

United States History since Reconstruction
XX College
Dr. Robert Daniel Rubin
Fall 2020

History XX
M–F, 9:00-9:50
XX Hall, Room xx

Office: XX Hall, Room XX
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

After the Civil War, the United States rushed headlong into an era of unprecedented growth and change. Immigrants from a wide variety of nations arrived in large numbers; freed slaves were lynched and degraded; world wars thrust the nation into the role of world leader; fear and persecution of alleged communist infiltrators gripped government and society; dissenters against war were silenced; youth, blacks, and women rebelled; and conservative Americans resisted liberalism and struggled to reassert traditional social norms. The pace of change intensified with each passing decade and suggested an unfathomable future.

In this course, we will examine some of the forces that shaped American politics, culture, and religion from Reconstruction to the 1980s. Reading assignments will come from a textbook and posted assigned readings. These reading assignments, along with class participation, comprise the core of the course. How effectively you read, take notes, discuss the material, and write analytically will determine how well you do in the course.

Book to be Purchased

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*. Vol. 2. Fifth edition. (New York: Norton, 2016). ISBN: 978-0-393-61419-0.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on three exams, three “History of the Present” papers, four unannounced quizzes, short homework assignments, online discussions, and class participation. In order to perform successfully, students need carefully to read all assigned material and to take notes during every class session. Each student is responsible for the material in all assigned readings and from every class discussion.

By the end of the second week, each student needs also to submit a signed receipt form confirming that she or he has read this syllabus in its entirety and has understood everything that the syllabus allows, prohibits, and requires from students.

Course Materials

The main text for the course is *Give Me Liberty!*, volume 2, 5th Edition. The book is available for purchase from the University Bookstore. It can also be purchased online from Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0393614190?pf_rd_p=c2945051-950f-485c-b4df-15aac5223b10&pf_rd_r=71JXJFN9PM9463QEC36D

Primary documents are assigned for most class session. (Please see the class schedule, below, for a listing of the documents.) These will be posted at the course Canvas site. Students are responsible for printing out and bringing to class any document that has been assigned for that class session. Because we will routinely examine and discuss the assigned documents in class, it is imperative you bring the documents with you to class each day. Please bring to class with you each day a folder containing all of the documents that we have read for that third of the course.

A notebook with lined paper must be brought to class each day. It is essential that you take notes during class. We will do writing activities, and you will hand in what you wrote.

Class Participation

Active and informed participation is an essential part of this course. Class discussions depend on students arriving to class fully prepared. That requires that each student complete the reading assigned for that class session *prior to class*. To receive a good grade, you need to read the assigned materials thoroughly and arrive at class prepared to participate.

Each student's class-participation grade will be affected by the civility and respect that he or she shows toward fellow students. During class discussion all comments must be informed and thoughtful; they must honor, although not necessarily affirm, the viewpoints expressed by members of the class. When speaking, every student is expected to exhibit common courtesy.

Attendance

At the beginning of each class session, attendance will be taken. You are permitted three absences without penalty. To be excused because of illness, you must provide me with a note from a doctor; you are counted as absent. If you miss class for any other reason, you are considered absent. Each absence beyond the permitted three will cause your class-participation grade to drop by thirty points.

If you need to miss more than three class sessions because of religious observances or college-sanctioned scheduled events, you must provide me with a written list of the dates and explanations for why the absences are necessary.

Repeated tardiness will harm your grade. On any given day, if you arrive more than fifteen minutes late for class, I will consider you absent for that day unless you encountered unusual circumstances that made you late that day. If you will arrive a few minutes late each day because of a bus schedule, then talk with me and we can make arrangements. Under all of other circumstances, chronic lateness is not acceptable.

Exams

Exams cover the material in the readings and class discussions. Three exams take place over the course of the semester. The first two contain identical formats. Each begins with two terms; you should select one of the two. You need to write a single-paragraph answer that identifies the term, provides all relevant information covered in class and in readings, and indicates that term's significance to the broader theme(s) we have discussed. Make sure to write legibly.

You are then asked to write a short essay in response to an essay question. Essays must be composed in standard English, including proper sentences and paragraphs. Your essay must make a coherent, discernable *argument*. You should be sure to address each part of the essay question. Grades reflect the quality of writing—essays that are poorly written or lacking an identifiable argument cannot receive a good grade. Nor will illegible essays receive a good grade—I must be able to read your handwriting.

The final exam will be done as a take-home exam. Directions will be posted on Canvas. The final exam will consist of an essay question, to be answered with a double-spaced essay four to six pages long. Please follow the directions precisely. The essay should be submitted on Canvas.

Students with an excused absence on the day of an exam—for serious illness, religious observance, or performance in an athletic event—must work out with me an alternative plan for taking the exam. Even in this event, you need to inform me before the day of the exam, not afterward. In the event of serious illness or family tragedy, I will likewise allow for an alternative plan for taking the exam. Any student who, for medical reasons, may need more time or special arrangements for taking an exam must inform me during the first week of the semester.

“History of the Present” Papers

You will need to write three of these papers. This assignment asks you to find, in one of the documents that we read, a passage that speaks to you. You are asked to consider this passage within the context of your own life. The assignment requires you to respond to four prompts. A fifth prompt will ask you to write a short essay. The detailed directions for the paper are posted on Blackboard under “Assignments.” You need to follow those directions precisely.

Online Discussions Boards

You will need to participate regularly in a weekly online discussion. Each Wednesday, a new topic thread will be posted on Blackboard, under “Discussions.” The two most recent topics will be always be open; previous threads will be closed to new contributions. Your grade here will be based on your overall participation, not on individual postings.

There is no length requirement for your postings, but your contributions do need to be substantive and relevant. It is essential that you address all other participants courteously and respect the content of their postings. Engage critically with other participants if you like, but do not attempt to tear apart what they have said. Think of these discussions as civil forums dedicated to the common good. You are there to enrich the discussion, not poison it. Use good judgment.

Quizzes

Four unannounced quizzes will be given at various times in the semester. Quizzes ask short questions or require identifications based on the readings and class discussions. The quizzes will not be announced ahead of time. Although four will be given, only the three highest grades will be factored into the final grade; that is, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. *Quizzes may not be made up.* If you are absent from class when a quiz is given, you will not be able to hand it in.

Homework

Submitted homework assignments count toward your class participation grade. To receive credit, you must demonstrate that you gave the assignment some thought. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to learn if there is an assignment due, find it on Blackboard, and bring it to class.

Class Participation

In this course everyone relies on everyone else's performance. Because of that, you are expected to participate in an active and informed manner, having done the readings. You are also expected to show up on time. Moreover, you need to speak in a respectful manner—arrogance or hostility is not appropriate to in-class contributions.

A significant part of your grade is determined by your participation in class. This includes turning in homework assignments.

Classroom Etiquette

Because in-class discussion is so central to this course, it is especially important that everyone respect and honor everyone else. Sensitive topics are covered. No one should be made to feel wrong or foolish on account of their personal convictions, nor should noise or distractions cause anyone to feel ignored or slighted. To help ensure a respectful classroom environment, please follow these guidelines:

1. Please arrive promptly to all class sessions. If, on occasion, unavoidable circumstances delay your arrival, enter quietly and take your seat without disrupting the class.
2. Please *turn off all cell phones* before class begins. Use of phones, tablets, and laptops during class is prohibited. Students may not text, tweet, or go online during class. While in class, please do not sleep, text, or engage in other activities unrelated to class discussion. If you need to use a laptop, you must provide me with a letter from the Disabilities Office specifying that. Otherwise, laptops may not be used for note taking.

3. During discussions please treat your classmates and your instructor respectfully. Keep in mind the manner in which you present your views: thoughtful, well-reasoned opinions are welcome, but personal attacks are not.
4. Please do not use class time to discuss personal matters, such as grades and absences. Your own course-related concerns should be addressed after class, during office hours, or by email.
5. Please do not begin packing your books before class has ended.

Students with Disabilities

Please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs if you require accommodations based on a disability or medical condition. I will need a copy of the accommodation letter from The Disability Resource Center at XX College in order to arrange your class accommodations.

Disability Services maintains confidential documentation of your disability and assists you in coordinating reasonable accommodations with faculty. For more information, visit XX.

Cheating and Academic Dishonesty

You are encouraged, outside the classroom, to discuss course material with your classmates. Likewise, we will engage in collaborative work in class. However, you must complete all exams and assignments on your own, unless you are specifically instructed to collaborate with another student on a particular assignment. Allowing a person other than you do write any part of the work you submit is considered plagiarism and is strictly prohibited.

It is also considered plagiarism to take any material online or from a published source and present it as your own work. If you wish to cite a brief passage from an online or published source, you may do so only as a quotation with proper citation.

Evidence of academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action. If you are caught cheating, plagiarizing, or otherwise acting dishonestly, you will receive no credit for that assignment and will probably receive an F as a final grade for the entire course. You must abide by the Bellevue College's policy on plagiarism. For details about what plagiarism is, see the XX College Academic Dishonesty Report. <https://XX>.

After having read the college's policy, if you remain confused about what does or does not constitute academic dishonesty, please see me during office hours.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the following calculation:

First Exam	150 pts.
Second Exam	170 pts.
Final Exam	180 pts.
"History of the Present" Papers	210 pts. (three papers, 70 pts. each)
Online Discussions	100 pts.
Quizzes	30 pts. (three quizzes, 10 pts. each)
Class Participation	150 pts.
Signed Syllabus Receipt	10 pts.
Final grade	1,000 pts.

(For each absence beyond three, thirty points are deducted from final grade.)

(For not submitting a signed syllabus receipt by Sept. 1, thirty points are deducted from grade.)

Class Cancellations

On any day that class is canceled due to inclement weather, a notice announcing the cancellation will be posted on Canvas by 9:00 am that morning.

Meeting with the Instructor

Students seeking help with writing or with other requirements of the course are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor after class hours. I am very happy to meet with you. If you are unavailable after class, you may contact me to set up an alternative meeting time. I will respond to emails within twenty-four hours of receiving them. I am available to consult with any student who wishes to talk. Students who are confused about grades, the assigned readings, or other matters are always welcome to meet with me.

Reading this Syllabus

You are responsible for signing a receipt form indicating that you have carefully read this syllabus in its entirety and have understood everything that it allows, prohibits, and requires from students. If there are parts of this syllabus that you do not fully understand, it is your responsibility to ask me to explain them until you do understand them. *By signing this form you confirm your familiarity with all provisions of this syllabus.* You will receive ten points credit toward your final grade for submitting a signed syllabus receipt by January 8. You will lose thirty points for not submitting a signed syllabus receipt by February 1.

Schedule of Classes—Hist 101, Sec. 3 (M-F, 9:00–9:50)

Readings listed for a particular date are to be completed by *that class session*.

Wed., Jan. 2	Course Introduction	Course introduction
Thurs., Jan. 3	Foner, 566–72 (through “Toward a New South”) “Mississippi Black Code” Excerpt from Hannah Rosen, “Not That Sort of Woman” (1999).	United States Politics after the Civil War, part 1
Fri., Jan. 4	Foner, 579–90 Excerpt from Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1868), Sec. 1	United States Politics after the Civil War, part 2
Mon., Jan. 7	Foner, 590–601 John L. O’Sullivan, “Great Nation of Futurity”	The Decline of Reconstruction, part 1
Tues., Jan. 8	Directions for “History of the Present,” Paper 1 Due: Syllabus Receipt (signed)	The Decline of Reconstruction, part 2
Wed., Jan. 9	Foner, 605–7, 613–14 (through “Transformation of the West”) Frederick Jackson Turner, “Significance of the Frontier (1893)	Continental Expansion
Thurs., Jan. 10	Foner, 608–11 (through “Triumph of John D. Rockefeller”), 701–2 (“Rise of Fordism”) 704–5 (Industrial Freedom) Christine Frederick, <i>The New Housekeeping</i> (1913) Frederick Winslow Taylor, <i>Principles of Scientific Management</i> (1911)	Managing America
Fri., Jan. 11	Due: History of the Present, Paper 1	Custodians of Society, part 1
Mon., Jan. 14	Foner, 634–37 Andrew Carnegie, <i>The Gospel of Wealth</i> (1900)	Custodians of Society, part 2
Tues., Jan. 15	Foner, 619–20 (“Chinese Presence”), 664–69 (from “Law of Segregation”), 669–72 (from “New Immigration” through “Chinese Exclusion and Chinese Rights”) Bo, “Letter” (1885)	Oppression and Assimilation, part 1
Wed., Jan. 16	Foner, 621–26. Helen Hunt Jackson—Congressional Report on Indian Affairs (1887)	Oppression and Assimilation, part 2
Thurs., Jan. 17	Foner, 707–9 (“New Immigrants on Strike”), 639–40 (through “Knights of Labor”), 644–47 (beginning with “Haymarket Affair”), 649–51, 673 (from “Rise of the AFL”), 676 (through Rise of the AFL) Terence V. Powderly, “The Knights of Labor” (1889) (Read up through the first two lines on the third page.)	The People, part 1

Fri., Jan. 18	Foner, 651–60 (through “Failure of the New South Dream”) Due: Homework 1	The People, part 2
Mon., Jan. 21	NO CLASS MLK DAY	NO CLASS MLK DAY
Tues., Jan. 22	Foner, 676–77 (“Women’s Era”), 703–4 (“Varieties of Progressivism”), 712–13 (through “Rise of Personal Freedom”), 719–22 (through “Campaign for Woman Suffrage”) Jane Addams, “Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements” (1892)	The Mind and Temperament of Progressivism, part 1
Wed., Jan. 23	Foner, 698–99 (“Immigrant Quest for Freedom”), 695–96 (“Muckrakers”) Lincoln Steffens, <i>Shame of the Cities</i> (1904)	The Mind and Temperament of Progressivism, part 2
Thurs., Jan. 24	Foner, 715–19 (through “Government by Expert”), 724–26 (through “Roosevelt and Economic Regulation”), 729–32 (from “Election of 1912”)	Progressive Government, part 1
Fri., Jan. 25	Theodore Roosevelt, “The Liberty of the People” (1912)	Progressive Government, part 2
Mon., Jan. 28	EXAM 1	EXAM 1
Tues., Jan. 29	Foner, 734–37, 742–46 The Women’s Peace Party and Pacifism during World War I, <i>Boundary Stones</i> (2017). https://blogs.weta.org/boundarystones/2017/04/06/womens-peace-party-and-pacifism-during-wwi . Woodrow Wilson, “War Message to Congress” (1917) Due: Homework 2	The United States in the First World War, part 1
Wed., Jan. 30	Foner, 746–50 (through “Great Cause of Freedom”), 752–55 (from “Liberty in Wartime”) George Creel, <i>How We Advertised America</i> (1920)	The United States in the First World War, part 2
Thurs., Jan. 31	Foner, 755, 758, 761–67 (from “Color Line” through “Red Scare”) George Norris, “Against Entry into War” (1917)	Squashing Dissent, part 1
Fri., Feb. 1	Foner, 768–71 (from “Upheaval in America”) Mitchell Palmer, “Case against the “Reds” (1920)	Squashing Dissent, part 2
Mon., Feb. 4	Due: History of the Present Paper 2—Creel, <i>How We Advertised America</i> ; or Palmer, “Case against the Reds”	The Birth of Civil Rights
Tues., Feb. 5	Foner, 759–61 (Toward “Immigration Restriction and Groups Apart”), 802–7 (from “Second Klan” through “Promoting Tolerance”) Hiram Evans, “The Klan’s Fight for Americanism” (1926)	Modern Culture
Wed., Feb. 6	Foner, 799–802	Fundamentalism, part 1
Thurs., Feb. 7	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Fri., Feb. 8	H. L. Mencken, “Account of the Scopes Trial” (1925) Due: Homework 3	Fundamentalism, part 2

Mon., Feb. 11	Foner, 811–14, 821–26 (from bottom two paragraphs on 821 through “Public Works Projects”) , 837–40 (from “American Welfare State” through “FDR and the Idea of Freedom”)	Misery and Hope
Tues., Feb. 12	Foner, 861–64, 866–69 (From “Isolationism” through “Pearl Harbor”)	The Home Front, part 1
Wed., Feb. 13	Foner, 890–92 “Japanese Internment Report”	The Home Front, part 2
Thurs., Feb. 14	Foner, 879–82 (from “Women at Work” through “Way of Life of Free Men”) “Women in War Industries”	The Home Front, part 3
Fri., Feb. 15	Foner, 922–24 (from “Postwar Strike Wave” through “Republican Resurgence”) Harry S. Truman, “Executive Order 9835” (1947)	The Red Menace, part 1
Mon., Feb. 18	NO CLASS PRESIDENTS’ DAY	NO CLASS PRESIDENTS’ DAY
Tues., Feb. 19	Foner, 927–34 (through “Cold War and Organized Labor”) Joseph McCarthy, “Wheeling, West Virginia Speech” (1950) Due: Homework 4	The Red Menace, part 2
Wed., Feb. 20	Foner, 991–92 (“Kennedy and Civil Rights”), 996–99 (From “Immigration Reform”). “John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address” (1961)	The Grand Federal Government
Thurs., Feb. 21	EXAM 2	EXAM 2
Fri., Feb. 22	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Mon., Feb. 25	Foner, 1021–24 (From “Rights Revolution” through “Right to Privacy”) <i>Engel v. Vitale</i> (1962)	Wall of Separation
Tues., Feb. 26	Foner, 968–69, 972–77 (through “Massive Resistance”), 983–84 <i>Brown V. Board of Education</i> (1954)	The Second Reconstruction, part 1
Wed., Feb. 27	Foner, 985–89 (through “March on Washington”), 992–93 (From “Civil Rights Act of 1964” through “Freedom Summer”), 995–96 (“Voting Rights Act”) Martin Luther King, “I Have a Dream” speech (1963) Due: Homework 5	The Second Reconstruction, part 2
Thurs., Feb. 28	Foner, 999–1002 Stokely Carmichael, “What We Want” (1966)	Black Power, part 1
Fri., Mar. 1	Autobiography of Malcolm X	Black Power, part 2
Mon. Mar. 4	Foner, 1002–1005 (“from “Old and New Lefts” through “Rise of SDS”), 994–95 (“The Conservative Sixties”) Students for a Democratic Society, <i>Port Huron Statement</i> (1962)	The New Left, part 1
Tues., Mar. 5	Mario Savio, “An End to History” Due: History of the Present paper—Students for a Democratic Society, <i>Port Huron Statement</i>	The New Left, part 2
Wed., Mar. 6	Foner, 1005–9 (from “America and Vietnam” through Antiwar Movement”)	The Vietnam War, part 1

Thurs., Mar. 7	Foner, 1009, 1012–13 (from “Counterculture” through “Personal Liberation and the Free Individual”), 1024–26 (“Year of Turmoil”) Carl Oglesby, “Trapped in a System” (1965)	The Vietnam War, part 2
Fri., Mar. 8	Foner, 1014–17 (through “Personal Freedom”) <i>NOW Bill of Rights</i> (1967)	Gender and the Liberation of Women, part 1
Mon., Mar. 11	Foner, 1036–37 (“Continuing Sexual Revolution”) New York Radical Women, “Principles” (1968) Redstockings, “Redstockings Manifesto” (1969)	Gender and the Liberation of Women, part 2
Tues., Mar. 12	Foner, 1027–28 (from “Nixon’s Comeback”) Ronald Reagan, “Freedom versus Anarchy on Campus” (1968)	Fall of the Great Society, part 1
Wed., Mar. 13	Michael Novak, “Why Wallace?” (1968) Due: Homework 6	Fall of the Great Society, part 2
Thurs., Mar. 14	Foner, 1053–55 (from “Religious Right”) Richard Nixon, First Inaugural Address (1969)	Majority?
Fri., Mar. 15	Foner, 1041–43 (from “Watergate)	Watergate
Mon., Mar. 18	Phyllis Schlafly, <i>The Power of the Positive Woman</i> (1977) Jerry Falwell, “The Fundamentalist Phenomenon” (1981)	Born Again
Thurs., Mar. 21	FINAL EXAM DUE on CANVAS at 11:00 AM	FINAL EXAM DUE at 11:00 AM