

## THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1877\*

### PURPOSES OF COURSE:

The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with US history from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, time permitting. The course follows discrete themes, breaking into five sections arranged chronologically: the Search for Order in an Age of Transformation; the Rise of the Regulatory State; the Rise of Semi-Welfare State; the Rise of the National Security State; and the Triumph of Conservatism. In the first third of the semester, we will focus on American society and politics and the economy at the grassroots. During the last two-thirds of the semester we will examine the most important development of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries—the growth of federal power and authority at home and abroad.

### NOTES:

1. There will be two hour examinations, each worth 25 percent of your semester grade, and one final examination, worth 45 percent of your semester grade (see list of Required Lectures and Readings below). The examinations will be largely essay in format with a short objective section based on reading. The final exam may be given added weight in determining your course grade should you show steady improvement. Pluses and minuses will not be used for final grades.
2. The date of the hour exams are subject to change depending on the amount of material we cover in each lecture. Any changes will be announced in advance.
3. No make-up examinations will be given. You may be excused from one of the hour examinations only if you have a certified medical excuse, an official university obligation, or a religious observance. University regulations require a written note 14 days in advance for classes missed because of religious observances.
4. There will be one short paper (1000 words) based on *The Manhattan Project* (see reading list). It is worth 30 percent of your final examination grade. It will be due in class at the last class meeting.
5. No audio or video recorders are permitted in class.
6. Computers are permitted, but all cell phones and Wi-Fi connections must be turned off in class.
7. You will be assigned a Teaching Assistant who will be responsible for grading your examinations and for helping you with any problems related to the course (see below for TAs).
8. This course will have a Supplemental Instruction Teaching Assistant who will run voluntary discussion sections. The room and meeting times will be announced in class.
9. While the reading assignments are fixed and followed carefully, the list of lectures may change depending on the amount of material covered in each lecture.
10. For those students with learning disabilities or other special needs, please contact Services For Students with Disabilities at <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php> for assistance.
11. Academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with according to the rules of the university. For a careful explanation, see [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).
12. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken for every session beginning 10 minutes before class. Attendance will form 5 percent of the final grade. Entering class more than 5

minutes after the bell will be counted as  $\frac{1}{2}$  attendance for that session. If you are late, please sit in the back of the room and alert the Teaching Assistant to your presence after class. At random, three times during the semester attendance will also be taken at the end of class to avoid signing in and leaving before the end of class. If you leave before the end of class without permission, you will be counted as absent.

13. Students seeking assistance with writing may wish to contact [The Undergraduate Writing Center](#).
14. I do not personally profit from any royalties received from the sale of my books to students in this class. All royalties are donated to student scholarships.

**REQUIRED LECTURES AND READING (please make sure to obtain the correct edition because reading assignments are geared to the editions listed here):**

James W. Davidson *et al.*, *Experience History* (8<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill Publishers), Vol. II  
 James W. Davidson and Mark H. Lytle, *After the Fact* (6<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill Publishers), Vol. II  
 William L. Riordon, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* (Bedford Books edition, edited by Terrence J. McDonald)  
 Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (any edition and publisher)  
 Michael B. Stoff *et al.*, eds., *The Manhattan Project: A Documentary Introduction to the Atomic Age* (McGraw-Hill Publishers)

**LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

**I. A SEARCH FOR ORDER IN AN AGE OF TRANSFORMATION, 1877-1900**

- 28 Aug.: Introduction: Why Study History?  
 READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 19; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, Introduction, Prologue, chap. 8.
- 2 Sep.: A New Industrial Order  
 4 Sep.: The Rise of Big Business  
 READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 20; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chap. 9.
- 9 Sep.: The Rise of the Industrial City  
 11 Sep.: Urban Bosses and Political Machines  
 READING: Riordon, *Plunkitt*, pp. 1-102.
- 16 Sep.: New Immigration and Old: A Comparative Look  
 18 Sep.: The Failure of Organized Labor  
 READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 21; Riordon, *Plunkitt*, pp. 103-134.
- 23 Sep.: The Revolt of the Farmers  
 25 Sep.: The New American Empire  
 READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 22.
- 30 Sep.: **HOOR EXAMINATION**

**II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE REGULATORY STATE, 1900-1932**

- 2 Oct.: The Seedtime of Progressivism  
 READING: Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chap. 10; Wright, *Black Boy*, chaps. 1-3.

7 Oct.: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and National Progressivism

9 Oct.: The First World War and the Failure of Wilsonian Internationalism

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 23; Wright, *Black Boy*, chaps. 4-10.

14 Oct.: The "New Negro" in the Jazz Age

16 Oct.: The Politics of Provincialism in the 1920s

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 24; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chap. 11;

Wright, *Black Boy*, chaps. 11-14.

### **III. THE EMERGENCE OF THE SEMI-WELFARE STATE, 1932-1945**

21 Oct.: Crash and Depression

23 Oct.: Franklin Roosevelt, the New Deal, and the Rise of Modern Liberalism

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 25; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chap. 12.

**28 Oct.: HOUR EXAMINATION**

### **IV. THE EMERGENCE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE, 1945-1973**

30 Oct.: The Second World War: "Political Intercourse With the Addition of Other Means"

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 26.

4 Nov.: The New Atomic Age

6 Nov.: The Cold War and Korea

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 27; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chap. 13.

11 Nov.: The American Red Scare

13 Nov.: The Struggle for Civil Rights: The Early Years

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 28; Stoff, *Manhattan Project*, Preface, Introduction, Parts 1-4.

18 Nov.: The Ike Age

20 Nov.: JFK, LBJ, and the Great Society

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 29; Stoff, *Manhattan Project*, parts 5-7.

25 Nov.: The War in Vietnam and at Home

READING: Davidson, *EH*, chap. 30-31; Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chaps. 14.

**\*\*\*THANKSGIVING BREAK\*\*\***

### **V. THE TRIUMPH OF CONSERVATISM, 1973-2012**

2 Dec.: RN, Watergate, and the Unraveling of America

4 Dec.: From Reagan to Obama: The Continuing Search for Order

READING: Davidson and Lytle, *After the Fact*, chaps. 15-17.

**(\*PAPER DUE\*)**

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2-5 PM \*\*\***

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:****Maria José Afanador (Supplemental Instruction TA)****Abikal Borah****Kazushi Minami****Ben Weiss**

\*This course may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.