

Hist 121:03 Fall 2006
MWF 10:10 - 11:00
Classroom: HSS 317

Dr. Cynthia Taylor
Office: SCI 223 Off Hrs: F 11-12
Email: ctay356@sfsu.edu Phone: 415/338-2417

Modern American History

Course Description

As a survey course of modern American history, History 121 provides students with an overview of the 20th century – a period in which the United States of America emerged as a great world power. The course is divided into three historical periods: the Progressive Era, the Modern Era, and the Cold War Era in order to better examine the social, political, and diplomatic changes the American people have experienced over the past century. Although this course relies on secondary source materials to relate the standard historical narrative of modern 20th century America, the students will evaluate critical primary sources that focus on a major sub-theme of the course: the immigrant/migrant experience in U.S. history.

Student Learning Objectives

The student will:

1. Demonstrate a historical understanding of three eras in 20th century American history, so that s/he can assess how several international conflicts (WWI, WWII, and the Cold War/Vietnam War) have influenced the course of 20th century American history.
2. Identify major dates or turning-points, events, people, and historical trends in each of these historical epochs, so that s/he can comprehend somewhat his/her own personal location in our national history.
3. Evaluate the impact of two important immigration periods in American history – the Industrial Immigration of the late 19th century and the Postwar Immigration of the 1960s – and associate these national events to their own family immigrant/migrant story.

Required Texts

James L. Roark, et.al. *The American Promise*, Vol C (secondary source)

Plus Bound Copy of Ch 20 of *The American Promise* is in the bookstore for purchase

David Leviatin, ed., *How the Other Half Lives* (primary source)

Michael M. Topp, *The Sacco and Vanzetti Case* (primary sources)

Richard W. Etulain, ed., *César Chávez* (primary sources)

Course Percentages

30% 6 Quizzes on Secondary Source/Class Lecture Material

30% 3 Book Reports/Book Talks on Primary Sources on Immigrant/Migrant History

20% Midterm Exam

20% Final Essay Exam

Assessment

100-90%	A	outstanding work
89-80%	B	very good work, noticeably better than satisfactory
79-70%	C	satisfactory work, meeting the basic requirements
69-60%	D	below standard work
59- 0%	F	insufficient and/or unacceptable work

Explanation of Class Assignments

Quizzes: There will be six quizzes on secondary source reading material and class lecture topics, approximately every other week. The quizzes are designed to test the students' comprehension of basic historical facts. At the end of the semester, two of the lowest quiz scores will be dropped to get the highest percentage (or points) possible – that is, the four highest grades will determine your final grade. Quizzes constitute 30% of the total grade.

Book Reports/Book Talks on Primary Sources: Three classes will be devoted to analyzing primary sources for each historical period.

Progressive Era: Jacob Riis' *How the Other Half Lives*

Modern Era: *The Sacco and Vanzetti Case*

Cold War Era: *César Cházev*

For Maximum Credit: The student will complete a typed Book Report Form (see format for Book Reports posted on Blackboard) to demonstrate his/her preparation for a Book Talk. The student's completed Book Report Form will entitle the student to receive 5 points for participating in the class discussion. The Book Report (worth up to 5 points) will be evaluated for its quality and comprehensiveness.

For Partial Credit: The student can still receive some credit for each of these assignments if s/he has not fully completed the assignment in time for the Book Talk in the following ways:

1) You can get 2.5 points for coming to the class discussion, without a Book Report Form. Make sure I know that you are there the day of the class discussion. You can receive up to 5 more points if you turn in a completed Book Report Form no later than one class period after the scheduled Book Talk day.

2) If you miss a Book Talk class for any reason, you can still turn in a Book Report Form – no later than the next class meeting – and receive up to 5 points based on the Book Report's quality and comprehensiveness.

Warning: If you miss a Book Talk class you will automatically lose 5 points - no exceptions. Each Book Report Form/Book Talk is worth 10 points each or 30% of the total class grade.

Midterm/Final Essay Exams: A midterm and final exam study guide will be posted on Blackboard. The midterm consists of essay questions from the Progressive and Modern Period, 1890-1930s. The final consists of essay questions from the Cold War Era, 1945-1989. At the time of the exam, the student will be given only one question from the study guide to write one in-class essay. *Remember: Bring a bluebook for your essay.*

The midterm and final are worth 20 points each. Your essay will be evaluated on the development of a clear thesis statement, a well-developed argument (including several topic sentences and paragraphs) supported by dates, facts and names of influential persons and institutions, and a conclusion.

Missed Midterms: If you miss the midterm for any reason, you can make it up at the time of the final exam, but only after consultation with the Instructor.

Class Policies:

1. There will be no make-up for missed quizzes. The two lowest grades will be dropped to achieve the highest grade possible.
2. Late Book Reports can be turned in no later than the next scheduled class after the due date.
3. A student's absence on a Book Talk day automatically results in the loss of five (5) points, or one half grade point.
4. A missed Midterm Exam can be made up on the day of the Final Exam, after consultation with the Instructor.
5. Any student found in violation of San Francisco State University's honor code is subject to automatic dismissal from this class.
6. The Instructor will inform the students – via Blackboard – if she knows in advance that she will be absent for a scheduled class.
7. *The Instructor reserves the right to change/amend the Class Syllabus for any reason and at anytime.* Any change in the syllabus will be announced in class and on Blackboard.

Class Schedule: Reading/Assignments: (Class Topics are approximations and subject to change)

Progressive America: 1890 - 1920

(See Class Text, Chs 20-22)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topics</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Exams</u>
8/30	Class Introduction		
9/1	Immigrants & Working-class Protest	20:709-723	
9/4	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>		
9/6	Women Reformers	20:723-725	
9/8	Race Relations/African Americans	21:776-785	Quiz #1
9/11	Progressivism/Middle-Class Reformers	21:747-759	
9/13	Politics and the 1896 Election	20:725-730	
9/15	Progressive Primary Source: Jacob Riis	<i>How the Other Half Lives</i>	Book Talk
9/18	Progressive Politics and TR	21:759-766	
9/20	1912 Election and Wilson Adm	21:771-776	
9/22	Diplomacy at Turn of the Century	20:731-745; 21:766-770	Quiz #2
9/25	American Neutrality & WWI War Front	22:789-800, 809-814	
9/27	WWI Homefront and Society	22:801-808	
9/29	How Progressive was the Progressive Era?	22:814-825	

Modern American Culture: 1920-1945

(See Class Text, Chs 23-24)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Reading/Assignments</u>	<u>Exams</u>
10/2	Modern Economy & Business	23:829-840	
10/4	Modern Society & Jazz Age	23:840-849	
10/6	Anti-Modern Society	23:849-854	Quiz #3

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Reading/Assignments</u>	<u>Exams</u>
10/9	Modern Primary Source	<i>Sacco and Vanzetti</i>	Book Talk
10/11	1920s Politics and the 1929 Crash	23:853-857	
10/13	Depression Culture	23:857-863	
10/16	Politics: FDR & 1932 Election	24:867-889	
10/18	New Deal Politics	24:889-903	
10/22	Midterm on Progressive/Modern Era		Midterm

Cold War America: 1945-1989

(See Class Text, Chs 25-30)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topic</u>	<u>Reading/Assignments</u>	<u>Exams</u>
10/23	American Neutrality Before Pearl Harbor	25:907-927	
10/25	WWII Homefront	25:927-933	
10/27	Toward a Postwar World	25:933-947	
10/30	Postwar Diplomacy: Containment	26:951-963	
11/1	Implementing Containment	26:974-981	
11/3	World Diplomacy: Cold War Environment	27:990-995	Quiz #4
11/6	Cold War Politics: Truman's Fair Deal	26:964-974	
11/8	Cold War Politics: 1950s	27:985-990	
11/10	<i>Veterans' Holiday</i>		
11/13	Affluent Society in the 1950s	27:995-1009	
11/15	Social Movements: 1950s/1950s	27:1009-1017	
11/17	Social Movements (Cont)	28:1031-1058	Quiz #5
11/20 - 11/24 <i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>			
11/27	Coldwar Primary Source	<i>César Chávez</i>	Book Talk
11/29	60s Politics & the Great Society	28:1021-1031	
12/1	1968 Election: Demise of Liberalism	28:1058-1063	
12/4	More Cold War: JFK and Vietnam	29:1067-1075	
12/6	“ ” : LBJ and Vietnam	29:1075-1088	
12/8	“ ” : Nixon and Vietnam	29:1088-1099	Quiz #6
12/11	Politics: Reaganomics	30:1103-1124	
12/13	Diplomacy: End of Cold War	30:1125-1131	
12/15	Society: Cultural Conservatism	30:1131-1137	
12/22	Final Exam on Cold War Era	8 - 10:30 AM (HSS 317)	Final

