

## Survey of U.S. History Since Reconstruction

Professor Steve Leikin  
San Francisco State University  
Spring 2007

History 121, Section 9 #13758  
Room: HSS 310  
Class Hours: Thurs. 7:00 – 9:45  
Office: Science #221  
Office Hours: Tues. 3:00 – 4:00; Thurs. 6:00-6:50  
Office Phone: 405-0350  
e-mail: [sleikin@sfsu.edu](mailto:sleikin@sfsu.edu)

### Course Requirements:

Required Books: (All are available in the SFSU Bookstore in paperback)

Rose Cohen, *Out of the Shadow*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Vol. 2

1. There will be five quizzes, a mid-term and a final exam in this course.
  - the quizzes will count for 50% of the course grade (each quiz will be worth 10%).
  - the mid-term will count for 25% of the course grade
  - the final exam will count for 25% of the course grade.
2. Two of the five quizzes are scheduled in advance and are designed as incentives for you to read the assigned books. Take them seriously. Each quiz contributes 10 points to your final grade.
  - If you cannot take a quiz or exam you **MUST** contact me before the test. A make-up test will be given only if you let me know of your absence in advance. If you experience a serious emergency on the day of an exam, please see me as soon as possible to schedule a make-up test.
3. Three of the five quizzes will be given randomly during the semester. Each quiz will test you on that week's assigned reading in the textbook. These quizzes are also worth 10 points each.
3. The mid-term exam will be either a short answer or essay exam. Bring a large blue book for this test. A study sheet will be distributed at least one week before the exam. The format of the final exam will be announced after the midterm.
4. A Scantron form No. 882-ES may be required for the scheduled quizzes. This will be announced before the day of the quiz.
5. Study question sheets will be made available for each of the books (besides the textbook).
6. You have two opportunities to submit work for extra credit. You can write one and/or two five page typed papers based on a question concerning one and/or two of the books assigned for this class (besides the textbook.) I will announce the questions in advance. Ten points will

This syllabus and the contents of this course are the sole property of Steve Leikin. Use of this material for commercial purposes requires Steve Leikin's permission

be added to your final exam grade and/or your midterm grade for each paper that is thoughtful and well written. For example, if your midterm grade is 75/100, a good extra credit paper will lift the grade to 85/100.) Be sure to discuss your paper with me before you decide to write it. These papers are due on the day of the quiz for the respective book. Papers will not be accepted at any other time. No exceptions allowed.

7. If you need assistance or just want to talk, please do not hesitate to see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me another time. You can always reach me by e-mail for any matter and I will respond within a day. Assistance is also available through the Learning Assistance Center (Phone ext. 81993)
8. If you are interested in forming a study group for the exams please see me a few weeks prior to the mid-term.

### **Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:**

Week 1: Jan. 25

Introduction: What is History?

Reconstruction and its Aftermath: A New Labor System

Read: Foner, Chapter 15

Week 2: Feb. 1

Westward Expansion and the Subjugation of the Native American

Film: Ishi: The Last Yahi

Read: Foner, Chapter 16

Week 3: Feb. 8

Industrialization, Labor,

Farmers and Politics in the Gilded Age

Film: 1877 : The Grand Army of Starvation

Read: Foner, Chapter 17

Week 4: Feb. 15

Strategies for Black Advancement

Week 5: Feb. 22

Immigration

Read: Rose Cohen, *Out of the Shadow*

**Quiz and discussion on *Out Of The Shadow* on Feb. 22**

Week 6: March 1

The Progressive Era

Film: America and Lewis Hine

Read: Foner, Chapters 18 and 19

Week 7: March 8

World War I

Film: The Great War

**MIDTERM EXAM ON TUESDAY MARCH 8**

History 121 Section 9  
Syllabus Page 3

Week 8: March 15  
The 1920s  
Film: A Job at Ford's  
Read: Foner, Chapter 20

Week 9: March 22  
The Great Depression  
Film: The Great Depression: Hitting Rock Bottom

Week 10: March 29  
The New Deal and Modern Liberalism  
Read: Foner, Chapter 21

Week 11: April 5  
World War II at Home and Abroad  
Film: Days of Waiting  
Read: Foner, Chapter 22

Week 12: April 12  
Spring Break: No classes

Week 13: April 19  
Beginning of the Cold War and the Era of Civil Rights  
Film: Eyes on the Prize  
Read: Foner, Chapters 23 and 24

Week 14: April 26  
The Civil Rights Movement  
Read: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*  
**Quiz & discussion on Moody on April 26**

Week 15: May 3  
Vietnam and the 1960s  
Film: to be announced  
Read: Foner, Chapter 25

Week 16: May 10  
1970s, Watergate and Beyond  
Read: Foner, Chapters 26, 27, 28

**Final Exam: Thurs. May 24, 7:00 in HSS 310**

History 121

Study and Discussion Questions for **Out of the Shadow**

1. Under what circumstances does Rahel leave Russia? Is there anything about this part of the Jewish immigrant experience that distinguishes it from other immigrant groups?
2. What are Rahel's first impressions of America? How different is the world of the Lower East Side from her Russian shtetl? What is work life like for the immigrants in this story?
3. What changes occur within Rahel's family during the first years in the United States? What role do children play in the experience of these immigrants?
4. How does Rahel and her family view America? What does it mean for her to become an American? What is the relationship between her Jewishness and becoming an American? To what extent is she assimilated into American society?
5. How is Rahel's personal journey similar and/or different from Lue Gim Gong's journey?
6. What impact does Rahel's illness have on her and her family? How is she changed by her contact with settlement house workers?
7. What are Rahel's dreams and what does she come to understand about her own place in the world?
8. How typical is Rahel's immigrant experience? How much should this question concern us as historically minded readers?
9. Is this a story of success or failure?

## History 121

### Study and discussion questions for *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

1. How and what did Anne Moody learn about the nature of “race”? How did she come of age racially? How did you learn what race means?
2. How did Anne’s childhood experiences influence her later activism?
3. What role did religion play in her and her family’s lives?
4. Why does the Civil Rights Movement happen when it does? What brings people into the movement? Why and how did Anne Moody become active in the Civil Rights movement?
5. Why was Anne the only member of her family to become involved in the movement?
6. What role does Anne play in the movement? How is she changed by her experiences?
7. What happens to the Civil Rights movement? What is the relationship between its leadership and the people? Describe the roles of the SCLC, SNCC, CORE, and NAACP.
8. After Medgar Evers's assassination, a group of high school students refuse to participate in a protest Moody is organizing. She describes her feeling: "I felt sick, I got so mad at them. How could Negroes be so pitiful?" Do you agree with Moody?
9. What does Moody say about her experience at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963? How does this differ from Americans' popular memories of King's "I Have a Dream" speech?
10. Why does Moody change her mind about nonviolence as an instrument for political and social change? Do you agree with her decision or not? Does this change affect Moody's participation in the Civil Rights movement?
11. Select two passages from the book that struck you in some way (surprised, saddened, appalled, moved, etc.) and write a paragraph or two about each passage and your reaction to them. Select one passage from the “movement” section of the book and one passage from any of the other sections.