

HISTORY 121: U.S. HISTORY FROM RECONSTRUCTION TO THE PRESENT

Date/Time: Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 10:50
Instructor: Alexander L. Gerould
Office Hour: Tuesdays & Wednesdays Noon to 1:00 p.m., or by appointment: HSS 373
Contacts: e-mail: gerould@sfsu.edu; phone: 338-3335

Class Description: This class will emphasize American social, cultural and political history from the time of Reconstruction following the Civil War until the present. Our first area of study will be Reconstruction and the aftermath of the Civil War. The class will then survey the Gilded Age, American labor relations, continental expansion & America's growing role as a world power at the turn of the 19th century. We will then consider the Progressive Era of the early 20th century, followed by presentations on World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Next we will explore the Cold War and America in the 1950s. The class will then approach the turbulent 1960s, including the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the spate of high-level assassinations. The class will conclude with a study of America in the post-Cold War world of globalization.

Required books:

- (1) Roark, James L., *The American Promise: A History of the United States Volume II:* (3rd Ed. 2003).
- (2) Johnson, Michael P. *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents: Volume II: from 1865* (Third Edition, 2002).

Assignments and Grading policies: Attendance is required and roll will be taken daily. Students who are routinely absent, late, inattentive, etc., **will be noted** and up to 10% (one letter grade) will be deducted from their final grade. Additionally, a great deal of material will be covered in class and appear on quizzes & exams which is not contained in the readings. It will thus be difficult to obtain good grades without regular attendance and detailed class notes. All quizzes/exams include material from readings, lectures and films. It is solely in the instructor's discretion whether a student who arrives late will be allowed to take the weekly quiz. Any student arriving after the break will automatically be disqualified from taking the quiz. **In general tardiness and poor attendance drive me crazy and will be noted and will result in a significantly lower grade.**

Class participation: The lecture style used in this class calls for an ongoing dialogue between the professor and the students. A careful preparation of the readings is required, and class participation is strongly encouraged. Students who attend regularly, have completed the reading assignments, and participate actively in class may receive up to 5% (one half letter grade) added to their final grade. Poor attendance and/or tardiness will cancel out this participation credit

Assignments: Every **Tuesday** listed, an analytical summary of the readings in the **Johnson** book is due. Instructions for the analysis are handed out along with this syllabus. A 10 question true-false/multiple choice quiz will be given **every Tuesday**. Makeup quizzes **will not** be given. Failure to take a quiz or turn in an analysis at the scheduled time and date will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment. The lowest quiz score and two lowest analysis scores will be dropped (thus if a student fails to take a quiz or turn in two analysis, those zeros will be dropped) **Note:** A true-false, multiple choice final exam will be given at the end of the semester.

Grading: Analyses = 33%, Quizzes = 33%, Final 33%.

Grading Scale: A =90-100; B =80-89; C =70-79; D =60-69

Lecture schedule and reading assignments. All assignments from *The American Promise*, by Roark are listed as Roark; all assignments from *Reading the American Past*, by Johnson are listed as Johnson:

All Assignments are due on the date listed

<u>Date & Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment due for week</u>
Week 1: August 29 Introduction	No Reading
Week 2: September 5 Reconstruction	Roark Chapter 16
Week 3: September 12 The Gilded Age	Roark Chapter 17 Johnson: 17-2, 17-3, 17-4
Week 4: September 19 The West	Roark Chapter 18
Week 5: September 26 The City	Roark Chapter 19 Johnson: 19-1, 19-4, 19-5
Week 6: October 3 Labor Unrest, Depression and the Spanish-American War	Roark Chapter 20 Paper 1: Oct 3: Johnson 20-1, 20-3, 20-4
Week 7: October 10 The Progressive Movement	Roark Chapter 21 Paper 2: Oct 10: Johnson 21-3, 21-5, 21-6
Week 8: October 17 World War I	Roark Chapter 22 Paper 3: Oct 17: Johnson 22-1, 22-2
Week 9: October 24 The Roaring 20s	Roark Chapter 23 Paper 4: Oct 24: Johnson 23-1, 23-3
Week 10: October 31 The Great Depression	Roark Chapter 24 Paper 5: Oct 31: Johnson 24-1, 24-3, 24-5
Week 11: November 7 World War II	Roark Chapter 25
Week 12: November 14 The Fifties	Roark Chapter 26 Paper 6: Nov 14: Johnson 26-1, 26-2
Week 13: No Classes: Thanksgiving Break	
Week 14: November 28 The Sixties	Roark Chapter 28 Paper 7: Nov 28: Johnson 28-1, 28-5
Week 15: December 5 The Seventies to the Present	Roark Chapters 30 and 31 Paper 8: Dec 5: Johnson 30-3, 30-4
Week 16: December 12: Final Exam during regular class time	