

HISTORY 2710: US HISTORY SINCE 1877

Spring 2006 (MWF 9:30-10:20 Main 115)

Dr. Denise Conover

Main 321J; 797-0870; email at conoverd@hass.usu.edu

Graduate Assistant: Justin Hall

Course Description: According to the College Catalog, the purpose of this course is to provide a survey "of the development of American society, economy, culture, and politics since 1877." It is considered a BAI course (Breadth American Institute); for history majors or history teaching majors or history minors, Hist. 2710 counts as one of your "American history" requirements (as does History 2700)

Objectives:

1. To enhance the student's understanding of the US economy (industrial and global)
2. To broaden the student's awareness of the impact of consumerism on American society and its impact on American "values"
3. To increase the student's understanding of the role of the presidency in American economy, society, and war
4. To heighten the student's perception of racism in society and bias in education and politics
5. To promote the student's understanding of the political parties and their agendas in US society since 1900
6. To develop the student's appreciation of American culture, politics, wars, economic development, entertainment

Textbooks:

Your textbook, by Gary Nash, *The American People, Vol. II* includes an electronic learning resource called *My History Lab*. At the bookstore, these two items are purchased together. If the cost is too much a burden, you might want buy the book/lab as a group.

Requirements:

--Responsible class attendance (i.e., no talking with neighbors, sleeping, reading newspaper, doing homework from another class or any other non-responsible behavior). **Note:** You are expected to tell the instructor if you have to leave early; moreover, do not make early departures a habit. If you have to leave 10 to 15 minutes early each class for work, drop this class. You are allowed to come in late—occasionally--up to 15 minutes. After that point, just do not bother to come.

--Unspecified number of class-designated assignments (could be a brief reading assignment from the text, with a brief quiz; could be a written response in class to a video viewed or an assignment read, etc.)

-Text assignments: brief responses based on textbook or the electronic learning resource (points: to be determined)

-Final exam (worth 100 pts.) Exam Week: Friday, May 4 9:30-11:20 am

Warning: I use video material nearly every class; if you do not like visual learning but prefer lecture/exam approach to learning, drop this class immediately! If you prefer socializing to learning, drop this class immediately!

TENTATIVE Topical Class SCHEDULE (i.e., subject to change; follow the reading assignment, however, even if we do not keep up with the topical schedule in class)

FIRST WEEK: Time Frame Gilded Age (1877-1900)

Monday Jan 8 : Introduction to problems of historical study—Alexander Graham Bell-Thomas Watson, Buffalo Bill Cody's "Wild West" show.

Wed. Jan 10: Building of modern industrial America

Fri. Jan 12 Immigration, Urbanization (Video on AI Smith, a young boy in urban, immigrant-oriented New York City in the Gilded Age)

SECOND WEEK: Racism, Imperialism and Consumerism in late 19th-early 20th centuries

Mon. Jan.15 = DR. KING DAY; No Class; School Holiday

Wed. Jan. 17 Racism in Gilded Age America; Ida B. Wells & Carlisle Indian School

Fri. Jan. 19 Consumerism: Richard Sears and Appeal of China

THIRD WEEK: Imperial/Progressive Era

Mon. Jan. 22 TR and War with Spain

Wed. Jan. 24 TR, Progressive President

Fri. Jan. 26 American society in Progressive Era

FOURTH WEEK: Progressive Era & World War I

Mon. Jan. 29 Frances Perkins and women reformers

Wed. Jan. 31 Woodrow Wilson, Henry Ford- Progressive giants

Fri. Feb.2 The Great War

FIFTH WEEK: Impact of Great War—1920s

Mon. Feb. 5 Two Men (FDR, Hitler)

Wed. Feb. 7 "Roaring Twenties"

Fri. Feb. 9 American Society: Issues and Contradictions

SIXTH WEEK: Interwar Years: 20s & 30s (Illusions of Peace & Prosperity)

Mon. Feb. 12 Presidents of the 20s

Wed. Feb. 14 Great Depression Begins

Fri. Feb. 16 Dust Bowl

SEVENTH WEEK: World War II

Mon. Feb. 19 =PRESIDENT'S DAY; No Class; School Holiday

Tu. Feb. 20 (Monday classes meet on Tuesday)—"study day" (i.e., no class)

Wed. Feb.21 WWII & US entrance in 1941

Fri. Feb.23 US & WWII

EIGHTH WEEK: Origins of Cold War (WWII-1950)

Mon. Feb. 26 Soviet-US relations in WWII

Wed. Feb. 28 German issue

Fri. Mar. 2: Atomic issue

NINTH WEEK: Affluence and Anxiety in the 1950s

Monday March 5: Containment in Europe

Wednesday March 7: Containment in Asia

Friday March 9 : Great Life in America; TV & Consumerism

MARCH 12-16 SPRING BREAK

TENTH WEEK: Changing American Society: Civil Rights, TV, Cold War, Space Race

Monday: March 19 TV & Civil Rights & Presidential Involvement

Wednesday March 21: Cold War: Cuba, Space, Vietnam

Friday March 23: Nixon and Watergate

ELEVENTH WEEK: Time of Troubles in the 1970s

Monday March 26: End of Vietnam and Nixon

Wednesday March 28: Ford's Presidency

Friday March 30 : Carter's Presidency

TWELFTH WEEK: 1980s—Reagan and Bush

Monday April 2: Reagan and Cold War's end

Wednesday April 4: Assessment of Reagan's Role

Friday: April 6 Bush: End of Cold War, Gulf War, One-term President

THIRTEENTH WEEK: 1990s—Clinton and Prosperity

Monday April 9: Prosperity, Technology and Partisan Politics

Wednesday April 11: Evangelical Christianity and Conservative Resurgence

Friday April 13: Foreign Policy of the Post-Cold War World

FOURTEENTH WEEK: 21st Century

Monday April 16: 2000 Presidential Election and American Society

Wednesday April 18: 9/11: How and Why Did It Happen?

Friday April 20: War on Terrorism and Implications for US Society

FIFTEENTH WEEK: REVIEW AND NEW

April 23-27: No Test Week;

Friday April 27=Last Day of Class

SIXTEENTH WEEK: FINAL EXAM: This class: Friday May 4 9:30-11:20

Reading schedule: Follow this reading schedule even if we fall behind in classroom-discussed material

Weeks One-Two: Chp. 16 (Reconstruction-Optional), Chps. 17-19 (Industrialization, etc. late 19th century US)

Week Three: Chps. 20-21 (Imperialism, Spanish-American War, Progressivism)

Weeks Four-Five: Chps. 22-23 (WWI-Twenties)

Weeks Six-Seven-Eight: Chps. 24-25 (Depression-WWII)

Weeks Nine-Ten Chp., 27 Cold War America 1945-60

Week Eleven Chp.. 28 Sixties

Week Twelve Chp. 29 (1969-80) Disorder and Discontent

Week Thirteen: Chp. 30 (1980-1992)

Weeks Fourteen-Fifteen: Chp. 31 Post-Cold War World (1992-2004)

Assignments for MyHistory Lab learning resource will be provided in class (“class-designated assignments”)