

HY 121-1C
Summer 2004

U. S. Since 1877

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"The past is never dead. It's not even past."

...Gavin Stevens, in William Faulkner's Intruder in the Dust

As this quote from Faulkner makes clear, the past constantly intrudes upon the present. The past is inescapable. It not only offers opportunities but also erects obstacles for those of us now living. This elementary truth is nowhere more evident than in the study of our most recent past.

It will be the objective of this course to give the student an introductory overview of U. S. history beginning in the late 19th century and concluding near the end of the twentieth. Working together, we will hope to shed considerable light on the path this nation has taken to the present.

The texts for the course are The American Journey, Volume II (Third Edition) by David Goldfield, et.al. You will also read An American Requiem: God, My Father and the War that Came Between Us by James Carroll. Both required books are available at the campus bookstores. Each student is encouraged to read assignments regularly since material from these texts and from the lectures will be included in each exam. Since I will also use media sources extensively, information and interpretations of key events and leaders contained in the videos that we will view in class will also be material the student is expected to learn and understand. Students should be attentive and are strongly encouraged to take careful notes in class.

There will be two scheduled exams. The First Exam will cover the first half of the course and the Second will cover the remainder. Each exam will consist of identification and short essay sections. Students must bring an Examination Book (Blue Book) to both exams. Exams on loose leaf paper will not be accepted. Each exam will count 35 percent of your final course grade.

A short essay review (4-5 pages) of James Carroll's An American Requiem will provide another 20 percent of the course evaluation. Guidelines for this review essay will be handed out in class before the Midterm. The paper will be due on **Monday, August 2**.

Finally, your attendance and participation in class throughout the summer term will determine the remaining 10 percent of your grade.

Following below is an outline of the course and reading assignments:

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| June 2 | Course overview
The "New South", <u>American Journey</u> , Chapter 17 |
| June 4 | Big Business and Social Change, <u>American Journey</u> , Chapter 18 |
| June 7 | Into the Sunset: Settling the West, <u>American Journey</u> , Chapter 19 |
| June 9 | The Politics of Revolt; <u>American Journey</u> , Chapter 20 |

- June 11-16** TR, Wilson and Progressivism, American Journey, Chapter 21
- June 18** A New World Power, American Journey, Chapter 22
- June 21-23** Wilson Makes War and Peace, American Journey, Chapter 23
- June 25-28** The First Postwar Age: A Return to "Normalcy"? American Journey, Chapter 24
- June 30-
July 2** Great Depression and New Deal,
American Journey, Chapter 25
- July 5** **Independence Day Holiday, No Class**
- July 7** **FIRST EXAM**
- July 9-12** FDR and World War II, American Journey, Chapter 26
- July 14-16** Truman and the Cold War, American Journey, Chapter 27;
An American Requiem, pp. 1-79
- July 19** Prosperity and Ike, American Journey, Chapter 28, pp. 885-894
- July 21-23** JFK and LBJ: The Politics of Reform and War
American Journey, Chapter 28, pp.894-917, Chapter 29, pp.919-937
An American Requiem, pp. 80-156
- July 26** Nixon's New Majority, American Journey, Chapter 29, pp.937-943
An American Requiem, pp. 157-279
- July 28** Watergate, Vietnam, and the Crisis of Trust
American Journey, Chapter 29, pp.943-953
- July 30** **No Class: Work on Review Essay**
- Aug. 2** The Reagan Revolution: "Government is the Problem"
American Journey, Chapter 30
Review Essay due, Monday, August 2
- Aug. 4** **SECOND EXAM**