

## History 2710 US History Since 1877 Spring Semester 2009

### Dr. Denise Conover

Office hours: Tues. 10-noon or by appointment

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### Course Description:

This course explores the political, social, military, and cultural history of the United States from 1877 to the present. Major themes include the rise of a powerful federal government, the development of the US military, the various military conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the role of technology and the emergence of the mass media. Above all, the course emphasizes the important individuals who shaped American experiences, interests, beliefs, achievements in the last 150 years. By exploring recent US history, this course will hopefully help students become more aware of their own identities as well as more well-informed citizens who can think analytically about important political, economic, military and social issues. To that end, course assignments require students not only to synthesize lectures, discussions, and readings, but also to *analyze* primary source material via the media.

### Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with key names, events, trends, etc. in United States history from 1877 to the present.
2. To expose students to a wide range of historical sources such as speeches, letters, photographs, legal documents, editorial cartoons, and archival footage.
3. To teach students how to analyze these sources in the context of late nineteenth- and twentieth-century US history.
4. To improve students' analytical abilities and written communication skills.
5. To fulfill goals set out by the Breadth American Institutions requirement, including computer and information literacy.

### Required Books:

*Russia, America & the Cold War, 1949-1991* Rev 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.; *American Stories: A History of the United States, Part II*; *My American Journey* by Colin Powell

### Requirements and Grading:

1. Two (2) 3-4 page essays based on assigned readings (50 points each) from *Russia, America & the Cold War, 1949-1991*;
2. Unspecified class-designated assignments (perhaps as much or more than 100 points)—based on short reading-writing assignments from the textbooks;
3. Selective attendance/participation points (perhaps as much or more than 100 points)
4. Book response (not book review) to Colin Powell's autobiography, *My American Journey*, in which you deal with the issue of race in American society from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-60s to the historic election of Barack Obama as US president in 2008. (4-6 pages, 100 points)
5. Mid-term based on textbook (*American Stories*) quizzes

**Disability Resource Center:** Any student who requires accommodations for the course should contact the Disability Resource Center, located in University Inn, Room 101 (7-2444). The Center can also provide a copy of this syllabus in a variety of alternative formats.

**Early Alert Program:** USU has developed a new program to help students who are struggling in their classes. I will submit the names of all students who earn less than a C on the first paper and/or the first midterm. The Retention and First-Year Experience Office will then contact those students by email and ask them to stop by for an appointment. The goal is to help students learn about academic resources or deal with other concerns that may be affecting their grades. Please note that I am always happy to talk to and work with students outside of class as well. Feel free to email me or come to my office hours.

**Plagiarism policy:** Students should read the University's rules concerning academic honesty, which can be found online at <http://www.usu.edu/policies/PDF/Acad-Integrity.pdf>.

**Policy on incompletes:** University policy states that students can receive an "I" for the course only in the case of a verifiable serious illness or family emergency and only when a small amount of the coursework remains to be done. An incomplete cannot be used to avoid a poor grade.

**Course schedule (subject to revision)**

Week 1 : Civil War-Reconstruction: Review of Consequences (chp. 16); be able to answer the questions on page 417)

Week 2 : Gilded Age: The West (chp. 17—be able to answer questions on page 449); Industrial Society (chp. 18—questions on page 477)

Week 3 : Gilded Age: Gilded Age (1877-1900): Technology, Urbanization, Immigration (chp. 19; know questions on page 505); chp. 20=optional; test yourself with questions on pages 446-47, 474-75, 502-03, 530-31; 558-59 (from optional chapter 20)

Week 4 : Imperialism: Hawaii and Spanish-American War (chp. 21; know answers to questions on page 561; test yourself with questions on pages 586-87)

Week 5 : Progressive Era (1901-1920s) read chp. 22-23; know questions on page 589 and page 615; test yourself on pages 612-613, 644-45

Week 6 : World War I (1914-1918; US participation 1917-1918); read chp. 24; know answers to questions on page 647; test yourself on pages 676-677

Week 7 : Twenties: Transition to Modern America (1918-1928); read chp. 25; know questions on page 679; test yourself on pages 698-99

Week 8 : Thirties: Depression, New Deal (1929-1939) chp. 26 (know questions on page 702; test yourself on pages 722-723); Isolationism and Pearl Harbor Attack (1921-1941) read chp. 27, pages 725-736 (1929-1941); for chp. 26, know questions on page 702; test yourself on pages 722-23; for chp. 27, know answer to first two questions on page 725.

Week 9: World War II (chapter 27, pages 737-751); know questions 3 & 4 on page 725; test yourself on pages 752-753. Friday before spring break, Mid-term based on book quizzes (100 pts)

Week 10: Spring Break (March 9-13)

Week 11: March 16-20: Cold War (1945-60) (chp. 28, chp. 29)—know answers to questions at beginning and end of both chapters

Week 12 (March 23-27) Turbulent Sixties (chp. 30) Civil Rights, Vietnam, Great Society

Week 13 (March 30-Apr.3) Seventies (chp. 31 to page 849) Nixon, Vietnam, Watergate

Week 14: (April 6-10) Ford-Carter-Reagan-Bush (chp. 31 page 849-861; chp. 32, page 863-876)

Week 15: (Apr. 13-17) Clinton, Bush (chp. 32, page 876-to end)

Week 16: (Apr. 20-24) Bush and War on Terror; No Test Week

Week 17: (Apr. 27-May 1): Final Exam Week (Instead of final exam—paper on Colin Powell's book, 100 pts.