

HIST 152: US History Since 1877

Spring 2026 – Online Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Soucek

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Required Texts

Primary Textbook

The American Yawp, Volume II: After 1877

Edited by Joseph L. Locke and Ben Wright (Stanford University Press, 2019)

Available online.

Primary Source Companion

The American Yawp Reader, Volume II: After 1877

Edited by Joseph L. Locke and Ben Wright

Available online.

Additional Materials

All other assigned readings are on **Brightspace** and marked with a (B).

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge of U.S. history since 1877 through discussions, quizzes, and essays.
2. Identify major concepts, individuals, and events in modern U.S. history.
3. Analyze political, social, economic, cultural, and technological developments in context.
4. Interpret and apply primary source evidence in written analysis.
5. Connect course material to contemporary issues surrounding politics, race, gender, religion, technology, and culture.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Discussion Posts (60 points total — 20 points each)

- One discussion response (300–500 words) per module
- Two comments (2–3 thoughtful sentences) on classmates' posts
- Posts must reference primary sources for that week
- Posts and comments due on the **final Sunday of each module**
- Only your *first* post per module is graded

Purpose

Informal writing designed to deepen engagement with historical themes.

2. Six Quizzes (60 points total — 10 points each)

- Mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions
 - Based on weekly readings
 - Due Sundays at midnight
 - Intended to ensure comprehension of historical events
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3. Three Essays (180 points total — 60 points each)

- One essay per course unit
 - Choose **one** of three posted prompts
 - Requirements:
 - 900–1,250 words (about 3–4 pages)
 - Times New Roman, 12-pt font, double spaced
 - Use **only assigned sources**
 - Cite using in-text parenthetical citations
 - Use 3–5 primary sources per essay
 - No works cited page is required
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Grading Overview

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Discussion Posts (3 × 20)	60	20%
Quizzes (6 × 10)	60	20%
Essays (3 × 60)	180	60%
Total	300	100%

Grading Scale

Grades are calculated out of 300 points with no rounding.

- **A+:** 291–300
- **A:** 279–290
- **A-:** 270–278
- **B+:** 264–269
- **B:** 249–263
- **B-:** 240–248
- **C+:** 234–239
- **C:** 219–233
- **C-:** 210–218
- **D+:** 204–209
- **D:** 189–203
- **D-:** 180–188
- **F:** 179 or below

FERPA Notice: Grade discussions cannot occur via email.

Course Policies

Missed or Late Work

- Late work drops **one full letter grade per week** past the due date.
- Extensions must be requested **before** the deadline.
- Communication early = more flexibility.

Incompletes

- Only granted in exceptional cases.
- Must be requested **before December 1**.
- Requires written justification + completion plan.
- If approved, you will sign an "Incomplete Contract."

AI Use Policy

AI tools may be used **only** for:

- Outlining ideas
- Grammar, spelling, word suggestions

You **must** submit:

- The prompts you used
- The AI's responses
- Citations of AI usage

AI may **not** be used for:

- Writing full drafts
- Writing paragraphs
- Generating content you present as your own
- "Light rewriting" of AI-generated text

Any uncredited or inappropriate AI use = academic dishonesty.

Class Schedule (Subject to Minor Changes)

Module 1: Who Built America? (1877–1914)

Week 1 – The Gilded Age

Lectures:

- The Gilded Age
- The Labor Movement
- Populism
- The New South and Jim Crow

Secondary Sources: AY Ch. 16, AY Ch. 18

Primary Sources: Sumner, George, Omaha Platform, Riis, Wells-Barnett, Washington, DuBois

Week 2 — Spring Break (March 15–21)

No assignments due.

Week 3 – The Progressive Era

Lectures: Imperialism, Progressive Reform

Secondary: AY Ch. 19, AY Ch. 20

Primary: Beveridge (B), Addams, Debs, Wilson, T. Roosevelt

Assignments: Quiz 1; First Discussion Post due Sunday, March 29

Module 2: Boom and Bust (1914–1945)

Week 4 – WWI and Aftermath

Secondary: AY Ch. 21–22

Primary: Wilson War Message, Fourteen Points, Goldman, Debs (B), DuBois, Klan, Page, Locke

Assignments: Quiz 2; First Essay due Sunday, April 5

Week 5 – Great Depression and WWII

Lectures: New Deal, World War II

Secondary: AY Ch. 23–24

Videos: *The Fallen of WWII* (B), *American Concentration Camps* (B)

Primary: FDR Inaugural (B), FDR Banking Crisis (B), Long, Guthrie songs, FDR War Message, Atlantic Charter, Herzig-Yoshinaga

Assignments: Quiz 3; Second Discussion Post due Sunday, April 12

Module 3: America Since 1945

Week 6 – Cold War and the 1950s

Lectures: Early Cold War, Affluent Society

Secondary: AY Ch. 25–26

Primary: Truman Doctrine, NSC-68, McCarthy, Brown v. Board, Southern Manifesto (B), Nixon

Assignments: Quiz 4; Second Essay due Sunday, April 19

Week 7 – The 1960s and 1970s

Lectures: The 1960s, Vietnam, Nixon & Carter

Secondary: AY Ch. 27–28

Videos: CNN *The Sixties* (Episode 6: 1968)

Primary: Goldwater, Johnson, Hamer, NOW Statement, Port Huron, Alcatraz, Carter

Assignments: Quiz 5

Week 8 – The Triumph of the Right (1980s–1990s)

Lectures: Reagan Revolution, “End of History?”

Secondary: AY Ch. 29

Primary: Reagan speeches (B), Buchanan Culture War, Schlafly, Jesse Jackson

Assignments: Quiz 6; Third Discussion Post due Sunday, May 3

Finals Week

Final Essay Due: Wednesday, May 6

University Policies

Email Etiquette

Emails should include:

- Subject line with purpose
- Greeting (“Dear Dr. Soucek”)
- Full sentences and clear questions
- Your full name at closing

Responses may take up to 24 hours (excluding weekends).

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism
- Unattributed AI-generated writing
- Cheating or misrepresentation
- Using unauthorized materials

Penalties include **automatic failure** and reporting to the Dean of Students.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue is committed to creating an inclusive campus free from discrimination.

Accessibility

If you encounter barriers:

- Contact the instructor
 - Contact the **Disability Resource Center**: drc@purdue.edu | 765-494-1247
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Emergency Preparedness

In case of major campus disruptions, course requirements and deadlines may change. Updates will be posted on **Brightspace** and emailed.

Mental Health Resources

- **WellTrack**: Self-help tools
 - **Dean of Students**: Drop-in support (M–F, 8 AM–5 PM)
 - **CAPS**: 765-494-6995 (available 24/7)
 - In-person support at PUSH (2nd floor)
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Grief Absence Policy

Excused absences for bereavement are provided through **GAPS**. Students receive time to complete missed work.

Violent Behavior Policy

Violence or threats are prohibited. Purdue strives to ensure a safe learning environment.

Course Evaluation

You will receive an online evaluation link near the end of the course. Feedback helps improve teaching and the course experience.

Syllabus Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change as needed.

All updates will be communicated clearly via **Brightspace announcements**.