many: A History of the American People, Vol. II*, revised 4th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Lendol Calder, *Financing the American Dream: A Cultural History of Consumer Credit*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999 [303 pages].

OR

William M. McBride, *Technological Change and the United States Navy, 1865-1945*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000 [241 pages].

Yoshiko Uchida, *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese-American Family*, 2nd printing. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1995 [154 pages].

OR

Dik A. Daso, *Doolittle: Aerospace Visionary*. Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 2004 [128 pages].

Keith W. Olson, *Watergate: The Presidential Scandal that Shook America*, Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2003 [183 pages].

All of these books are available at the campus bookstore and will be placed on reserve at the Sci-Tech Library. If you decide to buy your books (recommended), earlier editions are acceptable. You must use the revised 4th edition of the main text (Faragher, et al.), however, since previous versions do not include all the material covered in class.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: *Required* readings are NOT OPTIONAL. If you desire to take a course in which you can “get-by” on lecture notes alone, this is not the class for you. Students who fail to do the required readings, *by the assigned due date*, will have great difficulty achieving a passing grade.

Requirements and Grading:

Nine Quizzes (lowest dropped) – 40% (i.e., each quiz counts 5%)

Final Exam (cumulative) – 25%

Mid-Term Exam – 15%

Paper (4-5 pages) – 15%

Class Participation – 5%

Quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester and are based on assigned readings. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. If you have done the assigned reading carefully, you should score well on these quizzes.

The mid-term and final examinations will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. They will be based both on required readings and class lectures.

The paper assignment will be given in early September and will be due on October 28th. Extensions will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. ***In no instance will an extension be granted unless it is requested at least two days prior to the due date.*** Delinquent papers receive a one-letter grade reduction for every class period they are late.

Numeric scores will be given for all the exams. These may be converted to letter grades according to the following scale: 97-100 = A+, 93-96 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, and <60 = F. For the paper, the quizzes, and class participation, a letter grade will be assigned. In calculating a final grade for the course, letter grades will be converted to the highest number on the scale above. For example, an “A+” paper will receive 100 points, an “A” paper 96 points, an “A-” paper 92 points, a “B+” paper 89 points, and so

on down to an “F” paper, which will receive only 50 points. Failure to take a test or turn in your paper will result a score of zero points.

Disability Resource Center:

If accommodations for the course are needed, students should contact the Disability Resource Center, located in the University Inn, Room 101 (7-2444). The Center can provide a copy of this syllabus in a suitable alternate format.

Miscellaneous:

Any cheating, falsification, or presentation of another’s work as your own without proper credit being given (i.e., plagiarism) is a violation of Section V-3 of “The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University” and will lead to one or more of the sanctions described in Section VI-1 of the code. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, see me BEFORE turning in a given assignment.

University policy states that a student may receive an “I” only for extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the family. An incomplete cannot be used to avoid a poor grade or to retain financial aid.

Course Schedule:

MON, AUG 29: Introduction	Begin Calder/McBride
WED, AUG 31: Civil War & Reconstruction	Faragher, 323-343
FRI, SEP 2: Westward Expansion	Faragher, 347-351; 361-364
MON, SEP 5: No Class – Labor Day	
WED, SEP 7: Frontier Life	Faragher, 351-361
FRI, SEP 9: Big Business and Industrialization	Faragher, 369-379
MON, SEP 12: The “Gilded Age”	Calder, 37-73
WED, SEP 14: Populism	Faragher, 390-402
FRI, SEP 16: The Spanish-American War	Faragher, 402-405
MON, SEP 19: The Progressive Era: I	Faragher, 409-419
WED, SEP 21: The Progressive Era: II	Faragher, 419-423
FRI, SEP 23: No Class	
MON, SEP 26: American Imperialism	McBride, 16-37
WED, SEP 28: World War I: Over There	Faragher, 429-433; 440-442
FRI, SEP 30: World War I: The Home Front	Faragher, 433-440
MON, OCT 3: Review: America, 1877-1919	
WED, OCT 5: Mid-Term Exam	Begin Uchida/Daso
FRI, OCT 7: America in the 1920s	Faragher, 447-460

MON, OCT 10:	Hoover and the Great Depression	Faragher, 464-466
WED, OCT 12:	FDR and the First New Deal	Faragher, 466-469
FRI, OCT 14:	FDR and the Second New Deal	Faragher, 469-478
MON, OCT 17:	Origins of World War II	Faragher, 482-487
WED, OCT 19:	World War II: Europe and Africa	Faragher, 492-499
FRI, OCT 21:	World War II: The Pacific	Uchida/Daso Due Date
MON, OCT 24:	World War II: The Home Front	Faragher, 487-492
WED, OCT 26:	World War II: Science and Technology	<i>Handouts Provided</i>
FRI, OCT 28:	Review: America, 1920-1945 (Papers Due)	Begin Reading Olson
MON, OCT 31:	Origins of the Cold War	Faragher, 507-520
WED, NOV 2:	Truman and the Korean War	Faragher, 520-524
FRI, NOV 4:	No Class – Academic Conference	
MON, NOV 7:	Prosperity and “Massive Retaliation”	Faragher, 529-537
WED, NOV 9:	Kennedy and the New Frontier	Faragher, 537-541
FRI, NOV 11:	Civil Rights Movement	Faragher, 546-564
MON, NOV 15:	The Great Society and Vietnam	Faragher, 570-583
WED, NOV 17:	Nixon, Détente, and Vietnam	Faragher, 589-594
FRI, NOV 19:	Energy Crisis; Environmental Awareness	Faragher, 600-606
MON, NOV 21:	Watergate and Its Legacy	Olson Due Date
WED, NOV 23:	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
FRI, NOV 25:	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
MON, NOV 28:	Reagan/Bush Years	Faragher, 606-622
WED, NOV 30:	End of the Cold War	Faragher, 627-630
FRI, DEC 2:	No Class – “Catch-Up” Day	
MON, DEC 5:	Culture Wars; the “New” Economy	Faragher, 630-640
WED, DEC 7:	Clinton as President; election of 2000	<i>Handouts Provided</i>
FRI, DEC 9:	Review: America, 1946-2000	
MON, DEC 12:	Final Exam	11:30am - 1:20pm