

Registrar

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

History 351: American History since 1865

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D.

Office: ~~Room~~ C-2

Phone: 539-2828

Home: 539-7764

JAN 14 1992

Instructions:

This course traces the development of contemporary 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, Volume 2. D.C. Heath, 1990.

J. Cary and J. Weinberg. The Social Fabric, 6th edition. Harper-Collins, 1991.

Hugh Brogan. The Pelican History of the U.S.A. Penguin, 1986

Outline:

Week One: Reconstruction

January 6 - Looking Back -- and Ahead

January 8 - Reconstruction: Plan and Reality

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 15

January 10 - Racism

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 1

Week Two: The West

January 13 - The War Against the Indians

READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 16, and Social Fabric, Chapter 2

January 15 - Bonanza

READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 3.

January 17 - Farm Protest

Week Three: Wealth and Power

2

- January 20 - Industrialization
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 17
- January 22 - Labour Response
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 5-6
- January 25 - Rags to Riches

Week Four: Sweet Land of Liberty

- January 27 - Coming to America
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 18
- January 29 - The Cities
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 4, 7
- January 31 - Manners and Morals
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 19

Week Five: Reform and Empire

- February 3 - Politics in the Gilded Age
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 20
- February 5 - Crosses of Gold - or Silver
- February 7 - Splendid Little Wars

Week Six: Progressivism and the Presidencies

- February 10 - Progressivism
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 8-9
- February 12 - A New Presidency
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 21
- February 14 - Another New Presidency (Brogan, Book IV)

Week Seven: Crusade

- February 17 - Holiday
- February 19 - Test 1
- February 21 - The War and Progressivism
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 22

NBB: Reading Week, February 24-28

Week Eight: Coming Home to Stay

- March 2 - Prosperity and Paranoia
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 23 and Social Fabric, Chapters 10-11.
- March 4 - Prosperity and Prohibition
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 12-13

March 6 - Disaster and Despair
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 14-15

3

Week Nine: Crucial Decades

March 9 - A New Deal
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 24

March 11 - Hopes and Fears
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 25

March 13 - Roosevelt's War
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 26, and Social Fabric, Chapter 16.

Week Ten: Cold War

March 16 - Truman's Wars
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 27

March 18 - Fears and Fantasies

March 20 - I Like Ike
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 28

Week Eleven: Rich Man, Poor Man

March 23 - White Sport Coat - Blue Suede Shoes
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 17

March 25 - The Right Stuff
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 29

March 27 - The Great Society
READ: Social Fabric, Chapters 18, 19

Week Twelve: Retreat from Empire

March 30 - Good Morning, Vietnam
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 20

April 1 - Crisis in the Presidency
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 30

April 3 - Faltering Steps and Slow [Brogan, Book V]

Week Thirteen: The Power and the Glory

April 6 - Right Turn, America!
READ: Enduring Vision, Chapter 31

April 8 - Sparring With the Evil Empire

April 10 - New Social Forces
READ: Social Fabric, Chapter 21

Week Fourteen: Redeemer Nation
April 13 - Imperial Reprise

4

April 15 - Retrospect and Assessment
READ: Enduring Vision, Epilogue

Final Exam: To Be Announced

Marking Scheme:

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

100

Course Format and Philosophy: The course consists of two lectures and one directed discussion 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, student will have read the assigned chapters of both texts before each class. Tests will be short answer in nature, while the examination will include both short answer and essay-type questions. An attendance and participation mark will be given, which measures class appearance and contribution to discussions. ALL essay topics must be approved by me before final submission. Late assignments will be penalized 10% 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 10 p.m. please!) at 539-7764. I am always willing to help in *any* way I can.