

## Survey of U.S. History Since Reconstruction

Professor Steve Leikin  
San Francisco State University  
Spring 2006

History 121, Section 9 #13364  
Room: HSS 310  
Class Hours: T 7:00-9:45  
Office: Science #227  
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### Course Requirements:

Required Books: (All are available in the SFSU Bookstore in paperback)  
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*  
Studs Terkel, *Hard Times*  
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*  
Henretta, Dumenil and Brody, *America: A Concise History, Volume 2*

1. There will be three quizzes, a mid-term and a final exam in this course.
  - the quizzes will count for 45% of the course grade (each quiz will be worth 15%).
  - the mid-term will count for 25%
  - the final exam will count for 30% of the course grade.
2. The dates of the quizzes are listed below in the lecture schedule. The quizzes are designed as incentives for you to read the assigned books. Take them seriously. Each quiz contributes 15 points to your final grade. Quizzes will be given at the very beginning of class, so don't be late. Latecomers will not be given make-ups.
  - 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. 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 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 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

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will 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. 31

Introduction: What is History?

Reconstruction and its Aftermath: A New Labor System

Read: America, Chapter 15

Week 2: Feb. 7

Westward Expansion and the Subjugation of the Native American

Read: America, Chapter 16

Week 3: Feb. 14

Industrialization and Labor

Film: 1877 : The Grand Army of Starvation

Read: America, Chapter 17

Week 4: Feb. 21

Farmers and Politics in the Gilded Age

Read: America, Chapters 18 and 19

Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*, read all

**Quiz and discussion on Bellamy Tuesday Feb. 21**

Week 5: Feb. 28

Immigration: European, Chinese and Mexican

Week 6: March 7

The Progressive Era

Read: America, Chapters 20 and 21

Week 7: March 14

Strategies for Black Advancement

**MIDTERM EXAM ON TUESDAY MARCH 14**

Week 8: March 21

World War I

Read: America, Chapter 22

Week 9: March 28

The 1920s

Film: A Job at Ford's

Read: America, Chapter 23

Week 10: April 4

Spring Break: No classes

Week 11: April 11

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Read: America, Chapters 24 and 25

Studs Terkel, *Hard Times*, specific pages to be announced.

**Quiz and discussion on Terkel April 11**

Week 12: April 18

World War II at Home and Abroad

Film: Rosie the Riveter

Read: America, Chapter 26

Week 13: April 25

Beginning of the Cold War and the Era of Civil Rights

Read: America, Chapters 27 and 28

Film: Eyes on the Prize

Week 14: May 2

The Civil Rights Movement

Read: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

**Quiz & discussion on Moody May 2**

Week 15: May 9

Vietnam and the 1960s

Read: America, Chapter 29

Week 16: May 16

1970s, Watergate and Beyond

Read: America, Chapters 30 and 31

**Final Exam: Tues. May 23; 7-9:45**

History 121

Study 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.