

United States since 1877

MWF 11:30-12:20

Brett Russler

Office: REC 404 (in-person extremely limited & by appointment only)

Student Hours: Mondays 12:30-2:30 over Brightspace, or by appointment

Email: brussler@purdue.edu

Brightspace: <https://purdue.brightspace.com/d2l/home/58181>

iCloud: https://www.icloud.com/iclouddrive/0ZJiajzYcYE86nj1yhVVTqGxw#HIST_152

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the major social, cultural, political, and economic developments that took place in (and often outside of) the United States, beginning with the end of Reconstruction and concluding somewhere roughly within the last 10-20 years. The course will present the story of the United States in a narrative format, proceeding in a chronological fashion. This narrative will attempt to weave together politics, culture, and economics, but periodically themes will be broken down individually. From this approach, students will gain a better understanding of how the America we live in today came into existence.

Course Objectives

- 1) Be able to craft a historical argument with evidence to back it up.
- 2) Be able to evaluate and understand historical sources, connecting them to larger issues/themes of the course.
- 3) Attain a better understanding of how the America of today came to be.

Course Assignments

Discussions note: Given the pandemic, “discussions” will actually just be me providing brief videos available in iCloud going over points I don’t want you to miss and/or providing more context.

FYI: You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Weekly Quizzes & Discussions (50 points, 5 points each)

There will be assigned readings every week posted on Brightspace in the “Readings” folder in the “Content” section. There will be a short multiple choice & true/false quiz on Brightspace in the “Quizzes” folder in the “Content” section over these that must be completed by 12pm the day of the reading assignment. 1 attempt, 10 questions in 10 minutes, worth 0.5 a piece. They’ll be available Mondays at 8AM and will be due the day of the assignment at 12PM. You are expected to have read these in their entirety. Sometimes I will also post a brief video to talk about the reading and/or provide more context. I’ll announce what days those’ll be so you can access them in iCloud. One of these quizzes will be over a film.

Book Discussions (30 points, 10 points each)

There will be a “discussion” video I’ll make for each assigned book (see “Texts” below) to be found in the iCloud folder. There will be a multiple choice & true/false quiz on Brightspace in the “Quizzes” folder in the “Content” section over these that must be completed before the day of the “discussion.” 1 attempt, 20 questions in 20 minutes, worth 0.5 a piece. They’ll be available the Monday of the appropriate weeks at 8AM and will be due the day of “discussion” at 12PM. You are expected to have read the books in their entirety. The videos will be essential for exam preparation as at least one short essay question will be drawn from the books.

Film Discussions (20 points, 10 points each)

There will be a “discussion” video I’ll make for each assigned film (unless there’s no quiz associated with it) to be found in the iCloud folder. There will be a multiple choice & true/false quiz on Brightspace in the “Quizzes” folder in the “Content” section over these that must be completed before “discussion.” 1 attempt, 10 questions in 10 minutes, worth 1 point a piece. They’ll be available the Monday of the appropriate weeks at 8AM and will be due the day of the “discussion” at 12PM. You are expected to have watched the films and completed any assigned reading with the films in their entirety. All films, except the Ken Burns documentary which is available for free through the Purdue library website, is available in the iCloud folder.

Some assigned films won’t have quizzes, but extra credit questions on exams will be pulled from them instead (see below, extra credit films are indicated).

Exams (300 points, 100 points each)

2 exams and a final (noncumulative). Short essay exams. Questions will deal with lecture, discussions, and the current assigned book. These will be submitted through Brightspace. Potential questions will be posted in advance on Brightspace. See below for dates, deadlines. **WARNING:** There is a plagiarism checker on Brightspace that I’ll be using, so please don’t even try it. Final will be completed at home after Thanksgiving break.

Grading Scale

A: 93-100%
A-: 90-92%
B+: 87-89%
B: 83-86%
B-: 80-82%
C+: 77-79%
C: 73-76%
C-: 70-72%
D+: 67-69%
D: 63-66%
D-: 60-62%
F: 0-59%

Texts

Required (all available on Amazon; edition doesn’t matter)

1) *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America* by James Green

2) *This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible* by Charles E. Cobb Jr.

3) *House of Debt: How They (and You) Caused the Great Recession, and How We Can Prevent It from Happening Again* by Atif Mian & Amir Sufi

Optional

Building the American Republic, Volume 2: A Narrative History from 1877 by Jane Dailey
(available for free at: <https://www.bibliopen.org/p/bopen/9780226300962>)

Course Policies

Cheating/Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. You are expected to produce your own work and contribute original thought and to accurately cite any materials that you use in this process. Cheating and plagiarism will be taken seriously and punished according to Purdue University guidelines. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a 0 on the relevant assignment and the possibility of an F for the course. I will also file an Academic Dishonesty Report to the Office of the Dean of Students. If in doubt, cite a source. I am always available to answer any possible concern about plagiarism throughout the semester. Brightspace has an automatic plagiarism checker, so please don't even try it.

Class Behavior

It is expected that students will be respectful to their fellow classmates as well as the instructor. Any disruptive, abusive, or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted without instructor approval. If an emergency does arise that will prevent you from submitting an assignment on the due date please contact me as soon as possible. Documented emergencies in line with Purdue University policies will result in special accommodations. If Brightspace is necessary for the submission of an assignment and is not behaving as it should, which will almost certainly happen at some point, it is expected that students will email the assignment to me before the assignment deadline.

Rights of Revision

Final decisions regarding course structure, requirements, and grading rest with the professor, and are subject to change.

Disclaimer

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or

other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Mon. 8/24: Introduction (access iCloud)

Wed. 8/26: Jim Crow (access iCloud)

Fri. 8/28: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud)

- See Brightspace for 8/28 (Quiz & *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940* reading) I've uploaded a very graphic lynching photo that's discussed in the article on Brightspace just below the reading. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK SHOULD YOU CHOOSE NOT TO.

Week 2

Mon. 8/31: the West (access iCloud)

Wed. 9/2: Big Business (access iCloud)

Fri. 9/4: Quiz: clip & reading

- See Brightspace for 9/4 (Quiz & *We Shall Remain: Wounded Knee* clip (access iCloud) & *Religion of a Different Color: Race and the Mormon Struggle for Whiteness* reading)

Week 3

Mon. 9/7: Migrations (access iCloud)

Wed. 9/9: Empire (access iCloud)

Fri. 9/11: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): reading

- See Brightspace for 9/11 (Quiz & skim *The Negro Motorist Green Book* & *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* reading: READ ONLY THE PARTS PERTAINING TO ROBERT JOSEPH PERSHING FOSTER)

Week 4

Mon. 9/14: Progressivism (access iCloud)

Wed. 9/16: Woodrow Wilson & WWI (access iCloud)

Fri. 9/18: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): reading

- See Brightspace for 9/18 (Quiz & *Unmasking History: Who Was Behind the Anti-Mask League Protests During the 1918 Influenza Epidemic in San Francisco?* reading)

Week 5

Mon. 9/21: NO CLASS, discussion, or quiz: Watch *The National Parks: The Last Refuge (1890-1915)*

- <https://purdue.kanopy.com/video/last-refuge>
- Extra credit question(s) on exam #1 will be pulled from this film

Wed. 9/23: *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age* Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud)

- Exam #1 released

Fri. 9/25: Exam #1 due at midnight

Week 6

Mon. 9/28: the 1920s (access iCloud)

Wed. 9/30: the Great Depression (access iCloud)

Fri. 10/2: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): clips

- Access iCloud (*Unforgivable Blackness* clips & *Joe Louis: America's Hero... Betrayed* clip)

Week 7

Mon. 10/5: the New Deal (access iCloud)

Wed. 10/7: NO CLASS: Watch *Freaks*

- Access iCloud (*Freaks*)

Fri. 10/9: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): reading

- See Brightspace for 10/9 (Quiz & *The Case of FREAKS: Public Reception of Real Disability* reading)

Week 8

Mon. 10/12: WWII: prewar & home front (access iCloud)

Wed. 10/14: WWII: abroad (access iCloud)

Fri. 10/16: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): Watch *Japanese Relocation* & reading

- See Brightspace for 10/16 (*Superman (Episode 26): The Sneer Strikes* reading & *Japanese Relocation* (access iCloud))

Week 9

Mon. 10/19: Cold War & McCarthyism (access iCloud)

Wed. 10/21: *This Nonviolent Stuff'll Get You Killed: How Guns Made the Civil Rights Movement Possible* Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud)

- Exam #2 released

Fri. 10/23: Exam #2 due at midnight

Week 10

Mon. 10/26: the Fifties (access iCloud)

Wed. 10/28: NO LECTURE: Quiz, watch *JFK*, & reading

- See Brightspace for 10/28 (*Building the American Republic* (free link above under "Texts") pages: 244-247 reading & *JFK* (access iCloud))

Fri. 10/30: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): reading

- See Brightspace for 10/30 (*Reclaiming History: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy* reading)

Week 11

Mon. 11/2: the civil rights movement (access iCloud)

Wed. 11/4: the 1960s (access iCloud)

Fri. 11/6: race & inequality: deindustrialization, riots, mass incarceration & policing (access iCloud)

Week 12

Mon. 11/9: the Vietnam War (access iCloud)

Wed. 11/11: Watergate (access iCloud)

Fri. 11/13: Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud): reading

- See Brightspace for 11/13 (*The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South vs. From the New Deal to the New Right: Race and the Southern Origins of Modern Conservatism* reading)

Week 13

Mon. 11/16: Bill Clinton impeachment (access iCloud)

Wed. 11/18: 9/11 (access iCloud)

Fri. 11/20: Quiz: Watch *Monica in Black and Black*

- See Brightspace for 11/20 (*Monica in Black and Black* (access iCloud))

Week 14

Mon. 11/23: *House of Debt: How They (and You) Caused the Great Recession, and How We Can Prevent It from Happening Again* Quiz & Discussion video (access iCloud)

Wed. 11/25: NO LECTURE: Thanksgiving break

Fri. 11/27: Quiz, discussion video, clip, & reading (quiz not due till Monday at midnight)

- TBD reading & *I Hate Christian Laettner* clip (access iCloud))

Week 15

Mon. 11/30: NO LECTURE: Watch *Crip Camp* at your leisure

- *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* (access iCloud)
- Extra credit question(s) on final exam will be pulled from this film

Wed. 12/2: Final released on Brightspace

Dec 7-12

Final Exam Due Date: date & time TBD

Technology: ITaP is best for technology questions. Their phone # is 765-494-4000. Microsoft Office 365 is free for all students and includes Word.

(<https://www.itap.purdue.edu/shopping/software/product/office365.html>)

COVID-19: Questions/concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. But if you experience any symptoms of COVID-19 or suspect you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 stay home and call the Protect Purdue Health Center at 765-496-4636. If there's a COVID-19 issue, you'll need to inform me of any conflict that can be anticipated and will affect the submission of an assignment or the ability to take an exam. Only I can excuse you from a course requirement and I may request documentation from the Office of the Dean of Students to do so.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Purdue's Equal Opportunity, Equal Access and Affirmative Action policy which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Additionally, the University promotes the full realization of equal employment opportunity for women, minorities, persons with disabilities and veterans through its affirmative action program.

Students with Disabilities

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences accessible to all participants. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Mental Health

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc. sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is completely free and can be done on BoilerConnect. If you have any questions, please contact Purdue Wellness at evans240@purdue.edu.

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.