

USSO 10100

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30, Room 5131 D (x7472) NAC Building

Introduction:

This course will serve as an introduction to the history of the United States from the colonial period until the late twentieth century. With such a vast scope we will be forced to proceed selectively across the historical timeline. Nonetheless, you can expect to investigate fundamental questions related to political, social, cultural, and economic history. Although the textbook will form the core of the reading, you will also be required to complete regular supplementary reading, which will often include primary sources. Developing the skills to evaluate and analyze primary materials serves as only one of our chief objectives. Additionally, you should demonstrate an ability to synthesize secondary sources and to construct your own historical arguments (both written and oral). By the end of the semester we should all share a familiarity with the central themes in American History and, more importantly, have the skills to think critically about history and the world in which we live.

Assignments:

Over the course of the semester you will complete two papers (4-6 pages), one oral presentation, and a final exam. Additionally, short quizzes (based on the reading for that day) will be given regularly and you will also be expected to participate in our class' online community. Grades will be determined according to the following scale:

Quizzes and Participation, Including Online Contributions (25%)

Final Exam (25%)

First Paper, Second Paper, Oral Presentations (50% total)

Required Texts:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History* (ISBN 0-393-92782-2)

Gordon Wood, *The American Revolution* (ISBN 9780812970418)

Schedule:

Jan 26: Introduction

Jan 28: The New World

Foner, Chapters 1-2

Trial of Anne Hutchinson

Description of Natives

Feb 2: Colonial Expansion

Foner, Chapter 3

Feb 4: Life in the Empire, Slave and Free

Wood, Chapters 1-2

Foner, Chapter 4

Feb 9: Revolution

Wood, Chapters 3-5

Foner, Chapter 5

Excerpt from Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Feb 11: Museum Exhibition (Visit to the New-York Historical Society)**Feb 16: NO CLASS (President's Day)****Feb 18: The Constitution**

Wood, Chapter 6-7

Foner, Chapter 6-7

The Federalist Papers No.10

The Constitution

Feb 23: A Jeffersonian Revolution?

Foner, Chapter 8

1st Paper Due

Feb 25: Market Revolution

Foner, Chapter 9

Mar 2: Jacksonian Democracy

Foner, Chapter 10

Mar 4: Slavery

Foner, Chapter 11

Excerpts from Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom*

Mar 9: The Reform Impulse

Foner, Chapter 12

Mar 11: An Impending Crisis

Foner, Chapter 13

Lincoln's Cooper Union Speech

Mar 16: Civil War

Foner, Chapter 14

Emancipation Proclamation

Mar 18: Reconstruction

Foner, Chapter 15

Mar 23: The Gilded Age

Foner, Chapter 16

[Jacob Riis Photographs](#)

Mar 25: Imperialism

Foner, Chapter 17

Mar 30: Progressive Era

Foner, Chapter 18

Apr 1: World War I

Foner, Chapter 19

2nd Paper Due

Apr 6: The 1920s

Foner, Chapter 20

Apr 8: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Apr 13: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Apr 15: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Apr 20: The Great Depression and the New Deal

Foner, Chapter 21

FDR's Fireside Chats

Apr 22: World War II

Foner, Chapter 22

[Letter from Einstein to Truman](#)

Translated Leaflets Dropped in Japan from U.S. Warplanes: #1, #2,

Apr 27: The Cold War

Foner, Chapter 23

"Duck and Cover" Video

Apr 29: The 1950s

Foner, Chapter 24

May 4: Film and Culture

Film Shown in Class

[Hollywood as History](#)

May 6: Film and Music as Primary Sources

Film Shown in Class

Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock, Video Clip

May 11: The 1960s and the Crisis of Authority

Foner, Chapter 25

“I Have a Dream” Speech

May 13: The Triumph of Conservatism

Foner, Chapter 26

Barry Goldwater Accepting Republican Nomination

FINAL EXAM: TBA**Department-Wide Expectations:**

1. Students are expected to arrive prepared and on time. According to College rules, any student who misses four meetings without permission will fail the course.
2. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Late papers will be penalized one grade (i.e., from B+ to B) for every day the paper is late.
3. Students must take a final examination for this class. Examinations are scheduled by the Registrar. Students may reschedule an exam ONLY if they have more than two examinations on the same day.
4. There will be no incompletes granted in this class. All work must be completed by the end of the semester.
5. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For definitions and examples, see the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/upload/academicintegrity.pdf>).