

# History 7B, Spring 2016

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

SPRING 2016

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HISTORY 7B

U.S. HISTORY SURVEY -- CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT

This course is an introduction to the history of the United States since the Civil War. It is also an introduction to the ways historians study the past and think about evidence. Although we will touch on many different subjects, we will stress three main stories. One, from the abolition of slavery to the age of Obama, emphasizes struggles over the meanings of race, ethnicity, and gender in politics, the economy, and the culture. The second, the rise and fall of industrial society, examines major economic transitions as the fulcrum of U.S. economic life shifted from agriculture to industry and then from industry to services. The third, from Sand Creek and Little Bighorn to 9-11 and Iraq, traces the expansion and deployment of American power in the world. Lectures, readings, discussions, films, and other assignments will address parts of these stories while also aiming to sharpen your critical reading, interpretation, research, and writing skills.

History 7B satisfies both the American History and American Cultures requirements.

Requirements and grading: You must attend lectures and section meetings, complete readings when assigned, and participate actively in section discussions. You will find that the readings and discussions supplement rather than repeat the lecture material. Exams cover both. Grades will be based on midterm (20%) and final (30%) exams, a brief research essay (30%, including preparatory exercises), and section participation (20%). I will post lecture outlines on BCourses shortly before lectures to help you take notes and post the slides shortly after lectures.

Exams: The midterm exam will be on Friday, March 4, in class. The final will be on Tuesday, May 10 from 3 to 6 PM.

Books: (any print editions, new or used)

Required: Thomas Bell, Out of This Furnace

Edward J. Larson, Summer for the Gods

Allan Berubé, Coming Out Under Fire

Michael Herr, Dispatches

Course Reader, at Replica Copy -- 2140 Oxford Street

Recommended: Eric Foner, Give Me Liberty!, vol. 2. Talk with your GSI about the use of this book; chapters relevant to each week's lectures marked with \* below.

Office Hours: Monday, 1:30 to 3:30, and by appointment at [einhorn@berkeley.edu](mailto:einhorn@berkeley.edu). I invite you to stop by my office early in the semester to get acquainted, and to come to discuss any course material or other historical interests at other times. Feel free to come in groups with classmates if you prefer. For administrative issues or problems, your GSI will usually know the answer. If you need further assistance with administrative issues, contact the Head GSI for 7B, Brendan Shanahan, at [brendan.shanahan@berkeley.edu](mailto:brendan.shanahan@berkeley.edu).

Miscellaneous Rules: Cell phones should be turned off in lecture and section. No audio or video recording is permitted. You may take notes on a computer if you wish, but note that access to electrical outlets is limited. You may be asked to leave lecture or section if a GSI sees you using electronic devices for non-class activities. The issue is common courtesy and I am very serious about it. I cannot allow you to distract the students sitting around and behind you with colorful doings on your screen. Really. For the same reason, do not start packing your belongings before classes end. The conclusions of lectures and discussions are often the most important parts!

### 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 pre-written 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/](http://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.

### LECTURE SCHEDULE AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

(reading deadlines are approximate)

#### PART I -- The Rise of American Power (1865-1940)

1. W 1/20 -- Introduction and Background

F 1/22 -- Reconstruction

Reading: Litwack, "How Free is Free?" (reader)

\*Foner, chap. 15

1. M 1/25 -- Plains Wars

W 1/27 -- Big Industry

F 1/29 -- Sister Carrie's America

Reading: Bell, Out of this Furnace, parts I-III

\*Foner, chap. 16

1. M 2/1 -- Social Science

W 2/3 -- Union Organizing and Class Struggle

F 2/5 -- Judicial Activism

Reading: Sumner, What Social Classes Owe to Each Other (reader)

Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth" (reader)

Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House, chap. 6 (reader)

\*Foner, chap 17

1. M 2/8 -- Populism

W 2/10 -- Imperialism

F 2/12 -- Progressivism

Reading: Wells, A Red Record (reader)

Washington, "Atlanta Compromise" (reader)

DuBois, Souls of Black Folk, chaps. 1, 3 (reader)

1. M 2/15 -- NO LECTURE

W 2/17 -- Crises of 1919

F 2/19 -- Great Migration and Immigrant Restriction

Reading: Larson, Summer for the Gods

\*Foner, chaps. 18-19

1. M 2/22-- The World the Auto Made

W 2/24 -- The Twenties

F 2/26 -- Great Depression

Reading: Terkel, Hard Times, excerpt (reader)

\*Foner, chap. 20

Watch film: Charlie Chaplin, Modern Times

1. M 2/29 -- New Deal

W 3/2 -- NO LECTURE

F 3/4 -- MIDTERM EXAM

\*Foner, chap. 21

## PART II -- The American Century (WWII-present)

1. M 3/7 -- World War II

W 3/9 -- Policing the World

F 3/11 -- McCarthyism

Reading: Berubé, Coming Out Under Fire, preface, intro, chaps. 1-3, 8, 10

Watch film: William Wyler, The Best Years of Our Lives

\*Foner, chap 22

1. M 3/14 -- Modern Urbanism

W 3/16 -- Suburbs

F 3/18 -- NO LECTURE

Reading: NSC-68 (reader)

\*Foner, chaps. 23-24

SPRING BREAK

1. M 3/28 -- Liberalism

W 3/30 -- Civil Rights

F 4/1 -- Harvest of Shame

Reading: Jacobs, Death and Life of Great American Cities, chaps 1-4, 12 (reader)

Harrington, The Other America, chaps 1-2 (reader)

1. M 4/4 -- LBJ

W 4/6 -- 1968

F 4/8 -- Counterculture

Reading: King, "Beyond Vietnam" (audio link in BCourses, text in reader)

Herr, Dispatches, pp. 3-167

\*Foner, chap. 25

1. M 4/11 -- Feminism

W 4/13 -- Trouble in the Heartland

F 4/15 -- NO LECTURE

Reading: Feminism documents (reader)

Nee and Nee, Longtime Californ, Intro, chaps. 1, 6, 10-13, 15 (reader)

Watch film, Barbara Kopple, Harlan County, U.S.A.

\*Foner, chap. 26

1. M 4/18 -- Affirmative Action

W 4/20 -- Tax Revolts

F 4/22 -- Rise of the Conservatives

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE: Monday, April 25 in lecture

1. M 4/25 -- Regulating and Deregulating

W 4/27 -- Identity Politics

F 4/29 -- Conclusions

Reading: Politics of history documents: [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#), [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

\*Foner, chaps. 27-28

FINAL EXAM -- TUESDAY, MAY 10, 3-6 PM