

Dr. Chana Kai Lee
History 2112
Short Summer Session II (2009)

Office: 130 Le Conte Hall
Hours: by appt., 542-2541
e-mail: use course WebCT site

The United States Since 1865

This course surveys modern U.S. history. Our journey begins in 1865, the end of the nation's only war against itself--the Civil War. We will finish with a cursory look at the 1990s and the dawning of the 21st century. The course is organized chronologically, and we will examine a number of recurring themes: the transformation of political, economic, and social institutions; racial and ethnic conflict; labor strife; territorial conquest and U.S. imperialism; urbanization; industrialization; immigration and migration; war; ideology and social reform; gender relations and the changing status and struggles of women. Our emphasis will be on understanding U.S. history as a record of multiple narratives, of many stories involving many different groups with a variety of experiences.

REQUIRED READING:

There are no required textbooks for the class. Our readings are available on WebCT and at various designated sites on the Internet (see schedule below). Sometimes your "reading" assignment will entail watching a documentary or feature-length film before coming to class.

Evaluation of performance: Your final course grade will be based on the following:

- 1) Examinations (50%):** There are **two** (2) exams for this course: a midterm and a final. You will learn more about my expectations for each exam as we cover each topic area. You must bring Blue Books for your exams. The exam dates are **July 16** and **July 31**.
- 2) In-class assignments (20%):** There will be occasions when you will participate in group or individual class activities based on a set of questions or premises. Assignments may be given out and completed in the same class session or they may be homework assignments that will be due the following day.
- 3) Attendance and class participation (30%):** Attendance is required. Each session will begin with the circulation of a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to sign your own name. You are allowed **one (1)** unexcused absence. After your first absence, you will receive a **10-point deduction** for each unexcused absence. Please present any medical excuses or notices of a death in the family no later than the second day after your return to class. **Class discussion** is also required and evaluated for a maximum of **100 points**. Your class attendance will affect your course participation grade. Obviously, you must be present in class in order to participate. If you leave at any time before class is over (including during our break), you will be counted absent for the entire day.

Electronic Participation: This course is linked to a web-based learning environment known as "WebCT" or Web Course Tools. After our first meeting, students are automatically added to our course WebCT. You must check your e-mail regularly in this course. I will use WebCT to make announcements and to post readings, among other purposes. If you drop the course, please send me an e-mail so that I remove you from WebCT.

The university requires that each course syllabus include the following statement on academic honesty: **All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. (Source: August 16, 2005 memo from VP of Instruction)**

Please consider this syllabus to be our general plan of study. Sometimes it may be necessary that the professor deviate from this plan. She will announce all changes in class and over e-mail.

COURSE OUTLINE

- July 6 (M) Course introduction
- 7 (T) Reuniting A Divided House
reading: "America's Reconstruction: People and Politics After the Civil War" (see link on WebCT)
- The Ordering of a Free Society: Rise of Jim Crow
reading: www.jimcrowshistory.org (linked also on WebCT)
- 8 (W) Heading West: Expansion or Conquest at What Cost?
reading: "The West," select documents from PBS.org (see link on WebCT)
- 9 (R) Big Business, Working Classes and the Cities
reading: "The Rise of Big Business," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
- The Progressive Era
reading: "The Progressive Era," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
- 10 (F) World War I and The Twenties
reading: "America at War" and "The Jazz Age: The American 1920s," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
-
- 13 (M) The Great Depression:
reading: "The Great Depression through Photos," National Park Service (see link on WebCT)
- 14 (T) The Great Depression and the New Deal
reading: "The 1930s," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
- 15 (W) World War II
reading: "World War II," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
- 16 (R) Midterm
- 17 (F) **No class meeting; class library activity on the Cold War**
-
- 20 (M) The Cold War
America at Midcentury
reading: "Postwar America," Digital History (see link on WebCT)
- 21 (T) The Civil Rights Era
video screening: "Eyes on the Prize" (select segments)

- 22 (W) Other Radical Movements
video screening: "Chicano!"
- 23 (R) The Vietnam War and American Liberalism
reading: "Battlefield Vietnam: A Brief History" (see link on WebCT)
- 24 (F) The New Feminism
reading: D'Emilio & Freedman, chapter 12 (on WebCT)
- 27 (M) Gay Liberation
reading: D'Emilio & Freedman, chapter 13 (on WebCT)
- 28 (T) The Conservative Ascendancy: The Reagan Revolution
video screening: "Reagan," PBS (link on WebCT)
- 29 (W) The Age of Globalization: Bill Clinton and the New Politics
Reading: "The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation" (link on WebCT)
- 30 (R) Semester in review
- 31 (F) Final exam**