

**HISTORY 152**  
**United States since 1877**  
**Fall 2023**  
TTH 10:30-11:45 AM  
SMITH 108

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, PhD  
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Course Description:

This course sets out to explore how social, political, economic, and cultural forces shaped the development of the nation from the late nineteenth century to the present. Specifically, this class draws attention to the broad trends, events, and key figures of these times and examines their impact on the lives of ordinary Americans. Topics covered in this course include modernization and industrialization, World War I and II, the Great Depression and the New Deal, the Cold War at home and abroad, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Assigned Text:

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History, Volume 2, 7th edition* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).  
ISBN: 978-0393418262.

Jefferies, Hasan. *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt* (New York: New York University Press, 2010).  
ISBN: 978-0814743317.

Course Requirements and Policies:

There will be two (2) mid-term exams and a final exam for this course. The two mid-terms will each count for twenty-five percent (25%) of your final grade and the final exam will count for fifty percent (50%). Both mid-term exams will focus on document interpretation, requiring students to draw on material presented in lectures and the textbook to contextualize and explain two separate exhibits. The final exam will consist of two sections, a short-answer identification section and an essay section, that draw on the lecture material, the textbook, *Give Me Liberty!* and the other course readings.

Attendance:

Attendance is not required, but you will find it difficult to do very well in this course if you are not in class regularly. I do not take roll and I give no points for attendance. In return for

not treating, you like middle-school students, I expect you to be attentive and respect the rights of others to a constructive learning environment. **Turn off cell phones and all such handheld devices.**

**Lastly, this syllabus maybe subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the instructor’s discretion.**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes made necessary by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. **In the event of such an emergency, I will notify you of key schedule or policy changes by email.**

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Syllabus:

**Week One: Reconstruction’s Demise**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 15, “‘What Is Freedom?’: Reconstruction, 1865 – 1877”

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

Course Introduction;  
“Presidential vs. Congressional Reconstruction”

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Lecture: “Reconstruction’s Collapse and the Rise of the New South”

**Week Two: Standardizing the Nation: Innovations in Technology, Business, and Culture**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 16, “America’s Gilded Age, 1870 – 1890”

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Lecture: “Industrial Development and the Rise of Corporate Empire”

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Lecture: “Wage Earners and the Culture of Work”

**Week Three: Toward an Urban Society**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 17, “Freedom’s Boundaries, At Home and Abroad, 1890 – 1900”

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Lecture: “The Lure of the City and Social and Cultural Change”

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Lecture: “The Spread of Jim Crow and Stirrings of Reform”

#### **Week Four: Political and Cultural Conflict in a Decade of Depression and War**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 18, “The Progressive Era, 1900 – 1916”

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Lecture: “The Politics of Stalemate and the Rise of Populism”

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Lecture: “The Crisis of Depression and the Election of 1896”

#### **Week Five: The Progressive Era**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 19, “Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916 – 1920”

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Lecture: “The Changing Face of Industrialism”

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Lecture: “African Americans and World War I”

#### **Week Six: From Roosevelt to Wilson in the Age of Progressivism**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 19, “Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916 – 1920”

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Lecture: “Ida B. Wells and the Spirit of Progressivism”

Thursday, September 28, 2023

**Mid-Term Exam 1**

#### **Week Seven: Rise of Modern America**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 20, “From Business Culture to Great Depression: The Twenties, 1920 – 1932”

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Lecture: “Harlem Renaissance and the Roaring Twenties”

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Lecture: “Republican Politics and the Election of 1928”

## **Week Eight: The New Deal**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 21, “The New Deal, 1932 – 1940”

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Fall Break (No Classes)

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Lecture: “The Great Depression and Roosevelt’s Plan for Recovery”

## **Week Nine: World War II**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 22, “Fighting for the Four Freedoms: World War II, 1941 – 1945”

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Lecture: “Race, Recovery, and the Impact of the New Deal”

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Lecture: “The Road to War”

## **Week Ten: The Cold War**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 23, “The United States and the Cold War, 1945 – 1953”

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Lecture: “Turning the Tide against the Axis Powers”

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Lecture: “Containment”

## **Week Eleven: Postwar Affluence and Anxiety**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 24, “An Affluent Society, 1953 – 1960”

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Lecture: “The Postwar Boom”

Thursday, November 2, 2023

**Mid-Term Exam 2**

## **Week Twelve: The Sixties**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 25, “The Sixties, 1960 – 1968”  
Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Introduction, Chapters 1-2.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Lecture: "LBJ's Great Society"

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Lecture: "Nixon, Watergate, and Its Aftermath"

### **Week Thirteen: New Conservatism**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 26, The Triumph of Conservatism, 1969 – 1988"

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapters 3-4.

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Lecture: "The Reagan Revolution"

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Lecture: "The First Bush and the Changing Faces of America"

### **Week Fourteen: Into the Twenty-First Century**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 27, "Globalization and Its Discontents, 1989 – 2000"

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapters 5-6.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

TBA

Thursday, November 23, 2023

No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

### **Week Fifteen: Into the Twenty-First Century**

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 28, "A New Century and New Crises"

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapter 7, Epilogue.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Lecture: "Bill Clinton and the Rise of the New Democrats"

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Lecture: "George W. Bush and the Republican Resurgence"

### **Week Sixteen: Post Racial America**

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Lecture: "Barack Obama and Post-Racial Politics"

Thursday, December 7, 2023

TBA

**Final Exam TBA**