

**History 2112H**  
**The United States 1865 to the Present**

Professor Clark  
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Office Hours: T-Th 1-2 and  
by appointment

This course explores the history of the United States from 1865 to the present. At once a course that proceeds chronologically and thematically, this is also a course that emphasizes the experiences and interpretations of Americans who lived through the events of the time we are studying. To that end, students will be expected to read primary source documents within a contextual frame provided by lectures and an optional text, and to write regularly and thoughtfully on those primary texts.

**Requirements:**

1. Attendance. Attendance at all class meetings is both expected and required. Repeated absences will significantly affect your grade.
2. Participation. The format of this class is designed to generate thoughtful debate and discussion. Students are expected to have read material closely and to come to class prepared to share their questions, ideas, and opinions with others.
3. Reading. The goal is to read material closely and carefully, in order to become familiar with different facets of historical inquiry.
4. Writing.
  - A) Three times over the course of the semester, each student will be asked to turn in a two-page “thought piece” in response to the assigned reading and/or film for that week. These are informal assignments, designed to encourage students to reflect thoughtfully on the reading before class, and they will be graded on a check plus, check, check minus scale. Thought pieces may be e-mailed or turned in directly to my office; they are due in class on **Thursday** on the week they are assigned.
  - B) Two formal papers (5-6 pages) will be assigned during the semester. The first paper will be due on **Friday, February 15**; the second paper will be due on **Friday, April 19**. Extensions on papers will be granted only for familial emergencies or situations of similar gravity; in general, please don’t ask.
5. Exams. Midterm and final exams will require students to review, synthesize, and analyze readings, lectures, and discussions, and will consist of a combination of short-answer and essay questions.

**Evaluation:**

20% Attendance and Participation  
20% Reading Responses  
30% Formal Papers  
30% Midterm and Final

**Assigned Readings** (available at the University Bookstore)

Robert Marcus and David Burner, *America Firsthand*

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Reading Packet, available at Bel-Jean Copy Center on Broad St.

\*In addition to the assigned readings, a textbook, *The American Promise*, is available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

**Assigned Films:**

*Inherit the Wind* (on reserve, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl. Main library, Media Center)  
*Modern Times* (in-class viewing, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Main library, Viewing Room)  
*Dr. Strangelove* (in-class viewing, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Main library, Viewing Room)  
*All the President's Men* (on reserve, 7<sup>th</sup> Fl. Main library, Media Center)

**Class Schedule**

Tuesday, 1/8: Introduction

Thursday, 1/10: The Ambiguous Legacy of Reconstruction I  
Reading: *America Firsthand*, 1-16; Roda Ann Childs, "I was more dead than alive,"  
Packet.

Tuesday, 1/15: The Ambiguous Legacy of Reconstruction II  
Reading: *America Firsthand*, 17-26; 33-36.

Thursday, 1/17: Creation of a Capitalist Economy  
Reading: *America Firsthand* 27-32, 37-43, 44-50, 80-86, 87-93; "Russell H. Conwell Sanctifies Wealth, 1915" and "Mark Twain on the Great American Myth" both in packet.

Tuesday, 1/22: The Workforce

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 62-79, 135-141; Roger Daniels, "The Immigrant Experience in the Gilded Age" packet.

Thursday, 1/24: Labor Wars

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 116-127, 128-134; "Thomas O'Donnell on the Decline of the Factory Artisan" and "The Purposes and Program of the Knights of Labor," Packet.  
GET AHEAD: Begin *The Jungle*

Tuesday, 1/29: Rural Politics in the South and West

Reading: "Populist Principles," "William Jennings Bryan Scorns Advocates of the Gold Standard," and "Robert G. Ingersoll Waves the Bloody Shirt" all in Packet; handout.  
KEEP READING *The Jungle*

Thursday, 1/31: Muckrakers and Progressives

Reading: Finish *The Jungle*; Florence Kelley, "I arrived at Hull House," Packet.

Tuesday, 2/5: Confronting White Backlash

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 102-7, 150-3; Ida B. Wells, "Nobody . . . Believes the Old Thread Bare Lie," "Booker T. Washington Advocates Self-Help," "W.E.B. DuBois Rejects Washington's Strategy" all in Packet.

Thursday, 2/7: 1898—A New Empire?

Reading: "Alfred T. Mahan," "Theodore Roosevelt" "William Jennings Bryan" "Albert Beveridge" "The Roosevelt Corollary" all in Packet.

Tuesday, 2/12: Woodrow Wilson and the Great War

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 154-9; "President Woodrow Wilson's War Message," "Senator Robert M. La Follette's Antiwar Dissent" "George Creel on the Selling of the War" "U.S. Gov. Punishes" "A Wobbly Testifies" all in Packet.

Thursday, 2/14: Consumer Culture and Commercialized Leisure

Reading: "The New York Giants," "A Busher's Letters Home," "Theodore Dreiser's Carrie," "Democracy at the Movies," "Fredric Thompson Creates the Carnival Spirit" all in Packet, 61-7.

**\*\*\*Friday, 2/15: 5:00 PM: FIRST PAPER DUE**

GET AHEAD: Watch *Inherit the Wind* (on reserve, Lib. Media Center)

Tuesday, 2/19: The Scopes Trial

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 172-183  
For discussion: *Inherit the Wind*

Thursday, 2/21: The Onset of the Great Depression

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 201-8; Jacqueline Jones, “Harder Times” and Margaret Jarman Hagood, “Of the Tenant Child as Mother to the Woman,” both in Packet.

Tuesday, 2/26: A New Deal for America?

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 209-14; “A New Deal in One Hundred Days,” in packet.

Thursday, 2/28: In-class viewing, *Modern Times* (Lib. Viewing Room)

Tuesday, 3/5: In-class **Midterm**

Thursday, 3/7: War at Home and Abroad

Reading: *America Firsthand*: 216-31; 232-9; 240-6; 247-54.

Tuesday, 3/12: Containment

Reading: “President Harry S. Truman” “Russian Premier Joseph Stalin” “Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace” “White House Aide Clark M. Clifford” “The Truman Doctrine” “Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson” “The President’s Advisers” all in packet.

Thursday, 3/14: The Red Scare

Reading: *America Firsthand*: 255-60; “Senator Joseph McCarthy Denounces the Democrats” in Packet.

\*GET AHEAD: Begin *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

3/18-3/22: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, 3/26: Truth v. Fiction

In-class viewing, *Dr. Strangelove*

Reading: “A Senate Committee Investigates” “President Kennedy and His Advisors” “President Kennedy Addresses” “Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev” all in Packet.

\*KEEP READING *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Thursday, 3/28: Discussion, Cuban Missile Crisis + Dr. Strangelove

\*KEEP READING *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Tuesday, 4/2: The Making of a Civil Rights Worker

Reading: Finish *Coming of Age in Mississippi*; *America Firsthand* 306-13.

Thurs, 4/4: Case Study: UGA

Reading: Charlayne Hunter-Gault, “UGA: The Beginning” and Robert Cohen, “Two, Four, Six, Eight, We Don’t Want to Integrate” in Packet.

Tuesday, 4/9: War at Home and Abroad

Reading: *America Firsthand*, 283-300, 301-305; “We were the first American women sent to live and work in the midst of guerilla warfare” “I had entered law school

preoccupied with the racial struggle” “I see men who consider themselves dedicated revolutionaries” all in Packet.

Thursday, 4/11: Revolution or Devolution?

Reading: “The Counterculture” “The Weathermen’s Call for Revolution” “A Senate Committee Probes” “ A Student Survivor Recalls” in Packet.

GET AHEAD: Watch *All the President’s Men* (Media Center; local video store)

Tuesday, 4/16: Library Assignment

Thursday, 4/18: Watergate: Day-by-Day

For discussion: *All the President’s Men* and readings: “White House Counsel John W. Dean” “President Richard M. Nixon Discusses” “Senator Sam J. Ervin” “President Nixon’s Farewell” all in Packet.

**Friday, 4/19, 5:00 PM: SECOND PAPER DUE**

Tuesday, 4/23: Legacies

Reading: “Escaping Watergate” and “The Inescapability of Watergate” both in Packet.

Thursday, 4/25: Conclusions and Review for Final