

U.S. History, 1898-2001: A Survey of Primary Sources

Purpose: To enhance the ability of students to read, write, think and speak about the major themes of twentieth century US History through an examination of primary sources.

Required Texts:

History Matters: A Student Guide to U.S. History on the Internet, 2nd edition by Alan Gevinson, Kelly Shrum, and Roy Rosenzweig

Give Me Liberty! An American History, 2nd Seagull Edition, by Eric Foner

This course also requires that each student have Internet access and the capacity to print the fruits of their writing and research efforts.

Grading: Your grade will be composed of four components:

- Weekly assignments, 20%
- First in-class exam, 20%
- First primary source project: 20%
- Second primary source project: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Attendance: regular attendance at both lectures and section meetings is expected. Chronic non-attendance can result in a grade penalty or being dropped from the course.

Classroom decorum: please adopt a civil attitude while in class. Please refrain from chatting, sleeping, reading the newspaper, doing work from other classes, or anything not directly related to our class. Such activities are disrespectful of the class, your classmates, and your professor. Leaving during class (except for restroom emergencies) without notifying me in advance is highly disruptive and therefore prohibited. Electronic devices of any sort (phones, pagers, ipods, "twitter", etc.) must be turned off for the duration of the class. **Class is a laptop-free zone. Please turn off and put away your laptop for the duration of the class. We will be testing a new approach—uni-tasking, wherein you focus on one thing at a time.**

Underlying Assumption on which Everything Else is Based: That human beings can, by diligent study, make tentative sense of the sum total of human experience (known as History) and understand its relationship to the present and to the future, at least enough to make the whole thing worth doing. This is the secular faith of the Historian.

Weekly Assignments: each week's assignment will have a Sites and a Readings component. For the Sites, you are required to (1) survey the assigned sites and identify at least four (total) specific primary sources of significance. Then (2) critically assess these selected primary sources. When doing so, ask yourself: How does this particular primary source relate to the assigned chapter in *Give Me Liberty!* What does this piece of evidence, this trace of prior human experience, signify? What can I infer about the people and society from which it came? How might it be connected to the major themes of U.S. history? How does it relate to other sources you have examined this term? Prepare a 500+ word typed response, to be handed in each Monday, in class. Make a copy of your response, print the primary sources you selected, place in a separate folder and **bring to section meetings each week.**

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week 1

30 March: Course Introduction

1 April: Prelude to the “American Century”

3 April: Primary Sources: The Building Blocks of History

Sites: TBA

Readings: *History Matters*, 1-25. Bring *HM* to class Wednesday—no writing required.

Week 2

6 April: The Spanish-Cuban-Filipino-American War

Sites: The World of 1898: The Spanish-American War; A War in Perspective; Sentenary/Centennial: The Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War; The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures

8 April: The Centrality of Immigration

Sites: American Family Immigration History Center; Hull House; Census Browser

10 April: Chinese in America

Sites: Chinese in California, 1850-1925; Poetic Waves/Angel Island;

Readings: Foner, chapter 17

Week 3

13 April: Capitalism and Reform in Early 20th Century America

Sites: Child Labor in America; The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire; Coal Mining in the Gilded and Progressive Age; Like A Family: The Making of A Southern Cotton Mill World; Temperance and Prohibition

15 April: Votes for Women!

Sites: Women of Protest; By Popular Demand: ‘Votes for Woman’s Suffrage Pictures. . .; Votes for Women: Selections from the NAWSA Collection. . .; Emma Goldman Papers

17 April: “Safe for Democracy”

Sites: WWI Document Archive; The First World War: The War to End All Wars;

Readings: Foner, chapter 18, chapter 19

Week 4

20 April: The Great Depression

Sites: America from the Great Depression to the New Deal; “Bound for Glory: America in Color, 1939-1943; Studs Terkel, *Conversations with America/ “Hard Times” American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940; Voices from the Dust Bowl*

22 April: FDR and the New Deal

Sites: New Deal Network; By the People: Posters of the WPA

24 April: Mid-term Exam

Readings: Foner, chapters 20, 21

Week 5

27 April: The Greatest Generation: World War II and the Apex of American Power

Sites: Terkel: *Conversations with America/ The Good War*; Experiencing War: Stories from the Veterans History Project; The Perilous Fight: America’s WW II in Color; After the Day of Infamy; Oral History of World War II

29 April : The Civil Rights Revolution (I)

Sites: Without Sanctuary; Remembering Jim Crow; The History of Jim Crow; Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project; Ansel Adams: Photos of Manzanar

1 May: The Civil Rights Revolution (II)

Sites: FOIA Electronic Reading Room; Civil Rights in Mississippi; Central High Crisis: Little Rock in 1957

Readings: Foner, chapter 22, 24

Week 6

4 May: The Consumer Society/The Phenomenon of Mass Culture

Sites: Inventing Entertainment: Early Motion Pictures. . .; Emergence of Advertising in America; Fifty Years of Coca Cola Advertising; Living Room Candidates; Ad@Access

6 May: The Gender Revolution

Sites: Margaret Sanger Project; The Pill; The Commercial Closet

8 May: Cold War America

Sites: CIA Electronic Reading Room; National Security Archive; The Real Thirteen Days: The Hidden History of the Cuban Missile Crisis

Readings: Foner, chapter 23, 25

First primary source projects due in section

Week 7

11 May: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring (I)

Sites: RachelCarson.org;

13 May: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring (II)

Sites: TBA

15 May: Vietnam and American Memory (I)

Sites: The Wars for Vietnam; The American Experience: Vietnam On-Line

Readings: Foner chapter 25

Week 8

18 May: Vietnam and American Memory (II)

Sites: Hard Hat Riots

20 May: Cesar Chavez and the Chicano Movement (I)

Sites: FOIA Electronic Reading Room

22 May: Cesar Chavez and the Chicano Movement (II)

Sites: TBA

Readings: Foner, chapter 25

Week 9

25 May: Memorial Day

27 May: The Feminist Movement

Sites: Documents from the Women's Liberation Movement; American Women Homepage; Jewish Women's Archive

29 May: Reagan's America

Sites: Living Room Candidate; Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Readings: Foner, chapter 26

Week 10:

1 June: The Meaning of Globalization

Sites: WTO History Project; Making the Mac

3 June: 9/11 as History

Sites: TBA

5 June: Review

Reading: Foner, chapter 27

Second primary source projects due in section

Second in-class exam at the time of the final exam