

American History Survey: 1865-Present HIST 201

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Purpose:

This course will provide an overview of American history from 1865 to the present with a focus on politics, society, and culture. The course emphasizes not so much dates and events but broad issues and themes that run throughout the American past.

Requirements:

Every day a set of readings is announced (either during a lecture meeting or a discussion meeting), you will hand in a summation of the Hofstadter readings (the primary documents) and key themes you picked up from the Tindall readings. These summations should be no more than two pages. They will not be graded individually, but a record will be kept of them. You will also take a midterm and final exam (the final exam is inclusive but will stress information covered after the midterm). Your participation during discussions will also be counted towards your final grade.

Break Down of Grade:

- 35%: Midterm
- 35%: Final
- 20%: Hand-Ins of readings
- 10%: Participation in Discussion Sections

Attendance Policy: The old saying goes, “Showing up counts for 80%” (or something like that). So it is with this class. If you miss class (without legitimate excuses), your grade will be lowered. More than three absences can result in failure. This policy applies to both lecture meetings and discussion meetings.

Required Texts:

Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*, Volume 2, 7th edition
Hofstadter, ed., *Great Issues in American History*, Volume Three, Revised Edition
Both books are in paperback form and have been ordered at Little Professor Bookstore.

Below are the dates we meet and what will be covered. When either Discussion or “Be Prepared to Discuss” is noted, you need to do those readings for that day’s meetings and prepare a hand-in.

You must read the entirety of Tindall’s textbook; make sure that what you’re reading correlates with the material covered in lecture. Since there are different

editions of the book, chapter listings might be skewed. I work off the 7th edition of Volume 2:

March 26: Introductions

March 27: The End of the Civil War and the Dawn of Reconstruction

March 28: Reconstruction and its Demise (and the Rise of the New South)

March 29: Discussion of Tindall, Chapters 18, 19; and Hofstadter, ed.: Part I: Civil Rights Cases and Plessy v. Ferguson and Harlan dissent

April 2: The Gilded Age (I)

April 3: The Gilded Age (II): Social Thought: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part II: Andrew Carnegie and William Graham Sumner

April 4: Populists Revolt!

April 5: DISCUSSION

Tindall, Chapters 20, 21, 22, 23

Hofstadter, ed., Part II: George, *Progress and Poverty*, Lloyd, *Wealth Against Commonwealth*; Part III: Populist Party Platform and Bryan, Cross of Gold Speech (Compare and Contrast the last two)

April 9: The Progressive Era: Reform Begins

April 10: The Presidencies of the Progressive Era: TR and Wilson: Be prepared to discuss in Hofstadter, Part V: Roosevelt, Wilson (both selections)

April 11: World War I and transitions to “Normalcy”

April 12: DISCUSSION

Tindall, Chapters 24, 25

Hofstadter, ed., Continue discussion of TR and Wilson but also Lippmann and Lochner v. New York

April 16: The 1920s

April 17: The Crash and Hooverism: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VI: Hoover (both selections)

April 18: The Great Depression

April 19: DISCUSSION – Review and further prep for midterm

Tindall, 26, 27

Continue discussion of Hoover

April 23: MIDTERM

April 24: The Dawn of the New Deal: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VI: All selections by FDR

April 25: World War II

April 26: DISCUSSION:
Tindall, 28, 29, 30
Continue discussion of all FDR

April 30: The Beginnings of the Cold War: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VII: George Kennan, Truman Doctrine, and The Marshall Plan

May 1: 1950s: Mass Society and Culture

May 2: McCarthyism and More

May 3: DISCUSSION:
Tindall, Chapters 31, 32, 33
Hofstadter, ed., Part VII: Dulles, Mumford, Eisenhower

May 7: The Rise of the Civil Rights Movement

May 8: Civil Rights Succeed: Be Prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII: Brown v. Board, King, Johnson (both selections)

May 9: The Heyday of American Liberalism – From JFK to LBJ: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII (B): Kennedy and Johnson

May 10: DISCUSSION
Tindall, Chapters 34, 35
Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII: A: Moynihan, Ribicoff, and Nixon

May 14: The Other Liberalism – Vietnam: Be prepared to discuss, Hofstadter, ed., Part IX: Johnson and Fulbright

May 15: The New Left Forms

May 16: The Unraveling of America and the Rise of Richard Nixon

May 17: DISCUSSION:
Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII: B: Nixon, Part IX: Nixon

May 21: The 1970s

May 22: The Carter Presidency and Crisis: Be Prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII: (B): Carter

May 23: The Rise of the Right: Be prepared to discuss Hofstadter, ed., Part VIII: (B): Goldwater

May 24: DISCUSSION

Tindall, Chapter 35 (reread for discussion)

Hofstadter, ed. (Continue Goldwater) and discuss Debate Between Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan

May 28: No Class

May 29: Reaganism

May 30: The 1980s and the End of the Cold War

May 31: FINAL DISCUSSION – Review Session

Tindall, Chapters 36, 37

FINAL EXAM: TBA