

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865 (HIS 118 01)

Humanities Division History Department
Fall Semester, 2010 Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Tod Houghtlin

Office: Melville 219

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 4:30-5:30 and by appointment

Cell Phone: 914-261-8846

E-Mail Address: choughtl@berkshirecc.edu

Catalog Course Description:

“A survey of the social and political development of the United States from the Civil War to the present.
Skills prerequisite: ENG 020 and ENG 060.”

Textbook: John Mack Faragher et al, Out of Many: A History of the American People, Fifth Edition, Volume II, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, ISBN-10:0-3-601566-2

Objectives of Course:

1. To strengthen intellectual skills of close reading, precise writing, careful reasoning and intelligent synthesizing;
2. To develop a deeper understanding of historical development;
3. To gain a fairly comprehensive working knowledge of the people, places, cultures and events of United States History from the Civil War to the present;
4. To better understand the American past and present and to anticipate the American future;
5. To prepare students for further studies in the liberal arts at BCC and/or a four year institution.

Course Requirements:

Three fifty minute tests (short answer, short essays, essays)(10/6,11/3,12/1)
One final exam date TBA (probably Tuesday, 12/21)
Short writing assignments

Theme of the Course: *How did we get from there to here?*

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to prepare the assigned reading in a timely and intelligent manner so that they can ask relevant questions in class and offer useful contributions to discussion. We meet as a class only once a week, and so it is important that a student attend every single class unless there are important mitigating factors. It's better to get to class- even considerably late- than to miss an entire class. I assume that students will be attentive in class and be respectful of fellow students, of the course content, and of the opportunities of a college education. Finally, I expect that students will take effective class notes.

Attendance Policy: As noted above, class attendance is important to academic success and intellectual growth. Attendance will be factored into a student's grade at a level of five percent. Students are allowed one unexcused class absence; after that, unexcused absences may have a negative effect on a student's final grade.

Teaching procedures: This class meets one day a week for three hours. Approximately every fifty minutes we will generally have a break. The first two hours and a portion of the third hour will usually be devoted to elucidation of important matters raised in that week's reading, but students are also expected to ask clarifying questions and encouraged to contribute comments. The third hour will include reading of supplementary materials, students writing brief "response" paragraphs, and my citing of significant matters in the next week's reading.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a central value in a college environment. Except when I encourage students to work collaboratively, students are expected to do **their** own work. I will explain the principles and practices of academic integrity during the first weeks of the semester.

Course Outline

Tues., 9/7- Introduction to the Course, Review of American Geography, Review of Civil War, Reconstruction, Grant Administration, economic developments, Text, Chapter 17

Tues., 9/14- Settlement of the Trans-Mississippi West, Text, Chapter 18

Tues., 9/21 The "Gilded Age", Industrialization, Urbanization, Immigration, Text, Chapters 19

Tues., 9/28 Political responses to economic change, American imperialism, Text, Chapter 20

Tues., 10/5 Progressivism, Radical political movements, Text, Chapter 21 **Exam** (all material up through 9/28)

Tues., 10/12 Foreign relations, World War I, uneasy times Text, Chapter 22

Tues., 10/19 The Twenties, Rise of mass popular culture, Text, Chapter 23

Tues., 10/26 the Great Depression, the New Deal, Text, Chapter 24

Tues., 11/2 Threats in Europe and East Asia, World War II, Text, Chapter 25 **Exam** (all material up through 10/26)

Tues., 11/9 Post War America, origins of the Cold War, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Text, Chapter 26

Tues., 11/16 Eisenhower, Kennedy, the "New Frontier," emergence of "Youth Culture" Text, Chapter 27

Tues. 11/23 Civil Rights Movement, Immigration Reform, Text, Chapter 28

Tues., 11/30 "Coming Apart- the Sixties", Vietnam, Identity Politics, the Women's Movement, Text, Chapter 29 **Exam** (all material through 11/23)

Tues., 12/7 Conservative Ascendancy, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, End of Cold War, Text, Chapter 30

Tues., 12/14 Globalization, High Tech, De-Industrialization, Clinton, Bush II, 9/11, Iraq, Obama, , "the Great Recession", Text, Chapter 31

Final Exam: date TBA- (probably Tuesday, 12/21)