

History 122 section 012
Strong Hall 400 -Thursdays, 12:30-1:45

Instructor: Tom Dicke

Office: Strong Hall 425

Office Hours (on-line or zoom preferred): Tues, 2:00-4:00, Wed. 11:00- 2:00 and by appt.

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Course Description: History 122 is an overview of American life from the end of Reconstruction through the recent past. The class focuses on the central themes and issues in American society during this period by providing information and raising questions about economic growth, cultural development, political change, and human values. Topics treated include: industrialization and its effects on American society and political processes; immigration; overseas expansion; Progressivism; World War I; the New Era of the 1920s, the Great Depression and the New Deal; World War II and America's rise to global prominence; postwar affluence; the cold war and Vietnam; civil rights; the age of limits: the conservative resurgence; and the expansion of global economy/culture.

This is a blended class. That means rather than meeting in person twice a week we will come together one day a week to discuss the readings, answer questions, hold small group discussions, and analyze primary sources such as photos and newspapers. The rest of the class will be reading and on-line course work.

Academic Objectives: You should develop the following competencies and skills:

- 1. A basic factual knowledge of the people, issues and events of the period.**
- 2. Enhanced abilities in general and historical research.**
- 3. Enhanced ability to analyze historical data, reach informed conclusions, and present your ideas and conclusions in a clear concise way.**

General Education Objectives: These are very similar to the general academic objectives for the course but knowing these should give you a better idea of how this course fits into the general education program.

1. Understand, critically examine, and articulate key similarities and differences between your own cultural practices and perspectives and those of other cultures, past and present.
2. Analyze the role that different languages, cultures, institutions, and beliefs have in shaping individual and collective behavior.
3. Identify the rights and responsibilities you have in your own communities and the broader society.
4. Recognize ways in which you can exercise your rights and responsibilities.

Required Book: David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, 2019, 11th ed. W. W. Norton.
ISBN: 978-0-393-66894-0

A used copy of the book is fine as long as it is the correct edition and volume. The text is also available as an e-book from the publisher (and perhaps other places).

Grades and Tests: The main goals of this class are to increase your factual knowledge of the events in American history since 1877; to enhance your research abilities; and to increase your analytical and writing skills. Your assignments and, hopefully, your grades, will reflect these goals.

Quizzes:

You will have occasional in-class quizzes based on the materials from the week. The quizzes will be short and will focus on the major themes for the week. Most will be 10 pts. The total number will vary but will total somewhere around 60 pts.

Research /analytical skills will be assessed through a series of short assignments requiring you to show proficiency using a variety of finding aides and databases most of which are available for free through the [Articles & Databases](#) link on the MSU library web site or [The Library of Congress](#). You may log in from anywhere in the world with the possible exception of North Korea. Some of these assignments only require you to find the something others may ask you to analyze it. You may also be asked to analyze course materials such as photos or video clips. The number of these assignments is uncertain, it depends on how effectively people do them, but will probably total 100 points.

You will also need to complete three essay exams that will require you to answer a broader question covering multiple chapters. These questions will be worth 100 points each. Your answer will be between 800-1,200 words. You will have some choice in the questions. To do well on these assignments you will need to draw specific and appropriate examples from a variety of chapters and course materials. A word of caution, occasionally I find cases of plagiarism with this assignment. Please don't let this happen to you. In your essay be sure to present your own argument or ideas or conclusions in your own words.

Possible points:

quizzes – approximately 60 total

Research/analytical assignments – approximately 100 total

3 essay exams – 300 points total

Grading scale (as a percentage):

A= 100-93.0 B+ = 89.99-87.0 C+ =79.99-77.0 D+ +69.99-67.0 59.99 or below =E.

A- = 92.99-90.0 B = 86.99-83.0 C = 76.99-73.0 D = 66.99-60.0

B- = 82.99-80 C- = 72.99-70

You should have success in this class in general proportion to the effort you expend. If this does not happen be sure to contact me at the earliest opportunity.

Course Policies: Please see “University Policies” link on our Bb page for useful information on a variety of university policies and procedures.

In the unlikely event the campus is closed: If we are unable to meet as a class I will shift the class online. This means I will be available via zoom during our scheduled class meeting time and I will add a weekly online discussion. The quizzes and exams will remain as they are. TSD

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

(Note only readings are from Shi are listed, most weeks you will have additional readings which will be posted in the weekly unit folder)

Week 1, please complete by January 20th: Introduction, the U.S. in 1877, industrialization
Readings: chap. 17

Week 2 please complete by January 27th: The rise of the city
Readings: chap. 19 pp.881 to 906

Week 3 please complete by February 3rd life in the hinterlands West and South
Readings: chap. 18

Week 4 please complete by February 10th: Political Stalemate and rural revolt.
Readings: chap. 19 pp. 906 - 933

Week 5 please complete by February 17th: Progressivism
Readings: chap. 21

Week 6 please complete by February 24th: US in global context, global war
Readings: chaps. 20 and 22

Week 7 please complete by March 3: The New Era the Great Depression (causes)
Readings: chap. 23 and 24

Week 8 please complete by March 10st): life in the 1930s, the New Deal
Readings: chap. 25

Week 9 please complete by March 24th: Global crisis and World War II
Readings: chap. 26

Week 10 please complete by March 31st: the world in 1945 and the Cold War
Readings: chap. 27

Week 11 please complete by April 7th: Affluence and Anxiety
Readings: chap.28

Week 12 please complete by April 21st: Civil Rights/Civil strife
Readings: chap. 29

Week 13 please complete by April 28^t: “Age of limits”
Readings: chaps. 30

Week 14 please complete by May 5th: The conservative resurgence
Readings: chap. 31

Week 15 please complete by May 12th: The U.S. in the emerging world order, conclusions and speculation
Readings, Chap. 32

Tentative due dates for essays:

Essay exam 1- due before end of day on Sunday, February 20th

Essay exam 2 - due before end of day on Sunday, April 3rd

Final essay exam – due before end of day on Tuesday, May, 17th