

HISTORY 104 (U.S. SURVEY, 1877-2000)

Spring, 2001

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Office Hrs. M-W-F 10-11:20 am

M&W 3-3:45, Tu 10:30-11:30 am

or by appointment. I'm often

in my office at other times.

This course is a survey of the political, social, economic & diplomatic trends in United States history from 1877 to the present.

I. REQUIRED READINGOates, Portrait of America (vol. 2) TEXTSinclair - The JungleMoody - Coming of Age in MississippiCaputo - A Rumor of War**I. OBJECTIVES** (also see outcomes/activities pages attached to this syllabus)

- (1) To gain a knowledge of the main developments of the history of the United States since 1877.
- (2) To gain an understanding of the process of historical change.
- (3) To gain practice in evaluating and synthesizing information and in communicating ideas orally and in writing.

II. EXPLANATIONS

(1) This course will survey the history of the United States from 1877 to the present. Students are expected to read the text and supplementary paperbacks, and to integrate this material with the lecture. Class questions are encouraged at any time. We will also have focused discussion on the assigned readings throughout the semester. (See the Schedule of Events) Please feel free to express your opinions and ask questions at any time on any material covered in the course. Cultivate a habit of daily learning, reading a bit at a time. Ultimately you should read every assignment in Portrait of America at least TWICE, first for broad understanding and gaining a sense of the thesis or theme; and second for learning specific details that demonstrate or support the author's argument, sorting fact from opinion.

(2) There will be 6 short quizzes on the outside reading, two (2) fifty minute exams, plus a final exam. You will also be required to prepare a newspaper report DUE at classtime Mar. 10 and to complete a short writing assignment using Caputo's, Rumor of War. This assignment is DUE at classtime Monday, May 8th. ALL dates for quizzes and exams are FIRM. If FSU is closed because of weather, your quiz/exam will be at the next class.

(3) GRADE BREAK-DOWN:

50 minute exams (2)	= 30%
quizzes and discussions	= 25%
Caputo "letter"	= 5%
news report	= 15%
final exam	= 25%
	100%

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D= 60-69, F = below 60

If one is on the borderline between grades the determining factors whether the final grade goes up will be your class attendance and your participation in class discussions.

- (4) **EXAMS** will normally be composed of identifications and short essay questions that emphasize the student's ability to analyze and critically evaluate the material presented in the lectures and readings. Exam questions come from the lecture, the text and the paperbacks. Exams will be given only at the scheduled time and essays will be written in INK. If you are going to miss an exam, you will need (a) a good excuse; (b) to clear the absence with me BEFORE the exam. **PLEASE NOTE:** Any student missing an exam without a documentable excuse will NOT be allowed a make up.
- (5) **QUIZZES:** There will be six (6) short quizzes on specific dates (see Schedule of Events). I will drop one (1) of your quizzes (your lowest grade, one you missed because of illness, whatever. I suggest that you take all of the quizzes so you will have "banked" your one "drop" in case you are ill, have a family emergency, etc. Please note: There are NO make-up quizzes. The written quizzes count 20% and the **discussion component** on quiz days is 5%.
- (6) **NEWSPAPER ESSAY:** Survey one month of the New of the New York Times for any year between 1878-1914. (These years are available on microfilm in the FSU library, bottom level). Write a report (600-900 words, or about 3-4 pages) indicating some of the knowledge gained about the quality of life and the character of the people you have read about. Be sure to give some attention to editorials, local news, and advertisements. Or, another way of looking at the assignment is to ask yourself: What can one learned about society in this particular month and year? Is it violent, are their health concerns, what type of entertainment was available, what kind of jobs are advertised, does international news appear, etc.? Papers are DUE at classtime on Wed. March 7th. I will be happy to look at word processed first drafts until 5 days before the due date.

Warning: plan ahead re your use of microfilm readers as the number of machines is limited. Anyone can turn in their assignment before the due date, long before if desired. Any turned in after the due date will be penalized 5% per day late, up to 25%. In addition to your name on the first page of the essay, also include a notation of the dates and times spent reading the microfilm. (Failure to do so will bring an automatic deduction of 5 points.) Just staple your pages together, NO plastic folders, please. **NOTE:** Proofread your final word processed copy carefully. If your essay was worth spending several hours to create, it is worth a few minutes more to proofread it. A sloppy paper reflects you. Papers will be graded for both content and style. No essay will be accepted after May 9.

Rules to Follow in Writing

- a. Do not use the present tense when telling of a past event.
- b. Quote sparingly and rarely more than three lines.
- c. Do not discuss your methodology. Simply go ahead and write without telling me what your approach will be.

- d. Avoid, whenever possible, using the first person pronoun. Whenever possible, keep "I," "Me," "my" etc. out of the report. (It will be obvious it is your view without saying so as your name is on the news report).
- e. Do not turn in your first draft! The best papers have been rewritten and polished several times before they are submitted.

[7] **CAPUTO LETTER**

Drawing solely on information from Philip Caputo's memoir of the Vietnam War (A Rumor of War), write a letter to the New York Times in 1968 which mirrors Caputo's position on that conflict. Be sure and offer specific examples drawn from the book in order to support your conclusions. This word-processed letter should be approximately 500 words (2 pages). DUE date: classtime May 2. Any letter turned in after the due date will be penalized 5% per day late, up to 25%. No letter will be accepted after May 9.

[8] **CLASS ATTENDANCE** is not required but students who miss many classes rarely do well in the course. If you do come to class, make every effort to arrive on time. A person who is habitually late to class will have 10% deducted from his or her final average. Be forewarned: I will do this! As noted elsewhere, if one is on the borderline between grades a determining factor whether the final grade goes up will be your class attendance.

[9] **You** are responsible for everything discussed, explained, listened to or viewed in this class. Absence is not an excuse. And if you do not understand course material, **ASK** for help. I am always happy to provide extra help for any student who is having difficulty in the course. My office hours are noted on this syllabus. I am often in my office at other times and, of course, you can schedule an appointment anytime.

[10] **You** are expected to do your own work in this class. Academic dishonesty includes any form of cheating and/or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas in your writing, without giving proper credit.

THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u> (P = <u>Portrait of America</u>)
M Jan. 29	Introduction to the class	(P3: Sitting Bull)
W 31	Opening the West	(P4: Women and the Vote)
F Feb. 2	The Troubled Farmer	(P8: The Populist Crusade)
M 5	Growth of Industry	(P5: Master of Steel)
W 7	The City	(P6: How the Other Side Lives)
F 9	Discussion and quiz	P 3, 4, 5, 6, 8
M 12	Politics in the Gilded Age	
W 14	American Expansionism	(P9: Am's First S.E. Asia War)
F 16	Rise of Progressivism	
M 19	Discussion and quiz <u>The Jungle</u>	

W	21	Race in America	(P11: African-Americans & Civil Rights)
F	23	TR Era	
M	26	Roosevelt & Wilson	
W	Feb. 28	EXAM (includes lectures, P3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, <u>The Jungle</u>)	
F	Mar. 2	US Neutrality and Intervention	
M	5	US in World War I (NEWS ESSAY DUE)	
W	7	The Lost Peace	(P14: Henry Ford)
F	9	Politics and Culture of the 1920's	(P15: Why Suffrage?)
M	12	The Great Crash	(P16: Under Hoover)
W	14	FDR & The New Deal	(P17: FDR)
F	16	catch-up	
M	26	FDR & The New Deal	
W	28	Approaching World War Two	(P18: Day of Infamy)
F	30	Discussion and quiz	(P14, 15, 16, 17)
M	Apr. 2	World War Two	(P19: D-Day, P20: The Biggest Decision)
W	4	Discussion and quiz	(P19, 20)
F	6	EXAM (includes lectures and	(P14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20)
M	9	Truman Era	(P22: Harry Truman)
W	11	Korea and the Cold War	
F	13	Eisenhower Era	(P23: The Ike Age)
M	16	The Civil Rights Era	(P24: Trumpet of Conscience)
W	18	Discussion and quiz <u>Coming of Age</u>	
F	20	NO CLASS	
M	23	1000 Days of JFK	
W	25	LBJ and the Great Society	
F	27	Vietnam	(P25: The Nightmare of Vietnam)
M	30	Nixon Era	(P28: I Have Never Been a...)
W	May 2	Discussion of quiz <u>Rumor of War</u> (Caputo Letter DUE)	
F	4	Women's Movement	(P26: Betty Friedan)
M	7	Discussion and quiz	(P22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28)
W	9	Reagan Era	(P30: Man Who...)
F	11	George Bush, Bill Clinton and a Changing America	
M	14	The New Century	

H 104 FINAL EXAM is THURSDAY, May 17, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

The final covers ALL classes and assigned readings between April 9 and May 14.