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## **HISTORY 177: U.S. Since 1877**

Spring 2016  
11:00 M, W, F  
321 CCC

Professor Kaminski

Office Hours: 1:00 T, 10:00 W, and by appointment

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History 177 examines the United States from the end of the period of Reconstruction through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will explore the diversities of American life, focusing on how gender, race, ethnicity, and class affect society, culture, and politics. Throughout the course we will consider how people living in this country decide what it means to be an American.

This course is part of the General Education Program's Historical Perspectives category, designed to teach students to:

Describe events from past cultures, societies, or civilizations;  
Recognize the varieties of evidence that historians use to offer diverse perspectives on the meaning of the past;  
Identify the role of human agency in shaping events and historical change;  
Explain historical causality; and  
Evaluate competing historical claims that frequently inform the present.

As part of the General Education Program's U.S. Diversity category, History 177 is designed to teach students to:

Describe the various dimensions of diversity and marginalization within the United States; and  
Explain the means by which one or more persistently marginalized groups in the U.S. have negotiated the conditions of their marginalization.

This will all be accomplished through exams and essays based on lectures and assigned readings.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Davidson, et al, eds., *Nation of Nations*, Vol. II, 6th ed.  
(text rental)  
Make sure to have the correct edition and volume.

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*  
David Welky, *Marching Across the Color Line*  
(purchase)

Check Desire2Learn (D2L) at least once a week for updates on this class.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

You must complete all assignments. Failure to do so will result in failing the course.

### **1. Exams: 25% each**

Three 50-minute exams cover textbook reading assignments, lectures, and visual materials. The exams are objective, a combination of multiple choice and identification questions. At the end of each lecture I will review the key terms that are eligible to show up on the exams. That is the only time and place the terms will be available.

You must take all three exams.

Make-up exams are given when I have been consulted in advance, and/or when I deem it appropriate, and when I have been provided with documentation on one of the following valid reasons: death of a family member, required trip for another course or for a university sports team, illness, and military service. Failure to take an exam will result in failing the course.

### **2. Book Essays: 25%**

There will be an in-class essay on the Sinclair book (10%) and the Welky book (15%). The open-book essay will consist of a single question; study guides will be provided on D2L. You must complete both essays. Failure to do so will result in failing the course. Make-ups are given when I have been consulted in advance, and/or when I deem it appropriate, and when I have been provided with documentation on one of the following valid reasons: death of a family member, required trip for another course or for a university sports team, illness, and military service.

Point equivalents for letter grades for exams and essays are as follows:

93-100: A; 90-92: A-

87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-

77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-

67-69: D+; 63-66: D; 60-62: D-

59 and below: F

0: blank or incomplete work

Graded assignments (exams and essays) will be returned two weeks after the completion date. It is your responsibility to keep your graded assignments and to keep a tally of your progress in the course. Grades are not available electronically.

### **Extra Credit**

You may, at my discretion, earn up to three extra points on your final grade if you regularly participate in class by asking and answering questions that are pertinent to the material. Make sure to have read the assigned chapter by the beginning of the week.

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

1. Attendance: It is your responsibility to attend class on a regular basis. I do not post my lectures or PowerPoint presentations nor do I provide notes to students for any reason.

If you do not come to class, you will be poorly prepared for the exams because you will have missed the key terms from the lecture. That is the only time and place the terms will be available. So if you miss a class, you will have to ask another student for that information.

2. Arrive on time. If you are late, sit in the first available seat closest to the door to avoid distracting the class. Do not leave your seat until I have dismissed the class. If you have to leave early, let me know in advance and sit in one of the aisle seats so your departure is not distracting.

3. Turn off and put away all electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, etc.). You may not record or photograph anything in the classroom.

4. Only one person talks at a time. When you have something to say, raise your hand and wait to be called on. Give your respectful attention to the person speaking.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

I am willing to discuss your progress in the class at any point in the semester. If you earn a D or F on the first essay or exam, you should get in touch with me sooner rather than later. The office hours listed at the top of the syllabus indicate the scheduled times I am available for such conversations. I am available at other times as well.

E-mails are a form of professional communication and therefore must conform to high standards of politeness and respect. I will answer questions about the class via e-mail, except in instances where the answer is available from the syllabus. If you don't receive a response from me within about 24 hours, Monday through Friday, it means you already have that information--you just have to look for it.

Please review this link for additional information on rights and responsibilities:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

## **SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND EXAMS/ESSAYS:**

### **Week 1: Jan. 25-29**

Introduction

Life in the South and West

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 18

### **Week 2: Feb. 1-5**

Industrial Systems, Bosses, and Workers

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 19; begin Sinclair, *The Jungle*

### **Week 3: Feb. 8-12**

Urban Orders: City Bosses, Classes, and Culture

Readings: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 20

### **Week 4: Feb. 15-19**

Politics, Race, and Empire

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 21

### **Week 5: Feb. 22-26**

Accomplishments and Limitations of Domestic Progressivism

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 22

**Friday, Feb. 26: in-class book essay** on Sinclair, *The Jungle*

### **Week 6: Feb. 29-March 4**

Progressive Foreign Policy and the War to End All Wars

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 23

**Wed. March 2: Exam #1** (weeks 1-5, chapters 18-22)

### **Week 7: March 7-11**

How the 20s Roared

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 24

### **Week 8: March 21-25**

The Great Depression and the New Deal

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 25; begin Welky, *Marching Across the Color Line*

### **Spring Break: March 16-20**

### **Week 9: March 28-April 1**

Making the World Safe for Democracy

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 26

### **Week 10: April 4-8**

Cold Wars and Hot Wars

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 27

**Week 11: April 11-15**

From the Baby Boom to the New Frontier

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 28

**Wed., April 13: Exam #2** (weeks 6-10, chapters 23-27)

**Week 12: April 18-22**

Civil Rights, the Great Society, and the Counterculture

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 29

**Week 13: April 25-29**

Society and Politics during the Vietnam War

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 30

**Mon. April 25: in-class book essay on** Welky, *Marching Across the Color Line*

**Week 14: May 2-6**

Conservatism in Modern America

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 31

**Week 15: May 9-13**

Conclusions: A Century of Change or Continuity?

Reading: *Nation of Nations*, ch. 32

**Monday, May 16 at 8:00-8:50 a.m.: Exam #3** (weeks 11-14, chapters 28-32)

**NOTE:** Lecture topics are subject to change without notice.