

*The Emergence of Modern America:
The Gilded Age
1865-1900*

**HIST 467 - Fall 2010
T/Th 9:00-10:15
University 301**

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(and by appointment)



Between 1861 and 1865, Americans experienced, fought, and lived through the Civil War, a war that claimed the lives of more than 620,000 men and women. Much about life in the United States had changed during the course of the war: African Americans achieved freedom, the electorate was (at least theoretically) expanded with the 15th Amendment, the question of secession had been settled, western lands were opened to settlement, and transportation and communications networks expanded, which in turn facilitated the tremendous growth of the industrial sector.

This course will examine the years after the Civil War, from 1865 to 1900, a period in which Americans witnessed unprecedented economic expansion that profoundly altered political and social arrangements. We will explore how the nation "recovered" from the Civil War, how it reconstructed itself, continued to define the notion of who was an American and who was not. In short, we will examine how the nation transitioned from one divided to the threshold of world domination in the age of imperialism. The principal themes of the class will be the reconstruction of the "American" nation, conquest of the West, the causes and consequences of industrialization and urbanization, and the beginnings of national popular culture.

Thus, identifying and understanding the *causes* and *consequences* of industrialization, urbanization, reform efforts, and reunion are major focuses of the reading and lectures in this course. Students will be required to analyze the impact of economic change and reconciliation of the North and South (as well as incorporation of the West) on politics, society, and cultural practices, with special attention to the rise of protest movements against the emerging industrial capitalist system. We will examine how capitalists, workers, farmers, politicians, reformers, the middle class, and different races attempted to shape the new industrial society to their own purposes and visions.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance

Attendance at lectures and discussion is required, and roll call will be taken. **Frequent absences, late arrivals, and early departures will adversely affect a student's grade.** If you *must* leave early, sit where you will not disturb the professor or other students. All material presented in class, including film clips, in addition to assigned readings will be covered on exams and/or in papers. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. Students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class; absence is not a valid excuse. There are no class notes available.

Turn off all cell phones. *If any cell phone rings during class, the entire class will be subject to a pop quiz.*

Participation

Students will not receive credit for missed discussions, and their participation grade will suffer. You will be graded on your participation in these sections (15% of course grade). Attendance at all discussions will result in a maximum grade of a C for participation. Active and engaged participation is necessary to earn an A or B for discussion. **Pop quizzes may also be given and calculated as part of the discussion grade.**

If you must miss discussion because of illness, emergency, etc., you may elect to write a 500-word review of the week's readings. This will give you credit for that week's discussion. Reviews are due on the Monday following the missed session. More than 1 missed discussion in a semester, even with written reviews, will result in grade reduction. It is your responsibility to use this privilege wisely. Should you find yourself in extenuating circumstances, it is your responsibility to discuss this with the professor.

Cheating / Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. **University Regulations** contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

Examinations

There will be two take-home examination essays in the course. The mid-term will cover materials to the examination date while the final will cover material from the second half as well as a cumulative section. **The examinations are due on October 14 and December 14. A penalty of one letter grade per day will be assessed for late exams.** There will be no make-up examinations in the course and no "extra credit" options.

Paper Assignment

The purpose of this paper is to analyze an advertisement or political cartoon as a tool for understanding American society and politics between the Civil War and Twentieth Century. After examining any magazine or newspaper published in the United States between 1865 and 1900, find an advertisement or political cartoon that interests you. (The advertisement may be for cosmetics, a toy, for a sporting event, etc. You select what most interests you.) Write a 5-6 page essay in which you analyze the advertisement or cartoon as an historical source. What does it tell us about the values, attitudes, and behaviors of the time period? Is it representative of the way people lived at the time? Why or why not? What does it reveal about the status of women? Men? Immigrants? African Americans? In order to write this paper, you will have to know something about the context from which the ad or cartoon emerges. **I must approve the source that you choose. Please bring me your selection either during class or office hours by October 28. A COPY OF THE AD / CARTOON MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR PAPER.**

Your papers should be typed and double-spaced, in 12-point font with 1 inch margins. Your papers will be graded for both writing style and analytical content. Please consider visiting the Writing Center for advice about writing in clear, straightforward prose. **The paper is due on November 18. A penalty of one letter grade per day will be assessed for late papers**

Grading

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| Midterm: | 30% | due Oct. 14 |
| Paper: | 20% | due Nov. 18 |
| Final Exam: | 35% | due Dec. 14 |
| Participation in Discussion: | 15% | |

REQUIRED READINGS

All books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Many are also available more cheaply or used on Amazon.com, half.com, and bookfinder.com (among others).

Leeanna Keith, *The Colfax Massacre*

T.J. Stiles, *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War*

James Green, *Death in the Haymarket*

Cynthia Russett, *Sexual Science: The Victorian Construction of Womanhood*

David Traxel, *1898: Birth of the American Century*

There is also Course Packet of required readings (marked with * in the syllabus) for sale at the Copy Mat.

Disclaimer

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

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| Week 1 | | |
| Tuesday | August 24 | Victorian Culture in the Mid-19th Century |
| Thursday | August 26 | Effects of the Civil War |
| Week 2 | | |
| Tuesday | August 31 | DISCUSSION Read: Drew Gilpin Faust, "Accounting: 'Our Obligations to the Dead'" * Richard Dennett, <i>Selections from After the War</i> * Kathleen Ann Clark, "Language that Cannot Be Misunderstood" * |
| Thursday | September 2 | Reconstruction Politics |
| Week 3 | | |
| Tuesday | September 7 | Reconstruction Abandoned |
| Thursday | September 9 | CLASS CANCELLED |
| Week 4 | | |
| Tuesday | September 14 | DISCUSSION Read: Leeanna Keith, <i>The Colfax Massacre</i> |
| Thursday | September 16 | Man of Steel: Carnegie |
| Week 5 | | |
| Tuesday | September 21 | Urbanization and Industrial Labor |
| Thursday | September 23 | DISCUSSION Read: James Green, <i>Death in the Haymarket</i> |
| Week 6 | | |
| Tuesday | September 28 | How the West was Lost |
| Thursday | September 30 | Immigrants and Exiles in the Promised Land |
| Week 7 | | |
| Tuesday | October 5 | DISCUSSION Read: T.J. Stiles, <i>Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War</i> |
| Thursday | October 7 | Viewing: FILM TBA MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED |
| Week 8 | | |
| Tuesday | October 12 | FALL BREAK |
| Thursday | October 14 | The Urban Challenge MIDTERM DUE |
| Week 9 | | |
| Tuesday | October 19 | The First Conservation Movement |

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| Thursday | October 21 | DISCUSSION Read: Jim Weeks, "A Memorial of the Whole Struggle,"* Timothy Smith, "A Western Gettysburg"* Carol Reardon, "Monuments to Memory"* |
| Week 10 | | |
| Tuesday | October 26 | Christmas Everyday |
| Thursday | October 28 | New Women |
| Week 11 | | |
| Tuesday | November 2 | DISCUSSION Read: Russet, <i>Sexual Science</i> |
| Thursday | November 4 | CLASS CANCELLED |
| Week 12 | | |
| Tuesday | November 9 | Jim Crow is Born |
| Thursday | November 11 | DISCUSSION Read: Edward L. Ayers, "In Black and White,"* Grace Elizabeth Hale, "Domestic Reconstruction"* Tera Hunter, "Dancing and Carousing the Night Away"* |
| Week 13 | | |
| Tuesday | November 16 | Baseball Becomes Professional |
| Thursday | November 18 | The Populist Moment PAPER DUE |
| Week 14 | | |
| Tuesday | November 23 | CLASS CANCELLED |
| Thursday | November 25 | CLASS CANCELLED: Thanksgiving Break |
| Week 15 | | |
| Tuesday | November 30 | A Cross of Gold |
| Thursday | December 2 | DISCUSSION Read: Henry Littlefield, "The Wizard of Oz: Parable on Populism"* David Parker, "The Rise and Fall of The Wizard of Oz"* |
| Week 16 | | |
| Tuesday | December 7 | The Great War to Reunite the Nation |
| Thursday | December 9 | DISCUSSION Read: Traxel, <i>1898: Birth of the American Century</i> |
| FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5:00 PM DECEMBER 14 | | |