

# History 7B 2018: Introduction to the History of the United States: The United States from Civil War to Present (Spring 2018)

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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3211 Dwinelle Hall

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 starts with the abolition of slavery and charts 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 again 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:** Attend lectures and section meetings, complete all readings when assigned, and participate actively in section discussions. Note that readings and discussions supplement rather than repeat the lecture materials. 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 before the lectures to help you take notes and I will post the slides shortly after the lectures.

**Exams:** The midterm exam will be on Friday, March 2, in class. The final will be on Tuesday, May 8 from 3 to 6 PM.

**Books:** (any print editions, new or used)

Required: Thomas Bell, [Out of This Furnace](#)

Lisa McGirr, [The War on Alcohol](#)

Allan Berubé, [Coming Out Under Fire](#)

Michael Herr, [Dispatches](#)

[Course Reader](#), at Replica Copy -- 2140 Oxford Street

Optional: 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:** Tuesday, 2:30 to 4:00, 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, the Head GSI for History 7B is Jennifer Robin Terry, [jenterry@berkeley.edu](mailto:jenterry@berkeley.edu).

**Miscellaneous Rules:** No cell phones may be used in lecture or section. **No audio or video recording is permitted.** You may take notes on a computer, but please note that access to electrical outlets is limited and that notes are usually much better when taken by hand. **You may be asked to leave lecture or section if any GSI sees you using electronic devices for non-class purposes.** The issue here is common courtesy and I am very serious about it. I simply cannot allow you to distract the students sitting around and behind you with colorful doings on your screen. For the same reason, do not start packing your belongings before classes end. The conclusions of the 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: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct> and <https://teaching.berkeley.edu/berkeley-honor-code>.
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://teaching.berkeley.edu/academic-calendar-and-student-accommodations-campus-policies-and-guidelines-anchor2>.
3. Extracurricular Activity Conflicts. Notify your GSI by the second week of classes of any potential scheduling conflicts and suggest 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 1/17 -- Introduction and Background  
F 1/19 -- Reconstruction  
Reading: Litwack, "How Free is Free?" (reader)  
May, "A Learning Secret" (reader)  
\*Foner, chap. 15
2. M 1/22 -- Plains Wars  
W 1/24 -- Big Industry  
F 1/26 -- Sister Carrie's America  
Reading: Bell, [Out of this Furnace](#), parts I-III  
\*Foner, chap. 16
3. M 1/29 -- Social Science  
W 1/31 -- Union Organizing and Class Struggle  
F 2/2 -- 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
4. M 2/5 -- Populism  
W 2/7 -- Imperialism  
F 2/9 -- Progressivism  
Reading: Wells, [A Red Record](#) (reader)  
Washington, "Atlanta Compromise" (reader)  
DuBois, [Souls of Black Folk](#), chaps. 1, 3 (reader)
5. M 2/12 -- Crises of 1919  
W 2/14 -- Great Migration and Immigrant Restriction  
F 2/16 -- The World the Auto Made  
Reading: McGirr, [The War on Alcohol](#)  
\*Foner, chaps. 18-19
6. M 2/19 -- NO LECTURE  
W 2/21 -- The Twenties  
F 2/23 -- Great Depression  
Reading: Terkel, [Hard Times](#), excerpt (reader)  
\*Foner, chap. 20  
Watch film: Charlie Chaplin, [Modern Times](#)
7. M 2/26 -- New Deal  
W 2/28 -- NO LECTURE (review)  
F 3/2 -- **MIDTERM EXAM**  
\*Foner, chap. 21

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

8. M 3/5 -- World War II  
W 3/7 -- Policing the World  
F 3/9 -- McCarthyism  
Reading: Berubé, [Coming Out Under Fire](#), preface, intro, chaps. 1, 2, 3, 8, 10  
Watch film: William Wyler, [The Best Years of Our Lives](#)  
\*Foner, chap 22
9. M 3/12 -- Modern Urbanism  
W 3/14 -- Suburbs  
F 3/16 -- Liberalism  
Reading: NSC-68 (reader)  
\*Foner, chaps. 23-24
10. M 3/19 -- Civil Rights  
W 3/21 -- Harvest of Shame  
F 3/23 -- NO LECTURE  
Reading: Jacobs, [Death and Life of Great American Cities](#), chaps 1-4, 12 (reader)  
Harrington, [The Other America](#), chaps 1-2 (reader)

### SPRING BREAK

11. M 4/2 -- LBJ  
W 4/4 -- 1968  
F 4/6 -- Counterculture  
Reading: Watch film: [Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin](#)  
Herr, [Dispatches](#), pp. 3-167  
\*Foner, chap. 25
12. M 4/9 -- Feminism  
W 4/11 -- Trouble in the Heartland  
F 4/13 -- NO LECTURE  
Reading: Feminism documents (reader)  
Nee and Nee, [Longtime Californ](#), Intro, chaps. 1, 6, 10-13, 15 (reader)  
Watch film: [When We Were Kings](#)  
\*Foner, chap. 26
13. M 4/16 -- Affirmative Action  
W 4/18 -- Tax Revolts  
F 4/20 -- Rise of the Conservatives  
Reading: Powell Memo (reader)  
Richest 1% Chart (reader)  
RESEARCH ESSAY DUE: Friday, April 20 in lecture

### 14. M 4/23 -- Big Government in the Reagan Era

- W 4/25 -- Identity Politics  
F 4/27 -- America in the World  
Reading: \*Foner, chaps. 27-28

### FINAL EXAM -- TUESDAY, MAY 8, 3-6 PM