

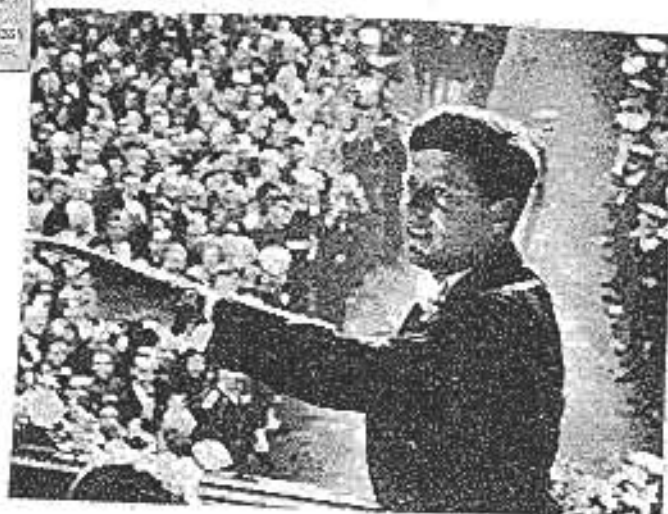
History 2510: American History since 1865

JAN 17 2002

Instructor: Duff Crerar

Course Outline, Winter, 2002

Grande Prairie Regional College
Dept. of Arts, Commerce and Education



Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts, Commerce and Education
History 2510: American History since 1865
3 credits (3 Hrs.) Lecture/Discussion
Pre-requisites, etc.: none
Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D.

Winter, 2002

Office: C-216
Phone: 539-2828
Home: 539-5787

Email: Duff.Crerar@gprc.ab.ca
Room: C316 Monday and Wednesdays: 2:30-3:50

Introduction:

This course is a survey of the outstanding events, personalities, issues and historical trends in the history of the United States of America from the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War to the present. Through lectures and class debates from prepared readings, students will examine and evaluate the American historical experience of western settlement, economic expansion and social crisis, racial conflict, imperial expansion, war, social protest and world power status. During the course, students will write two term tests and one essay, as well as the final examination.

Texts:

P. Boyer, *et al.* **The Enduring Vision**, 4nd Ed. Volume 2. D.C. Heath, 2000.

J.Cary, *et al.* **The Social Fabric: American Social Life from the Civil War to the Present**. Longman's, 1999.

Outline:

Week One: Reconstruction

7 January, 2002 - Reconstruction: Plan and Reality

9 January - Reconstruction and Racism

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 16; **Social Fabric**, Chapter 1

Week Two: The West

14 January - Wild, Wild West?

READ: **Enduring Vision**, Chapter 17

16 January - The War Against the Indians

READ: **Social Fabric**, Chapter 2.

Week Three: Wealth and Power

21 January - Industrialization - Rags and Riches

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 18

23 January - Labour Response

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 4-5.

Week Four: Sweet Land of Liberty

28 January - Coming to America

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 19

30 January - The Cities

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 6-7.

Week Five: Reform and Empire

4 February - Politics in the Gilded Age

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 21

6 February - Crosses of Gold - Halters of Rope

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 3, 9-10.

Week Six: Progressivism and the Presidencies

11 February - Progressivism

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 8

13 February - A New Presidency

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 22

Week Seven: Crusade

18 February Family Day Holiday

20 February - Over There

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 23

25 February March 1, 2002: Reading Week

Week Eight: Prosperity and Paranoia

4 March - Roaring Twenties?

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 24

6 March - Race and Gender

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 11-12

Week Nine: Disaster and Despair

11 March - Fears and Hopes

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 25-26

13 March - A New Deal

READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 13-14

Week Ten: Two Presidents, Two Wars

18 March - Roosevelt's War

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 27; Social Fabric, Chapters 15-16,

20 March - Truman's Wars

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 28

Week Eleven: - Fears, Fantasies and Nightmares

25 March - I Like Ike

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 29; Social Fabric, Chapters 17-18.

27 March - The Right Stuff - Good Morning, Vietnam

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 30; Social Fabric, Chapters 19-20

Week Twelve: Retreat from Empire

1 April - Crisis in the Presidency

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 31

3 - Right Turn, America!

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 32; Social Fabric, Chapters 21-22

Week Thirteen: The Power and the Glory

8 April - Redeemer Nation?

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 33.

Final Exam: To Be Instructor Marked

Marking Scheme:

First test	20
Second test	20
Essay	20
Attendance and Participation	10
Final Examination	30

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Course Format and Philosophy: The course consists of two lectures directed discussions each week. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week and also serve as guides to the text readings. Ideally, students will have read the assigned chapters of both texts **before** each class. Tests will be short answer in nature, while the examination will include essay-type questions. An attendance mark will be given. ALL essay topics must be approved by me before final submission. **Late assignments will be penalized 50% each day they are overdue**, UNLESS special permission is secured from me in advance. Any students having difficulty with their assignments or with the course in general are encouraged to see me as soon as possible -- after class, by contacting me in the office or calling me at home (between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. please!) at 539-5787, I am always willing to help in any way I can.

Course Description: This course traces the development of contemporary America from the failure of Reconstruction after the Civil War to the present day. Students will examine the events, personalities, social and political trends, ideas and controversies which have characterized American social and political history in this period. Topics and issues we will study include the exploitation of the American West, the growth of agriculture and industry and reform movements based on the discontents stemming from these developments by 1900. In addition, American foreign policy, beginning with its first imperial enterprises through the controversies of the 1980s will be studied in the context of America's ambivalence about foreign commitments throughout its recent history. Social reform, democratic protest and the mass movements of American society since the Depression and World War II lead the student into the turbulent decade of the 1960's and the crisis in American political leadership which some argue continues to this day.

Course Objectives: Through lectures and class discussions, media presentations and essay research, students will examine and evaluate the American historical experience, and communicate their findings and opinions to both instructor and fellow colleagues. Successful students will complete the course with a working knowledge of American historic events and the historians who have been most influential in describing them, as well as competency in applying historical skills of questioning, research, writing research papers and examinations, and arriving at informed critical judgements on the historic evolution of the most powerful nation in the world today. Universities require of students the ability to express one's self satisfactorily in writing in order to complete courses successfully. The written forms used in this course include:

1. Two short answer, in-class tests, each worth 20 per cent of the final grade. Students will briefly describe and evaluate the significance of two or three events, personalities, issues, or topics in American history during this period. Answers will be chosen from a selection offered in each test, and be about 3-400 words in length for each question. Each test will survey the preceding portions of the course covered in readings and lectures.
2. One research essay, on a topic personally chosen by the student and approved by the instructor, consisting of about twelve double-spaced pages and using at least five sources. This paper will have a thesis or argue that the research discussed in the paper builds towards a decisive conclusion. Worth 20 per cent of the final grade.
3. Because discourse and critical debate are essential to University courses, students will be marked on attendance and participation in each class discussion, for a total of 10 per cent of the final mark. Students are expected to come to class with readings completed, notes made on readings and with some questions, opinions or critical conclusions made about both the events discussed in the readings and the stands taken on these events by the writers involved.
6. A final examination will be written during the examination period at the end of the semester, involving short answer and essay-type questions, surveying the major themes of the course. The examination will last three hours and will be worth 30 per cent of the final mark.

Knowledge Objectives: Successful students will know the relevant personalities, interest groups, policies, issues of conflict and consensus, periods and historical influences which explain the history of America during this period. Students will learn the sources and writers which give the most relevant, informative and controversial information and perspectives of this field. In completing this course, students will acquire the working knowledge of both main events and sources which dominate this field.

To best accomplish this, frequent consultation with the instructor is encouraged (even required), throughout the course. Any student with concerns or questions or desiring a forum for debate will be welcomed gladly and encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of the course and its instruction. Keep in touch!