

HISTORY 202: U.S. History since 1865

5 Credits - Fall 2011 - Dr. Dearing



Course meets Monday through Friday from 10-10:50am in Ackerman Hall 103

*****This course satisfies the following university requirements*****

Gen-Ed (Social Sciences)

DPD (Difference, Power, and Discrimination)

History 202 covers U.S. history since Reconstruction. It traces the transformation of the United States from a predominantly agrarian, rural society to one of the world's most powerful industrial nations. Examining the major social, political, economic, and cultural developments which have shaped the American experience, we will explore the *meaning* of this experience as interpreted by the nation's diverse inhabitants. Race, class, and gender will thus function as key analytical concepts. Following the Civil War, African Americans, American women, and many others remained excluded from full participation as citizens in American society. Much of the drama of the nation's history over the past century has come from the courageous efforts by these groups to expand their civil and political rights. Industrialization also characterized this period, for it lured immigrants, helped create large cities, transformed the workplace, and produced great wealth. However, it also generated new forms of poverty and inequality, fueled political corruption and class conflict, introduced environmental problems, and stimulated various reform efforts. Finally, we will examine the development of the U.S. into a world power, focusing on the ways in which World War II, the Cold War, Vietnam, and more recent international crises have shaped modern American life.

Rather than try to address every historical event that took place following the Civil War, we will concentrate on key issues which hold special interest for scholars and which figure centrally in debates over the meaning of the American experience. Sacrificing coverage for in-depth analysis will enable us to pay particular attention to how historians "do" history and construct arguments from various types of evidence. Historical interpretation is "contested terrain" that involves creative investigation, careful documentation, critical thinking, logical analysis, and clear writing. Over the course of the term, students will develop, explain, and defend their own interpretations regarding a host of major issues in American history. Above all, we will work diligently, think creatively, and have fun.

REQUIRED BOOK:

John Mack Faragher, et al., *Out of Many: A History of the American People*, Volume 2, 5th Edition, Teaching and Learning Classroom Edition (Pearson, 2008) ISBN: 9780136015666