

AMH 2020: United States History since 1877

Instructor: Kyle Bridge (kbridge@ufl.edu)

Course meets: FLI 113; T 1:55-2:45, R 1:55-3:50

Office hours: FLI 11; T 2:45-3:15, or by appointment

Required text: *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, 6th Edition* (Davidson and Lytle)

Course objectives: After completing this course, you will broadly grasp the history of the United States since 1877. Further, you will understand “history” as a dynamic interaction of the “past” itself, our memories of it, and the mechanisms to meaningfully interpret it on present terms. Critically engaging these concepts through historical content discussions and analytical writing will hone your capabilities in research and argument. I want you to use history today and tomorrow.

Attendance: Attendance is not required but is highly recommended. In-class discussion is essential for understanding the material and completing take-home assignments, but also because your grade is partially determined by pop quizzes and participation in class. Bring any assigned reading to class when you attend.

Phone/Laptop/Tablet policy: Silence your phone before class and please only text during an emergency. Take calls outside. You may use laptops/tablets to take notes but I recommend writing them on paper. Users note that I may ask you to search things or read aloud whatever you just typed.

Reading: Before class, complete the reading assignment listed on that date. Anything not from *After the Fact* is available on the course webpage. Be prepared to discuss or be quizzed on the material every Thursday (or the following Tuesday), which will help you think about longer writing assignments throughout the semester. Bring any assigned reading to class when you attend.

Grading: Final grades consist of two 3-page papers worth 20 points each (40 points total), five in-class lecture and reading quizzes worth 5 points each (25 points total), a 3-page reflection paper worth 15 points, a 2-page theory paper worth 10 points, and participation worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points.

Letter grades are based on the following scale: A: 93-100, A-: 90-93, 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, E: below 60. See UF’s GPA breakdown here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Assignments: Throughout the semester, you have three options for topical paper assignments (3 pages each); their due dates are noted on the course schedule and the prompts and formatting details are available on the course webpage. You must complete TWO of the three prompts and submit them in class on the corresponding date. You do not have to inform me of your choices before you begin writing, though I am happy to review drafts or discuss your work up to 48 hours before the due date. If you complete the first two papers and are dissatisfied with one or both of the grades, you may consult with me about completing the third option and dropping the lowest grade among them. Each paper is worth 20 points.

Also throughout the semester, I will administer six pop quizzes on subjects covered in reading and lecture. They may be assigned anytime in class. Each quiz consists of five questions worth 1 point each. I will drop a quiz with the lowest grade from your final grade, for a total of 25 possible points.

In week 15, you will write a 3-page reflection paper based on a prompt I will distribute more than a week in advance of the due date. This paper is worth 15 points.

In week 3 you will write a 2-page theory paper based on some concepts fundamental to this class. This paper is worth 10 points.

Participation is measured through in-class discussion, completion of work assigned in and out of class, and apparent engagement with the material.

Academic honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Code which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students in this class, the following pledge is required: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Disability accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1

8/23: Introduction: Can You Change History?

Reading: Course Syllabus

Week 2

8/28: Incomplete Reconstruction

8/30: Settler Colonialism and the “Frontier” in American Life

Reading: ATF, “The View from the Bottom Rail”

Week 3

9/4: Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics... and Pictures: The Gilded Age

****HISTORY AND MEMORY PAPER DUE****

Reading: ATF, “The Mirror with a Memory”

9/6: “The Labor Question”

Reading: Samuel Gompers, “What Does the Working Man Want?” (online)

Week 4

9/11: Capitalism and Consumer Culture

Reading: Kathy Peiss, “Putting On Style” (online)

9/13: Regulating Industrial Capital

Reading: ATF, “USDA Government Inspected”

Week 5

9/18: The Populist Critique of Capitalism

“The Ocala Demands” (online)

9/20: Urbanization, Immigration, and Capitalism in Crisis

Reading: ATF, “Sacco and Vanzetti”

Emma Goldman, “A New Declaration of Independence” (online)

Photos from Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (online)

Week 6

9/25: Envisioning an Empire at Home: Progressivism

9/27: Envisioning an Empire Abroad? U.S. Foreign Policy, 1898-1932

Reading: Theodore Roosevelt, “The Expansion of the White Races” (online)

“Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League” (online)

Week 7

10/2: The “Roaring” Twenties: Sound, Fury, and Movement

****PAPER OPTION 1/3 DUE****

10/4: Franklin Roosevelt, the Great Depression, and Keynesian Economics

Reading: ATF, “Dust Bowl Odyssey”

Huey Long, “Share Our Wealth” (online)

(Listening:) Excerpt from Charles Coughlin, “Golden Hour” (online)

Week 8

10/9: World War II on the Home Front

Reading: ATF, “The Decision to Drop the Bomb”

Excerpts from *World War II: More Stories from Our Veterans* (online)

10/11: The Early Cold War: Policy, Politics, and Red Scares

Reading: “NSC-68: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security” (online)

Week 9

10/16: The Affluent Society?

Allen Ginsberg, “America” (online)

10/18: Midcentury Feminism: Reconciling June Cleaver and Betty Friedan

Reading: ATF, “From Rosie to Lucy”

“The Good Wife’s Guide” (online)

Week 10

10/23: Organizing the Long Civil Rights Movement, part I

****PAPER OPTION 2/3 DUE****

10/25: Organizing the Long Civil Rights Movement, part II

Reading: ATF, “Sitting-In”

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (online)

Week 11

10/30: Postwar Conservative Politics

Readings: TBD (You will receive a unique reading assignment)

11/1: Vietnam and Liberalism in Crisis

Readings: TBD (You will receive a unique reading assignment)

Week 12

11/6: Nixon's "Southern Strategy" and Political Realignment

11/8: Racialized "Law and Order" Politics and the Drug War

Reading: ATF, "Breaking into Watergate"

Excerpt from Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* (online)

Week 13

11/13: The Late Cold War: Détente or the Evil Empire?

Readings: Excerpt from John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (online)

11/15: Reagan's America

Reading: Excerpt from David T. Courtwright, *No Right Turn* (online)

Week 14

11/20: Crack, Crime, and Race, 1986-1994

****PAPER OPTION 3/3 DUE****

Excerpts from Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature* (online)

11/22: The 1990s: The American Decade?

Reading: Wendy Brown, "American Nightmare: Neoliberalism, Neoconservatism, and De-Democratization" (online)

Week 15

11/27: The Glocal War on Terror

Readings: Excerpt from Radley Balko, *Rise of the Warrior Cop* (online)

11/29: Is History Progress?

****FINAL PAPER DUE 12/5 TO HISTORY DEPT FRONT OFFICE****