

HISTORY 7B
U.S. HISTORY: CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Spring 2019
(Also available online at bCourses.berkeley.edu)
Prof. Rebecca McLennan
Head GSI: Chase Arnold

This course is an introduction to the history of the United States between 1865 and the present. Although we will touch on many different subjects, we will stress three, interrelated stories. The first concerns the nation's historic social, cultural, religious, ethno-racial diversity, including changing conceptions of "difference;" we will explore some of the ways in which diverse communities of Euro-Americans, African Americans, Chinese Americans, Latinx, Native Americans, immigrants, workers, and élites experienced, responded to, initiated, and represented key moments and movements of American history. We will also trace the rise and fall of various ideologies of "race" and racial and ethnic identity that have shaped American politics, culture, and everyday life. The second major theme is the ascent and decline of industrial capitalism, including the major environmental, political, and cultural effects of the nation's transition from, first, an agrarian to an industrial, consumer society, and, second, from an industrial to a post-industrial consumer society. The reinvention of government and of Americans' ideas and expectations of what government is and should—or shouldn't—do is our third major theme. Throughout the course we will be attentive to the question of "who or what makes American history"? Elites? Ordinary folk? Nature and natural forces? Technological innovation? Social conflict? Governments? Individuals? Collective aspirations? Lectures, readings, sections discussions, and written assignments will address parts of these stories while also aiming to sharpen your critical reading, interpretation, discussion, argumentation, and writing skills.

Sections: Attendance and participation in all sections are compulsory, and instructors will take attendance. In this course, sections—and Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)—are as important as lectures and the professor. The professor mostly does not discuss the readings in lecture: your section is the place where you'll do this. In section, you'll get to explore more deeply some of the various issues that we've only been able to touch on briefly in lectures, or have been unable to cover at all. You'll be reading and discussing a diverse range of published works of history as well as digging into some really exciting primary sources (i.e. speeches, letters, cartoons, political propaganda, short films, and other artefacts created in the past). It's also where your GSI and fellow students will help you learn or refine important skills, such as how to interpret evidence meaningfully and in a historically-informed way; how to analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of works of history; how to write a persuasive essay; and how to mount a logical, evidence-based argument.

Requirements and grading:

Attendance and participation: You must attend lectures and section meetings (attendance will be taken at sections); complete readings when assigned; and participate actively in all section discussions. Please note that, in most cases, the readings and discussions generally *supplement* rather than *repeat* the lecture material, and sometimes diverge from it.

Section attendance and participation (required): 10%

Contact your section leader *in advance* if you need to be excused from section. Students may be excused for documentable medical, family, or other emergency. **If you have more than two unexcused absences, you may fail the course.**

Two brief in-class tests (I.D.s): 15% each

Two brief essays on select primary sources: 15% each

Final exam: 30%

Late policy: No extensions on papers unless you have a documentable medical, family, or other emergency. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 1/3 grade, no exceptions (i.e. the paper will be awarded an A- if it is of A quality, B+ if it is of A- quality, etc). **Papers will not be accepted more than a week after the due date.**

Required reading: you must borrow, buy, rent, or otherwise acquire electronic or hard copies of the following texts. You must also bring the relevant texts to section (you will be directly working on them).

Required Books

D. Henkin and R. McLennan, *Becoming America*, Volume 2 (McGraw-Hill), available for rental in electronic version (ISBN: 9781260233605) or in paperback (ISBN 9781260878783).
 Elliott West, *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story*
 C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*
 Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*
 Donald Worster, *Dustbowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*
 Allan Berubé, *Coming Out Under Fire*
 Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi: The Classic Autobiography of Growing Up Poor and Black in the Rural South*
 Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*
 Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*

Required Course Reader: Will be available 1/25/19

Office Hours:

Professor Rebecca McLennan: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30pm, 2224 Dwinelle
 Head GSI, Chase Arnold (administrative questions): Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30-2:30pm, 2104 Dwinelle
 GSIs: Your GSIs will post their office hours independently

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Please note that the reading schedule for sections is NOT included here. See Section Schedule. Please complete assigned reading in time for that day's class.

Week 1

Tues Jan 22: Introduction and Background
 Thurs Jan 24: Reinventing Government: Emancipation, Southern Reconstruction, and Multiracial Democracy
 David Henkin and Rebecca McLennan, *Becoming America*, Chap. 16 (pp. 415-431; 434-442).

Week 2

Tues Jan 29: Entangled Histories: Death of Southern Reconstruction, Western Conquest and Incorporation
Becoming America, Chap. 17 (pp.444-458).
 Thurs Jan 31: From Plains Wars to Boomtown, U.S.A.: Bonanzas, Fevers, and Busts
Becoming America, Chapter 17 (pp.458-466).

Week 3

Tues Feb 5: Labor, Immigration, and Chinese Exclusion
Becoming America (pp.466-467).
 Thurs. Feb 7: Oil, Steel, and Meat: Big Business and Its Discontents
Becoming America, Chap. 18 (pp.472-488)

Week 4

Tues Feb 12: Cheap Nature, Pristine Nature: Industrialization and the Natural and Built Environments
Becoming America, Chap. 18 (pp.495-498).
 Thurs Feb 14: Commerce of Desire: Cities and the Making of Mass Consumer Culture
Becoming America, Chap. 18 (pp.488-495).

Week 5

Tues Feb 19: FIRST IN-CLASS EXAM (I.Ds).
 Thurs Feb 21: Mass Politics and Mass Discontent, 1870-1892
Becoming America, Chap. 19 (pp.501-523).

Week 6

Tues Feb 26: Populism, Race, and the Collapse of Gilded Age Politics
Becoming America, Chap. 19 (523-530).
 Thurs Feb 28: Jim Crow and "the Problem of the Color Line" (Du Bois)

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (Chapter 3).

Week 7:

Tues March 5: An Urban Age: America in the Progressive Era
Becoming America, Chap. 20 (pp. 534-549, 554-557).

Thurs March 7: The Spanish-American-Filipino-Cuban War: Race, Progressivism, America's Empire of Islands
Becoming America, Chap. 21 (pp.574-588).

Week 8: **(FIRST SHORT ESSAY DUE IN FIRST SECTION).**

Tues March 12: Great Power America: From New Imperial Power to Great War Ally
Becoming America, Chap. 22 (pp.598-611).

Thurs March 14: The Crisis of 1919 and the Jazz Age
Becoming America, Chap. 23 (pp.628-646).

Week 9

Tues March 19: Closing the Gates: Immigration, Nativism, and Race in the 1920s
Becoming America, Chap. 24 (pp. 662-666).

Thurs March 21 The Great Depression and First New Deal
Becoming America, Chap. 24 (pp. 667-681).

Week 10 SPRING BREAK

Week 11

Tues April 2: SECOND IN-CLASS EXAM

Thurs Apr 4: Ending the Depression: The Second New Deal and WWII
Becoming America, Chap. 25 (pp.693-714, 721-22).

Week 12

Tues April 9: The Freedom Movement and the "Age of Affluence:"
Becoming America, Chap. 27 (pp.741-746, 757-765, 777-784.)

Thurs April 11: Kennedy, Johnson, and the Road to Vietnam
Becoming America, Chap. 28 (pp.787-810).

Week 13

Tues April 16: '68
Becoming America, Chap. 28 (pp.810- 818).

Thurs April 18: Sex, Gender, and Sexual Revolution
Becoming America, Chap. 28 (811-814 [recap]) and Chap. 29, 826-829.

Week 14: **SECOND SHORT ESSAY DUE TO YOUR GSI, FRIDAY April 26, 5PM**

Tues April 23: A New Age of Anxiety: American Culture and Politics in the 1970s
Becoming America, Chap. 29 (pp.821-843).

Thurs. April 25: Sage Brush Rebels, Suburban Conservatives, and Friedmanite Thinktanks: The Reagan Years and the Rise of Neoliberalism
Becoming America, Chap. 30 (pp.852-867).

Week 15

Tues April 30: Neoliberal America and Its Discontents, 1992 – 2008
Becoming America, Chap. 31 (pp. 883-905).

Thurs May 2: Beginning of the End or End of the Beginning? Hope, Fear, and Mourning in America Since the Great Recession
Becoming America, Chap. 31 (pp. 905-911).

Final Exam: Thursday, May 16, 2019, 8-11am

Miscellaneous Rules for Lecture and Sections:

- Cell phones should be turned off.
- No audio or video recording is permitted without express permission of instructor.
- You may take notes on a computer, but note that access to electrical outlets is limited.
- No internet surfing (etc)! Because it's very distracting for those around you, if you use an electronic device for non-class activities, your GSI will ask you to leave the classroom. No exceptions. :)

Campus Policies

1. Academic Honesty and Honor Code. Cheating and plagiarism include (but are not limited to) presenting someone else's work as one's own, failing to properly identify the original sources used in your work, and using unauthorized material, including cell phones or prewritten notes, during an exam. The penalty for a first offense is an "F" on the assignment/test. A second offense will result in an "F" for the course and/or further University action. You are encouraged to review and study course materials with fellow students, but you must complete assignments independently. For more information on academic integrity and the UC Berkeley Honor Code, refer to this website: www.asuc.org/honorcode/.

2. Religious Accommodation. Requests to accommodate a student's religious creed by rescheduling exams are to be submitted to your GSI by the second week of the semester. See <http://registrar.berkeley.edu/DisplayMedia.aspx?ID=Religious%20Creed%20Policy.pdf>.

3. Extracurricular Activity Conflicts. Notify your GSI by the second week of the semester of any potential scheduling conflicts and recommend a solution, understanding that an *earlier* deadline or exam date may be the most practical solution. You must also inform yourself about material missed because of an absence, whether or not you have been formally excused.