

History 152 – Section 1
United States History since 1877
Fall 2012
MWF 8:30-9:20, University Hall 201

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” -William Faulkner



Instructor: Brandon Ward

Office: Recitation 401

Office Hours: Mondays: 9:30-10:30; Wednesdays 10:30-11:30; and by appointment.

Virtual Office Hours: ward26@purdue.edu

Course Description and Objectives

The legendary Mississippi author William Faulkner once wrote, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” He also wrote, “My mother is a fish.” This class will be concerned with the former remark. This class provides a survey of the sweeping economic, political, cultural, and social transformations that have shaped the United States since 1877. Through lectures, historians’ accounts, discussions, memoirs, documents, music, and films you will be exposed to a wide variety of perspectives on U.S. history. By emphasizing writing and interpreting primary sources, this course seeks to develop skills that are useful no matter what academic major or career path you pursue. History is not merely the memorization of facts and dates—it is the dynamic process of analyzing and interpreting primary sources (first-hand accounts) and writing about your findings. In this class, we will emphasize the way ordinary people experienced the transformations over the last 130 years of American history. In the process, I hope that you will discover just how much history is all around us, and will become more informed, more critical consumers of that history.

Required Books

The following two books are available at the university book store and from online sites like Amazon. Just be sure to purchase the correct edition of the textbook. You can also purchase an e-book edition of the textbook at <http://books.wwnorton.com/nortonebooks/>. Both books will also be available on reserve at Hicks Undergraduate Library.

David E. Shi and George Brown Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 8th Edition, Volume II (New York: W.W. Norton, 2009).

Melba Pattillo Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* (New York: Simon Pulse, 2007).

Blackboard

Most weeks you will be required to read several primary-source documents. I will make all of them available throughout the semester on the course Blackboard site. Additionally, you can find the syllabus, assignments, lecture outlines, grades, and more on the Blackboard site. Check it early and often.

Grading

Exams: 240 points

Exam 1: 60 points

Exam 2: 80 points

Exam 3: 100 points

Creative Response Papers: 120 points

Paper 1: 50 points

Paper 2: 70 points

In-Class Writing Responses: 30 points

Warriors Don't Cry Quiz: 10 points

Limited opportunities for extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion.

Grade Scale

388 – 400 Points = A+

292 – 307 Points = C

372 – 387 Points = A

280 – 291 Points = C-

360 – 371 Points = A-

268 – 279 Points = D+

348 – 359 Points = B+

252 – 267 Points = D

332 – 347 Points = B

240 – 251 Points = D-

320 – 331 Points = B-

>240 Points = F

308 – 319 Points = C+

Exams

We will have three exams in this course: exam 1 (**September 24**), exam 2 (**October 22**), and the final exam (**date to be announced**). Notice that exams increase in point values, rewarding you for improvement in this course. Exams consist of short answer questions and essays. The final exam is not cumulative. You must bring a **blue book** to each exam.

Creative Response Papers

In this class you must write two creative response papers. **Essay one is due September 17. Essay two is due October 29.** The essay questions and more detailed instructions will be distributed in class and posted to Blackboard. Essays will be collected at the beginning of class on the due date. E-mailed submissions will not be accepted. E-mailed submissions will receive a zero (0) for the assignment unless you have made prior arrangements with me. Late papers will drop a letter grade for each day they are late.

In-Class Writing Responses

Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Attendance and preparedness will be judged by approximately ten unannounced in-class writing responses. These exercises will require you to briefly reflect on the documents assigned for that week. They are designed to reward you for keeping up with the assigned documents and will help you to prepare for the exam.

Warriors Don't Cry Quiz

You are required to read *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals and come to class prepared to take a quiz and discuss the book on **November 7th**. You will receive the possible quiz and discussion questions in advance.

Classroom Climate

We will maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning and respectful interaction. Abusive, intolerant, or disrespectful behavior toward classmates or me will not be tolerated. Laptops are only to be used for note-taking. Please turn off your cell phones before class. I do not take attendance, but since it is your choice to come to class, I expect you to devote your attention to the class. Talking, texting, reading the newspaper, playing Angry Birds, surfing the

internet on your laptop, or acting in a disrespectful or distracting manner may earn you an invitation to leave.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office. In plain English, **don't cheat!** I have zero tolerance for plagiarism and all forms of academic dishonesty. If you are having difficulty keeping up with the work load in this course, talk to me about it.

A note on the use of **Wikipedia**: You are witnessing one of the biggest transformations in the availability and accessibility of knowledge in the history of the world. Rather than try to run away from it, I believe instructors have an obligation to help students to become better consumers of this bewildering array of knowledge. Wikipedia has a place in this class: it can serve as a useful reference source, a place to check facts and dates, and an avenue to explore further some of the topics in this class that you find interesting. Do not use Wikipedia as a shortcut for doing the assigned readings and coming to class. Everything you need to succeed on exams and assignments is provided through the lectures, class materials, and textbook. Use Wikipedia judiciously, and let me know if I can help clarify anything that you find confusing in class.

Accommodations

If you have a disability that requires special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first three (3) weeks of the semester in order to discuss any adjustments. It is important that we talk about this at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.purdue.edu/drc>) of an impairment/condition that may require accommodations and/or classroom modifications.

If English is not your first language, the resources available through the International Students and Scholars Office may prove enormously beneficial. The ISS Office web site is: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu>. The office is in Schleman Hall, Room 136.

Disclaimer

To the extent possible, we will follow this syllabus as closely as possible. If any adjustments in syllabus, including the course schedule, should become necessary due to campus emergency, snow, zombie apocalypse, or other unforeseen circumstances, I will e-mail you and update the syllabus on Blackboard. Please feel free to e-mail me for clarification.

Course Schedule (Subject to Minor Adjustments)

| Week: | Date: | Class: | Readings/Assignments: |
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| Week 1 | Aug. 20 | Introduction & Syllabus | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 18 |
| | Aug. 22 | “How to Succeed in Hist 152” | |
| | Aug. 24 | Why Start in 1877? | |
| Week 2 | Aug. 27 | The South and West | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 19 |
| | Aug. 29 | | |
| | Aug. 31 | | |
| Week 3 | Sept. 3 | Monday: No Class (Labor Day!) | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 20 & 22 |
| | Sept. 5 | The Gilded Age: Big Business and Revolt | |
| | Sept. 7 | | |
| Week 4 | Sept. 10 | Gilded Age and Progressive Era: Urbanization and Empire | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 21 and 23 |
| | Sept. 12 | | |
| | Sept. 14 | | |
| Week 5 | Sept. 17 | The Progressive Era and World War I: Reform and War | First Essay Due Monday Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 24 and 25 |
| | Sept. 19 | | |
| | Sept. 21 | | |
| Week 6 | Sept. 24 | Monday: Exam One | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 26 and 27 |
| | Sept. 26 | The 1920s: Age of Confidence or Age of Anxiety? | |
| | Sept. 28 | | |
| Week 7 | Oct. 1 | The Great Depression and New Deal | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 28 |
| | Oct. 3 | | |

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| | Oct. 5 | | |
| Week 8 | Oct. 8 Oct. 10 Oct. 12 | No Class Monday: Fall Break! World War II | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 29 & 30 (After the exam) |
| Week 9 | Oct. 15 Oct. 17 Oct. 19 | World War II and Origins of the Cold War | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 31 |
| Week 10 | Oct. 22 Oct. 24 Oct. 26 | Monday: Exam Two Postwar America and the Fifties | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 32 (after the exam) |
| Week 11 | Oct. 29 Oct. 31 Nov. 2 | The Fifties: <i>The Happy Days?</i> | Second Essay Due Monday Documents on Blackboard Text book, Ch. 33 |
| Week 12 | Nov. 5 Nov. 7 Nov. 9 | The Civil Rights Movement | Documents on Blackboard Read <i>Warriors Don't Cry</i> and be prepared for Quiz and discussion on Wednesday |
| Week 13 | Nov. 12 Nov. 14 Nov. 16 | The Sixties: Liberalism and War | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 34 |
| Week 14 | Nov. 19 Nov. 21 Nov. 23 | The Sixties and Seventies: The New Movements No Class Wednesday and Friday (Thanksgiving Break!) | Documents on Blackboard |

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| Week 15 | Nov. 26 Nov. 28 Nov. 30 | The Seventies : More than Disco | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 35 |
| Week 16 | Dec. 3 Dec. 5 Dec. 7 | The Eighties: Conservative Resurgence History in Our Time Final Exam Review | Documents on Blackboard Textbook, Ch. 36, Skip Ch. 37 |
| Week 17 | TBA | Finals Week – Date and Time of Final To Be Announced | |