

Syllabus
History 1233-X21: Who is the American Dream for?
Online Survey of United States History, 1877 to Present
Spring Semester

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rattanasengchanh
GRADUATE ASSISTANT/GRADER: Maggie-mae Ellison

Meeting Times:
Lecture Classroom:
Office: OD 234

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Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT VIA ZOOM OR IN-PERSON
[All assignments, topics, and exams schedules are subject to change]

Overview:

This course will provide an overview of American history from 1865 to the present with a focus on politics, society, military, and culture. The course emphasizes not so much dates and events but broad issues and themes that run throughout the American past. The end of the American Civil War was supposed to bring about major social, racial, and political changes but did not. A major theme of this class will look at how the legacies of the war can be seen today. America still grapples with issues of race, struggles between federal and state power, gender and sexuality, immigration, and class disputes. This course will look at ideas, events, and perspectives that are rarely discussed in high school courses and popular history. The idea of the American “dream” has been reserved for a select few, so we will look at how many have still yet to achieve it.

Goals:

1. Understand how history has shaped the society, culture, and world you currently live in specifically, you will learn about people, events, and perspectives that you most likely did not hear and read about in high school – this class is not taught like a high school athletic coach would.
2. Learn to analyze primary documents to know their meaning and context
3. Learn to write: summarize ideas from primary documents and learning materials in your own words to answer critical-thinking questions

Texts: The reading assignments will be posted online via D2L.

Assignments:

1. Exams: Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%)
2. 4 Argumentative Essays: 3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt font, default margins (don't mess with them). You will answer a specific question given to you in the syllabus. You must use 6 **different** primary sources from the syllabus – no outside

sources like Wikipedia – 2 primary sources per page. More assignment details are given in the “**Instructions for the Argumentative Essay**” posted in D2L – please follow this and don’t go rogue, follow directions.

- Essay 1: (10%) What is “America” as a nation and who belongs in America?
NOT YOUR OPINION

- Essay 2: (10%) What were the origins of the Cold War (give 3)? Who are to blame for starting the Cold War? NOT YOUR OPINION

- Essay 3: (15%) What were some of the contradictions (hypocrisies) in American society? NOT YOUR OPINION

- Essay 4: (15%) America won the Cold War and people argued that America had the best nation politically, socially, and economically. However, America still had its issues. Did winning the Cold War make America any better or not? Give me 4 reasons, events, or issues that show America, thought a great nation, still had its problems making “winning” the Cold War a weak victory. NOT YOUR OPINION

Letter and Number Grades: Number grades will be converted to letter grades according to the following: A+ (98-100) A (93-98), A- (90-93), B+ (88-90), B (83-88), B- (80-83), C+ (78-80), C (73-78), C- (70-73), D+ (68-70), D (63-68), D- (60-63), and F (0-60). Grades of A+ cannot be given as final course grades but will be assigned to exams that warrant them.

Late Policy

Late papers are assessed a 5% penalty the first day and 2% each day thereafter.

Academic Dishonesty:

The following constitutes plagiarism: “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. This principle applies to professional scholars as well as to students....All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work....When students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including the Internet) must be placed in quotation marks...and be accompanied by an appropriate citation.” THE USE OF SYNONOM REPLACEMENTS IS STILL CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM IN THIS CLASS. Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero for the ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE AND REPORT TO MSU STUDENT LIFE AND THE HONORS PROGRAM. THE SECOND OFFENSE WILL BE A 0/ZERO IN THE COURSE.

Accommodation:

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and

activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

College Policies:

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Student Handbook:

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Email Etiquette: Please begin your emails with an appropriate salutation (e.g., Dear Prof. Rattanasengchanh...) and conclude them with your name. This is especially important if you use an email account that is not your university account.

Emergencies: In the event of a major emergency or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages may be subject to change.

Date	Topics	Readings	Assignment
Week 1	Intro, End of the Civil War and Reconstruction	1) Cornerstone Speech; 2) Confederate Constitution 3) Abraham Lincoln Inaugural Speech 1865 4) 1866 Memphis Riots 5) Abram Colby Testimony	
Week 2	America’s Industrial Revolution, the making of the Working Class, and the Beginning of Anti-Immigration; the Other America	1) Sweatshop Quotes 2) Josiah Strong Excerpt 3) David Phillips and the Chinese Question 4) Why the Irish Came to America	

Week 3	The American Empire and the Demise of the Native Americans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ghost Dance video 2) Account from Battle of Little Big Horn 3) Roosevelt Corollary 4) Accounts from American war in Philippines 5) Manifest Destiny 	
Week 4	The Other America (Murica); WWI and Growth of “Big Brother”; Spanish Flu and COVID	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Harvard Expert Compares Spanish Flu, COVID-19 2) Watch Movie on youtube.com = “The Birth of a Nation,” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQe5ShxM2DI 3) Priest and Two Others Tarrd 3) How the Other Half Lives 4) The Jungle 5) Tendencies of an American Negro 6) Illusions of the White Race 	Essay #1 What is “America” as a nation and who belongs in America? Due Friday by 5pm, February 5th
Week 5	Interwar and Prosperity? Great Depression	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Flapper Girl Article 2) “I need a Little Sugar in My Bowl” song 3) Conservative Manifesto 4) Anti-Suffrage Pamphlet 	
Week 6	WWII and America and the Holocaust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) “Boston Girl Swings 10-Ton Crane” 2) Japanese Internment 3) African-American WWII Soldiers 	
Week 7	Origins of the Cold War in Europe and Asia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Truman Doctrine 2) Stalin Speech 3) Ho Chi Minh’s Admiration for the U.S. 	
Week 8	Midterm	Midterm	Midterm, March 5th
Week 9	Anti-Communism at Home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Harry S. Truman’s Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb 2) Did America have to Drop the Bomb? 3) The War was Won Before Hiroshima 4) McCarthy Speech 5) Seeger Testimony 6) Cooper Testimony 	Essay #2 What were the origins of the Cold War (give 3)? Who are to blame for starting the Cold War? Due Friday by 5pm, March 12

Week 10	1950s: Prosperity, Conservatism, and Hipsters	1) Watch Social-Sex Attitudes in Adolescence (https://archive.org/details/SocialSe1953) 2) Sexual Behavior in the Human Male	
Week 11	Vietnam War and Vietnam War in America (Conservative Backlash to Hippies)	1) Watergate Tapes: Listen to “Smoking Gun” recording (https://watergate.info/1972/06/23/the-smoking-gun-tape.html) 2) My Lai Massacre Account 3) The Last Days of Saigon 4) Ho Chi Minh’s Independence Speech 5) JFK Speech on VN, 1956 6) LBJ Speech on VN, 1965 7) John Kerry and War Crimes in Vietnam (http://www.vvaw.org/commentary/?id=399)	
Week 12	1970s, Disco, Pres. Carter; Cold War gets Hot	1) Nixon’s Silent Majority Speech 2) Beyond Vietnam_MLK (Martin Luther King Jr.) 3) Iranian Hostage Crisis Account 4) Boogie Nights Article	Essay #3 What were some of the contradictions (hypocrisies) in American society? due by Friday 5pm, April 2nd
Week 13	Reagan, Madonna, and AIDS; End of the Cold War	1) “America’s HIV outbreak started in this city, 10 years before anyone noticed” 2) Listen to NPR episode titled, “The Golden Age of MTV” (https://www.npr.org/2011/11/06/141991877/the-golden-age-of-mtv-and-yes-there-was-one)	
Week 14	American New World Order, 9/11 and Global War on Terror	1) Bush’s New World Order Speech 2) Ronald Reagan’s Berlin Speech 3) Why did we go to war in Iraq? 4) “Disposable Soldiers” Article 5) Review of <i>The Looming Tower</i> 6) Osama bin Laden Story 7) After 9/11, Americans United to Protect the Country. Today, We’re Divided by Threats that Don’t Exist	

Week 15	2008 Financial Crisis, Obama, and Trump	1) Millennials Wounded from 2008 Financial Crisis 2) Arnold Kling Article 3) The Effects of the Economic Crisis on American Households 4) Barack Obama’s 2004 Speech 5) Conservative Backlash against Obama 6) Reaction to Obama being Elected 7) Excerpts from <i>Fire and Fury</i> 8) Trump’s Inaugural Speech 9) Voices from Democratic Counties Where Trump Won Big 10) Parler’s Founder Explains Why He Build Trump’s New Favorite Social Media App	Essay #4 America won the Cold War and people argued that America had the best nation politically, socially, and economically. However, America still had its issues. Did winning the Cold War make America any better or not? Give me 4 reasons, events, or issues that show America, though a great nation, still had its problems making “winning” the Cold War a weak victory. Due Friday by 5pm, April 16th
Week 16		<u>SATURDAY APRIL 24 10:30AM – 12:30PM</u>	<u>Final Exam</u>