



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2022	Instructor Name:	Bradford Wright, Ph.D.
Course Title & #:	HIST 121: "U.S. History from Reconstruction to the Present"	Email:	bradford.wright@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10291	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Asynchronous Online	Office #:	301
Class Dates:	Aug. 15-Dec. 9	Office Hours:	T, W, R: 11:30-12:30 (online) M: 5:00-6:00 (on campus)
Class Days:	Mondays through Thursdays	Office Phone #:	760-355-6597
Class Times:	Asynchronous online	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6144
Units:	3.0	Class Format:	Asynchronous online

Course Description

This course is a survey of American history from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to the present. This course will cover the major political, economic, social, gender, racial, cultural and intellectual transformations of the modern American eras. Of special note will be an examination of America's rise to global power. At the completion of this course students will have a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements, and events in the modern period.(CSU,UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film. (ILO1)
2. Describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event. (ILO1, ILO2)
3. Explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document. (ILO1, ILO2)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

Identify the major events and key intellectual, cultural, social, political and economic trends in United States history since 1877, and identify and understand the significance of important

personalities and ideas in United States history since 1877. Specifically:

1. Describe the movement of Americans into the trans-Mississippi west after 1877, the development of western industries and its impact on Native peoples;
2. Describe the causes and consequences of the second industrial revolution and the rise of American corporations;
3. Discuss the main trends in American politics during the Gilded Age including issues of labor, immigration and urbanization;
4. Explain the changing social, gender and class roles and experiences in the late-19th century;
5. Describe the rise of American imperialism and its effects in the Pacific, the Caribbean and Latin America;
6. Discuss the rise of the new political ideas of Populism and Progressivism and explain the changes they brought to American political, economic and social life;
7. Explain the causes, key events and consequences of World War I;
8. Discuss the main social and cultural trends of the 1920s, including the growth of modernism and the concurrent conservatism;
9. Explain the economic situation of the 1920s and the causes of the Great Depression;
10. Discuss the programs and policies of the New Deal, both successes and failures;
11. Describe the causes of World War II, the reasons for United States involvement, the key events of the war, and its effect on the homefront;
12. Discuss the causes of the Cold War and the events that led to the tensions between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. in the post-war world;
13. Explain the policies and events of the Cold War of the 1950s, especially the Korean war, nuclear weapons, American interventionism, and Cuba;
14. Discuss the culture and society of America in the 1950s;
15. Describe the causes, key events, and successes of the black Civil Rights movement;
16. Describe the spread of civil rights activities to other groups (Chicanos, women, gays, Indians) and other areas (personal freedom, environmentalism, political action).
17. Discuss the causes, key events and consequences of the Vietnam War;
18. Describe the post-Vietnam war domestic and foreign policies and events;
19. Discuss the rise and success of the Conservative movement in America beginning in the 1970s;
20. Describe the end of the Cold War and the problems and opportunities facing the United States in the 21st century.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

The following textbook is **required** for the course:

Michael Schaller, *American Horizons: US History in a Global Context, since 1865, vol. 2, 4th ed.* ISBN: 978-01975331228.

It is available through the IVC Bookstore.



Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Attend class by logging into Canvas daily, Mondays through Thursdays. Read assignments in textbook, read and view written and/or video lectures, and view required videos through links provided. Participate in weekly discussions, complete written assignments, quizzes, and exams by the dates due.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Final grades will be determined according to accumulated points for each discussion, assignment, quiz, and exam. These will all be available on Canvas.

Weekly Discussion Questions and Participation (20 points per each set of Discussion questions; usually two sets per week)

Chapter Quizzes (20 points each quiz; usually one quiz per week)

Essay 1 (100 points)

Essay 2: (100 points)

Essay 3: (100 points)

Essay 4: (100 points)

Final Exam: (200 points)

Discussions: Each week, students will be given a selection of discussion questions to respond to. Students will also be required to respond to at least two posts from their classmates. Each set of Discussion questions/responses will be graded. Discussion grades will reflect the quality and depth of each student's weekly participation in discussions.

Quizzes: Weekly multiple-choice quizzes to be completed online, based on material in the required textbook.

Essays: Four essays/short papers (1000-1500 words) based on assigned prompts.

Final Exam: will consist of essay questions to be completed by the day of the scheduled exam.

Each assignment, quiz, and exam must be completed by the end of the day (11:59 pm) of the due date. No extensions, make-ups, or re-takes will be allowed.

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE:

- Students are required to log into Canvas and review course materials, announcements, and complete any required assignments each day of the class week, Monday through Thursday.
- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.



Other Course Information

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Aug. 15-18	Introductions and Getting Started The Rise of Urban-Industrial America	Read Schaller, Chapters 17 and 18
Week 2 Aug. 22-25	Gilded-Age Politics/ The American Empire	Read Schaller, Chapter 19
Week 3 Aug. 29-Sep.1	The Progressive Era /The U.S. and World War I	Read Schaller, Chapters 20 and 21
Week 4 Sep. 5-8	The Twenties	Read Schaller, Chapter 22
Week 5 Sep. 12-15	The Great Depression and The New Deal	Essay 1 Due: Sept. 12 Read Schaller, Chapter 23
Week 6 Sep. 19-22	The U.S. and World War II	Read Schaller, Chapter 24
Week 7 Sep. 26-29	The Origins of the Cold War	Read Schaller, Chapter 25
Week 8 Oct. 3-6	The Fifties	Essay 2 Due: Oct. 3 Read Schaller, Chapter 26
Week 9 Oct. 10-13	The Struggle for Freedom and Equality, 1947-1965	Read Schaller, Chapter 27
Week 10 Oct. 17-20	The Cold War: Phase Two, 1953-65 / The U.S. and the Vietnam War	Read Schaller, Chapter 28
Week 11 Oct. 24-27	The Sixties: Youth Culture and Black Power	Essay 3 Due: Oct. 24
Week 12 Oct. 31-Nov. 3	America in Turmoil: 1968-1974	Read Schaller, Chapter 29
Week 13 Nov. 7-10	The Seventies	
Week 14 Nov. 14-17	The Reagan and Post-Cold War Eras: the 1980s and 1990s	Read Schaller, Chapter 30
Nov. 21-24	Thanksgiving Break; No Class	



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Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 15 Nov. 28-Dec. 1	21 st Century America: Transformation, Crises, and Challenges	Essay 4 Due: Nov. 28 Read Schaller, Chapter 31
Week 16 Dec. 5-8	Finals Week	Final Exam: Due Dec. 6

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****