

HISTORY 152
United States since 1877
Fall 2020
(Synchronous Online)
TTH 9:00-10:15 PM

Instructor: Cornelius L. Bynum, PhD
Email: bynum@purdue.edu
Office Hours (Online Only):
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 – 11:00 AM or by
appointment

Graduate Assistant: Jon Soucek
Email: jsoucek@purdue.edu
Office Hours (Online Only):
Monday/Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 PM or by
appointment

Course Description:

This course sets out to explore how social, political, economic, and cultural forces shaped the development of the nation from the late nineteenth century to the present. Specifically, this class draws attention to the broad trends, events, and key figures of these times and examines their impact on the lives of ordinary Americans. Topics covered in this course include modernization and industrialization, World War I and II, the Great Depression and the New Deal, the Cold War at home and abroad, the Vietnam War, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Assigned Text:

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History, Volume 2, 6th edition* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).

ISBN: 978-0393418262.

Jefferies, Hasan. *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt* (New York: New York University Press, 2010).

ISBN: 978-0814743317.

Course Requirements and Policies:

There will be two (2) quizzes, two (2) mid-term exams and a final exam for this course. The quizzes will count for ten percent (10%) each, the mid-terms will count for twenty percent (20%) each and the final exam will count for forty percent (40%) of your final grade. The two quizzes will be simple reading checks from the textbook, *Give Me Liberty!* The mid-terms exams will focus on document interpretation, requiring students to draw on material presented in lectures and the textbook to contextualize and explain two separate exhibits. And, the final exam will consist of two sections, a short-answer identification section and an essay section, that draw on the lecture material, the textbook, *Give Me Liberty!*, and the other course readings.

Attendance:

Attendance is not required, but you will find it difficult to do very well in this course if you are not in class regularly. I do not take roll and I give no points for attendance. In return for

not treating you like middle-school students, I expect you to be attentive and respect the rights of others to a constructive learning environment. **Turn off cell phones and all such handheld devices.**

Lastly, this syllabus maybe subject to change as dictated by class needs and at the instructor's discretion.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes made necessary by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. **In the event of such an emergency, I will notify you of key schedule or policy changes by email.**

Syllabus:

Week One: Reconstruction's Demise

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 15, "What Is Freedom?": Reconstruction, 1865 – 1877"

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Course Introduction;
"Presidential vs. Congressional Reconstruction"

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Lecture: "Reconstruction's Collapse and the Rise of the New South"

Week Two: Standardizing the Nation: Innovations in Technology, Business, and Culture

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 16, "America's Gilded Age, 1870 – 1890"

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Lecture: "Industrial Development and the Rise of Corporate Empire"

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Lecture: "Wage Earners and the Culture of Work"

Week Three: Toward an Urban Society

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 17, "Freedom's Boundaries, At Home and Abroad, 1890 – 1900"

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Lecture: "The Lure of the City and Social and Cultural Change"

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Lecture: “The Spread of Jim Crow and Stirrings of Reform”

Friday, September 11, 2020

Reading Quiz #1 (Online)

Week Four: Political and Cultural Conflict in a Decade of Depression and War

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 18, “The Progressive Era, 1900 – 1916”

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Lecture: “The Politics of Stalemate and the Rise of Populism”

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Lecture: “The Crisis of Depression and the Election of 1896”

Week Five: The Progressive Era

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 19, “Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916 – 1920”

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Lecture: “The Changing Face of Industrialism”

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Lecture: “African Americans and World War I”

Week Six: From Roosevelt to Wilson in the Age of Progressivism

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 19, “Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916 – 1920”

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Lecture: “Ida B. Wells and the Spirit of Progressivism”

Thursday, October 1, 2020

Mid-Term Exam 1

Week Seven: Rise of Modern America

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 20, “From Business Culture to Great Depression: The Twenties, 1920 – 1932”

Tuesday, October 6, 2020

Lecture: “Harlem Renaissance and the Roaring Twenties”

Thursday, October 8, 2020

Lecture: “Republican Politics and the Election of 1928”

Week Eight: The New Deal

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 21, “The New Deal, 1932 – 1940”

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Lecture: “The Great Depression and Roosevelt’s Plan for Recovery”

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Lecture: “Race, Recovery, and the Impact of the New Deal”

Week Nine: World War II

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 22, “Fighting for the Four Freedoms: World War II, 1941 – 1945”

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Lecture: “The Road to War”

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Lecture: “Turning the Tide against the Axis Powers”

Friday, October 23, 2020

Reading Quiz #2 (Online)

Week Ten: The Cold War

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 23, “The United States and the Cold War, 1945 – 1953”

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Lecture: “Containment”

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Lecture: “The Postwar Boom”

Week Eleven: Postwar Affluence and Anxiety

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 24, “An Affluent Society, 1953 – 1960”

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Lecture: “The Struggle over Civil Rights”

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Mid-Term Exam 2

Week Twelve: The Sixties

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 25, “The Sixties, 1960 – 1968”

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Introduction, Chapters 1-2.

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Lecture: “LBJ’s Great Society”

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Lecture: “Nixon, Watergate, and Its Aftermath”

Week Thirteen: New Conservatism

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 26, The Triumph of Conservatism, 1969 – 1988”

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapters 3-4.

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Lecture: “The Reagan Revolution”

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Lecture: “The First Bush and the Changing Faces of America”

Week Fourteen: Into the Twenty-First Century

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 27, “Globalization and Its Discontents, 1989 – 2000”

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapters 5-6.

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Lecture: “Bill Clinton and the Rise of the New Democrats”

Thursday, November 26, 2020

No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week Fifteen: Into the Twenty-First Century

Assigned Reading:

Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 28, “A New Century and New Crises”

Jefferies, *Bloody Lowndes*, Chapter 7, Epilogue.

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Lecture: “George W. Bush and the Republican Resurgence”

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Lecture: “Barack Obama and Post-Racial Politics”

Final Exam TBA