Spring 2-1-2019

HSTA 102H.01: American History II

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SYLLABUS

HISTORY 102
THE AMERICANS
SPRING 2019

Professor Michael Mayer
Office: 253 Liberal Arts
Office Hours: M 3-4, W 11-12, F 11-12 and by appointment

Required Texts:
- Charlotte Perkins, Gilman, *The Yellow Wall-Paper, Herland, and Selected Writings*
- Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty and Other Plays*
- Sloan Wilson, *Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*
- William Gavin, *Street Corner Conservative* (Faculty Pack)

History 102 is an introduction to American history since 1877. The purpose of the course is not to fill students' heads with "facts" (although names, places, events, and even dates are important and have their uses); rather it will focus on the major historical trends that have shaped modern America. Understanding and analysis are more important than the ability to recite a string of facts. Random facts are meaningless. The historian's task is to find meaning in the past. Thus, students will be expected to learn to gather, organize, and analyze information and to present their findings clearly and in good English.

The textbook provides a chronological outline of events; the lectures will attempt to convey an interpretive framework by which to understand the compilation of "facts" in the textbook. Thus, the lectures do not substitute for reading the textbook or vice versa. Students will benefit far more from the lectures if they have done the assigned reading in advance. **The professor will assume that students are familiar with the material assigned for that day.**

When listening to lectures, students should pay attention to the major themes developed in each lecture and not get bogged down in detail. Consider how the main points of a lecture relate to the larger themes developed throughout the course.

The readings other than the textbook offer an opportunity for a more in-depth examination of particular events or issues. All are contemporary with the events they describe; they often reveal as much about their authors as they do about the events they describe. Read them with the following question in mind: how does this book or document aid in understanding the period or issues at hand?

For some classes, there is little assigned reading in the textbook; students are encouraged to use those times to begin reading the next supplementary book. These books form an essential part of the course. Do not count on reading them the night before your discussion section is scheduled to discuss them.

Discussion sections meet once a week and provide students with an opportunity to discuss the lectures, the textbook, and the other assigned reading. These discussion sections provide a place for students to ask questions, to clear up anything that still puzzles them, and to try out their own interpretations. The discussion sections are also the place to learn historical skills. The TAs will guide you in all of these endeavors. Although the readings and lectures form the basis for the discussions, the individual TAs determine the content of each meeting. In addition, the TAs are responsible for grading. If you are not satisfied with a grade or are unsure of why you received a particular grade, see your TA. Issues unresolved after meeting with your TA may be referred to the lecturer.

Finally, a word about courtesy is in order. This is a large class. Out of consideration for your fellow students, as well as the instructor, please follow these simple rules. If you arrive late, enter as inconspicuously as possible. Sit near the back and as close to an aisle as you find an available seat. Do not wander through the class and crawl over half a dozen students who are trying to pay attention so that you can sit next to a friend. If you must leave early, sit near the
back and sit on an aisle. Leave as quietly as you can. Although this might seem obvious, do not carry on a conversation in class. Even if you and your interlocutor are not especially interested in the proceedings, others are, and your conversation makes it difficult for them to follow the class. TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE. One might well think these rules are unnecessary; past experience at the University of Montana indicates otherwise.

Requirements:
- Midterm (take home due February 15) .................. 20%
- Midterm (take home Due March 22) .................. 20%
- Discussion sections ...................................... 30%
- Final exam ................................................. 30%

Drop/Add Deadlines:
Students may add on Cyberbear until January 18, you are able to drop the course in Cyberbear until February 10. The lecturer and TAs will sign drop and add forms after January 31 only in the cases of family emergencies, health problems, etc.

Grading Options:
The History Department does not allow changes of grading options after the 30th day.

Academic Dishonesty:
Plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty, will result in automatic failure for the course.

Final Exam:
The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, from 10:10 to 12:10.

LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

January 10  Politics in the Gilded Age

January 14  New South and Old West
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 496-518

January 16  The Rise of Big Business
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 522-527, 531-542

January 18  New Immigration and the Cities
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 546-560

January 21  NO CLASS

January 23  Lizzie Borden and the Transformation of Middle Class Life
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 527-531

January 25  Culture in the Gilded Age
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 560-561, 565-568

January 28  Tarzan and American Empire
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 602-622
January 30  The Reform Impulse: Local Progressivism  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 574-582, 584-589

February 1  The Republican Roosevelt  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp.589-591

February 4  Progressivism Divided and Triumphant  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp.591-598

February 6  From Seneca Falls to Suffrage  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 562, 564-565, 582-583  
Gilman, Herland

February 8  World War I  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 626-645

February 20  No Class

February 11  Republican Rule  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 645-650, 661-664, 667-671

February 13  The Roaring Twenties  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 654-661, 666-667, 671-679

February 15  An American Renaissance  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 679-681

February 18  NO CLASS

February 20  Hoover and the Great Crash  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp.664-665, 686-689

February 22  The New Deal  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 690-706, 710-713

February 25  American Society in the Great Depression  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 708-710

February 27  Depression Culture  
Reading,  Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 689, 706-708  
Odets, Waiting for Lefty

March 1  All This and World War II  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 718-735, 736-738

March 4  Cold War  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 739-742, 746-749, 750-755

March 6  Peace is Hell:  Truman and the Fair Deal  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp.749-750, 760-762

March 8  McCarthy: The Man, the Aism@  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 755-760

March 11  From Rosie the Riveter to Harriet Nelson:  American Women in War and Peace  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 735-736
March 13  
We Like Ike □ Again  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 765-768, 772-777, 785-786

March 15  
Happy Days: Post War American Society  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 763-765, 777-780

March 18  
White Collars and Gray Flannel Suits: Postwar American Culture  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 780-785  
Wilson, Man in the Gray Flannel Suit

March 20  
We Shall Overcome: The Civil Rights Movement  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 763, 790-793, 795-797

March 22  
The Myth of Camelot  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 786-788, 797-799

March 25-29  
SPRING BREAK

April 1  
Lyndon Johnson and the Great Society  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 804-808

April 3  
Vietnam: An American Tragedy  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 808-811

April 5  
Name the System: Political Radicalism  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 794-795, 812-813, 813-818

April 8  
Drugs, Sex, and Rock □ Roll: The Counter Culture  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 813

April 10  
Sisterhood is Powerful  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 788-790

April 12  
Nixon  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 818-831

April 15  
Confusion and Drift  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 836-841  
Gavin, Street Corner Conservative

April 17  
Disco Inferno: Society and Culture in the 1970s

April 19  
The Reagan Revolution  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 841-850

April 22  
Social and Cultural Change in the 1980s and 1990s  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 851-861, 866-886

April 24  
Politics of Division: Clinton, Bush, and Obama  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 890-914

April 26  
Trump and the Imponderable Future  
Reading: Murrin, Hamalainen, pp. 915-916