



## Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

### 2018 Summer Program

### HIS 17 American History Since 1865

#### Course Outline

**Course Code:** HIS 17

**Instructor:** Professor Ross Hamilton, Full Professor, Tenured, Prize Teaching Fellow Yale

**Home Institution:** Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 12-1

**Email:** [rh174@columbia.edu](mailto:rh174@columbia.edu)

**Credit:** 4

**Class Hours:** This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, professor 10 office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

#### **Course Description :**

This course provides an introduction to the study of American history from the American Revolution to the present. Rather than try to address all the significant historical developments we focus on key topics which hold special interest for scholars and which figure centrally in debates over the meaning of the American experience for various groups.

By sacrificing "coverage" for in-depth analysis, we are able to pay particular attention to how historians do history and construct interpretations from various kinds of evidence. We also consider why historians sometimes disagree about how to read and evaluate the existing sources. Historical interpretation is "contested terrain." Yet it is not simply a matter of opinion where all points of view are equally valid. Historical interpretation involves creative investigation, careful documentation, critical thinking, and logical analysis.

#### **Format:**



There are two kinds of readings for the class: the readings for a particular day and the “Weekly Readings.” I will expect you to complete the “Weekly Readings” for a given week by Monday of that week.

Most weeks there will be a combination of lectures and discussions. The discussions will focus on the assigned readings, which should be done on time. During the days for discussion, please come to class prepared to discuss one question/topic from the reading(s). I may email you a list of questions to consider or I may ask you to generate your own.

## **Course Objectives:**

To provide students with a general introduction to and understanding of American history from 1865 -- views, issues, and arguments. It should also help students to appreciate what history is and the way in which it is relevant to practical issues.

To help students develop critical think, critical reading, and writing skills. It is important to understand the difference between good and bad arguments, and to have the ability to critically and carefully analyze the arguments of others. This course should help students to write more sharply organized, focused and effective argumentative essays.

## **Required Textbooks:**

Henretta, et. al. America: A Concise History, Vol. 2, cited as Text in assignments.

Huehner, David, History 102: Manual.

Riis, Jacob, How the Other Half Lives.

Tygiel, Jules, Baseball's Great Experiment: Jack Robinson and His Legacy.

Worster, Daniel, Dust Bowl

## **Course Requirements:**

- Final Grade Percentages
- Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.
- 2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key readings throughout the course. Reaction papers summarize the article or primary source assigned, identify the main arguments made by authors and briefly discuss them.
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester

## **Grading:**

Midterm 20%

Final 30%



Essay One 20%

Essay Two 20%

Attendance 10%

## Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

## Course Schedule

Please note: the lectures will be wide-ranging and therefore careful note-taking is important. The assigned texts form only the basis for the discussion of the ideas under consideration in lecture.

### Part One:

Reading Assignment: Text, Chap. 16.

Lecture 1: Introduction.

Selection from Film: "Birth of a Nation" pt. 1

Reading Assignment: Text, Chap. 17.

Lecture 2: Reconstruction: The Politics of Victory and the Adjustment to Defeat.

Lecture 3: Reconstruction: Economic and Social Adjustments.

Lecture 4: The Gilded Age: The Rise of Big Business.

Lecture 5: The Gilded Age: The Changing Nature of Work.

Paper One assigned

### Part Two

Lecture 1: The Gilded Age: The Politics of Equilibrium and its Critics.

Lecture 2: Conditions Old and New: Immigration.



Weekly Assignment: Text, Chap. 22. Riis, How the Other Half Lives, vii-119.

Map Assignment: U.S. Expansionism 1: Latin American Expansionism.

Lecture 3: Conditions Old and New: Urbanization.

Lecture 4: The Reform Impulse: Imperialism.

Weekly Assignment: Text, Chap. 23.

Lecture 5: The Reform Impulse: Reform from the Top - Progressivism.

## Midterm Exam

### Part Three

Lecture 1: The Reform Impulse: The Home Front.

Lecture 2: The 1920s: The Economics and Politics of Growth.

Weekly Assignment: Text, Chap. 26.

Lecture 3: The 1920s: The "New Woman" - From the Nursery to the Bedroom.

Lecture 4: The 1920s: The Crash, The Depression, and a "New Deal."

Lecture 5: World War II: The Home Front.

Paper Two assigned

### Part Four

Weekly Assignments: Text, Chap. 28, 29.

Lecture 1: The Post War Era: The Frustrations of Wars Cold and Hot

Lecture 2: The Post War Society: Conflicting Social Values and the Triumph of the Middle Class.

Weekly Assignments: Text, Chap. 30, 31.

Topics: Film: "Blackboard Jungle," pt 1.

Weekly Assignments: Text, Chap. 32, 33.

Lecture 3: Post War Society: From Camelot to Chaos.

Lecture 4: Post War Society: The Search for Stability and Order.

Lecture 5: Post War Society: Toward a Kinder Gentler Nation?

## Final Exam

Part One: Fact Identifications from ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay from ENTIRE COURSE