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HSTA 102H.00: American History II

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HSTA 102: American History II

Professor Jeff Wiltse

Office: LA 322 / Email: jeff.wiltse@umt.edu

Office hours: M: 1:00-1:50; F: 11:00-12:30



Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introductory survey of United States history from 1877 to the present. It will acquaint you with some of the people, events, technologies, ideas, and choices that have shaped modern American history. Several overarching themes will guide our study: social conflict, economic consolidation, expansion of government function, the growth of consumerism and mass culture, America's rise as a global power, and diminishing social inequality. This class will also expose you to the practice of historical interpretation. You will not just read what others have written about the past; you will examine historical documents for yourself and be expected to articulate your own interpretation of them. The primary learning objectives of this course are:

- Learn the broad outline of United States history from 1877 to the present, including the major social, political, cultural, economic, and foreign policy developments
- Develop an in-depth understanding of several key topics, including the experiences of industrial laborers, the Civil Rights Movement, the role of the U.S. in the world, and the struggle for women's rights
- Understand how and why American democracy developed as it did from 1877 to the present
- Understand how American citizenship was contested and redefined from 1877 to the present, especially by struggles for equality and justice
- Improve your analytical thinking skills and your ability to communicate ideas verbally and in writing
- Enable you to understand why things are the way they are today in the United States

Readings

You will be reading an open access textbook for this course titled *The American Yawp*. I have assigned it rather than a traditional print textbook, because *American Yawp* provides excellent coverage of modern U.S. history and publishers are charging unreasonably high prices for print textbooks. You can access *American Yawp* for free at <https://www.americanyawp.com/>. This webpage allows you to download (and print if you wish) a pdf copy of the textbook, which contains the page numbers referenced in the course schedule below. If you prefer a traditional bound printed copy of the textbook, you can order a paperback version titled *The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook, Volume 2: Since 1877* through various online booksellers for \$25 or less. Be sure to order volume 2.

There are two additional books assigned for this course. They are required reading and copies are available for purchase at the bookstore. They are:

Thomas Bell, *Out of this Furnace: A Novel of Immigrant Labor in America*
John Lewis, *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*

You will also be reading documents for discussion sections that are available as pdf files on the course Moodle page. They are marked with an “(x)” in the course schedule below.

Assignments and Grading

You are expected to read all course materials, attend all class meetings, actively participate in discussion sections, and complete all assignments. The writing assignments for this course are:

- Exam 1: In-class exam covering Unit 1 on Wednesday, February 23
- Paper 1: *Out of This Furnace* Paper (Due Friday, March 11)
- Exam 2: In-class exam covering Unit 2 on Friday, April 1
- Paper 2: *Walking With the Wind* Paper (Due Friday, April 22)
- Exam 3: In-class exam covering Unit 3 on Thursday, May 12, @ 10:10 am

Study guides for all three exams and assignment sheets for both papers are posted on the course Moodle page. Your final grade will be the weighted average of your individual grades for the term. Final letter grades are figured at 90%=A, 80%=B, 70%=C, 60%=D. The dividing line for +s and -s is _7% for + and _3% for -. Late papers will automatically be reduced one full letter grade and must be turned in within one week of the due date. Grades will be weighted as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|---|
| Exam 1 | 20 percent | |
| <i>Out of This Furnace</i> Paper | 10 percent | |
| Exam 2 | 20 percent | |
| <i>Walking With the Wind</i> Paper | 10 percent | |
| Exam 3 | 20 percent | |
| Discussion Section | 20 percent | (10 for participation & 10 for quizzes) |

*Discussion section attendance is required. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that part of the course. Discussion section quizzes may not be made up.

**Make-up exams will only be given in the cases of documented medical emergencies, documented family emergencies, and for participation in required UM activities.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. The work you submit in this course must be your own. When you draw from the words or thoughts of others, acknowledge it in footnotes. Plagiarism or any form of cheating will result in a failing grade for the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, ask Professor Wiltse or your TA before submitting any written work.

ODE Accommodation and Drop Deadlines

If you have a documented learning disability, please contact me so we can ensure you have suitable accommodation. The last day to drop this course without approval is February 7. From February 8 to March 29, drops require instructor and advisor approval. From March 30 to May 6, drops also require the Dean's approval and a WP or WF will appear on your transcript. May 6 is the last day to drop this course.

Course Schedule

Unit One: Birth of Modern America, 1877-1917

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Week 1 Discussion: | Introduction |
| Mon, Jan. 17: | No class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) |
| Wed, Jan. 19: | Course Introduction |
| Fri, Jan. 21: | Making Sense of Industrialization Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , chapter 16, 1-13. |
| Week 2 Discussion: | Immigrant Stories Read: Bell, <i>Out of This Furnace</i> , 3-117. (x) Immigration Document <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Louis Adamic, <i>Laughing in the Jungle</i>, 3-20. |
| Mon, Jan. 24: | The Consequences of Industrialization Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , chapter 18, 56-61. |
| Wed, Jan. 26: | Mass Immigration Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , chapter 18, 61-65; chapter 19, 99-104. |
| Fri, Jan. 28: | Rise of Cities Read: No assigned reading |

- Week 3 Discussion: Voices from Indian Country
 Read: (x) Voices from Indian Country Documents
- William Alderson, "Milk River Agency Report," (1874).
 - Chief Charlo, "Speech," *Missoulian*, April 26, 1876.
 - Chief Joseph, "On Indian Affairs," (1877, 1879).
- Mon, Jan. 31 Three Dilemmas of the New South
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 18, 65-71.
- Wed, Feb. 2: Westward Expansion
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 17, 28-44.
- Fri, Feb. 4: Dawes Act and Indian Education
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 17, 44-52.
- Week 4 Discussion: *Out of This Furnace I*
 Read: Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 119-258.
- Mon, Feb. 7: Interpreting the "Gilded Age"
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 16, 13-24.
- Wed, Feb. 9: Coney Island and Cultural Modernism
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 18, 71-78.
- Fri, Feb. 11: American Imperialism
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 19, 82-99.
- Week 5 Discussion: Rights of Women
 Read: (x) Rights of Women Documents
- Lucy Parsons, "Speech before the IWW Convention," (1905).
 - Rheta Childe Dorr, "What 8 Million Women Want," (1910).
 - Margaret Sanger, "The Case for Birth Control," (1917).
- Mon, Feb. 14: Jane Addams, Jacob Riis, and the Origins of Progressivism
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 20, 109-120.
- Wed, Feb. 16: The 1912 Election and National Progressivism
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 20, 120-128.
- Fri, Feb. 18: Paradoxes of Progressivism
 Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 20, 128-136.
- Week 6 Discussion: Progressive Foreign Policy
 Read: (x) Progressive Foreign Policy Documents

- Theodore Roosevelt, “Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine,” (1904).
- William Howard Taft, “Dollar Diplomacy,” (1912).
- Woodrow Wilson, “Declaration of War Message,” (1917).

Mon, Feb. 21: No class (President’s Day)

Wed, Feb. 23: Exam #1

Unit Two: America in Crisis, 1917-1945

Fri, Feb. 24: World War I: Diplomatic and Military History
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 21, 140-150.

Week 7 Discussion: *Out of This Furnace II*
Read: Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 259-413.

Mon, Feb. 28: World War I: The Homefront
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 21, 150-159.

Wed, Mar. 2: Political Conservatism
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 22, 163-167.

Fri, Mar. 4: *Babbitt* and the Advent of Consumer Culture
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 22, 167-174.

Week 8 Discussion: No Discussion Sections

Mon, Mar. 7: 1920s Modernism
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 22, 174-182.

Wed, Mar. 9: Triumph of Nativism
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 22, 182-188.

Fri, Mar. 11: Hard Times ***Out of This Furnace Paper Due***
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 23, 192-206.

Week 9 Discussion: Defining Modern Liberalism
Read: (x) Defining Modern Liberalism Documents

- Franklin Roosevelt, “First Inaugural Address,” (1933).
- Josiah Baily, “An Address to the People of the United States,” (1937).
- Franklin Roosevelt, “Economic Bill of Rights,” (1944).

- Mon, Mar. 14: New Deal I
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 23, 206-215.
- Wed, Mar. 16: New Deal II
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 23, 215-220.
- Fri, Mar. 18: World War II: Diplomatic and Military History
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 24, 225-240.
- Week 10 Discussion: No Discussion Sections (Spring Break)
- Mon, Mar. 21: No Class (Spring Break)
- Wed, Mar. 23: No Class (Spring Break)
- Fri, Mar. 25: No Class (Spring Break)
- Week 11 Discussion: *Walking With the Wind I*
Read: Lewis, *Walking With the Wind*, xv-xvii, 3-172.
- Mon, Mar. 28: World War II: The Homefront
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 24, 240-252.
- Wed, Mar. 30: Unit 2 Review
- Fri, Apr. 1: Exam #2

Unit Three: Modern America, 1945-present

- Week 12 Discussion: *Walking With the Wind II*
Read: Lewis, *Walking With the Wind*, 175-299.
- Mon, Apr. 4: Early Cold War
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 25, 257-269, 278-284.
- Wed, Apr. 6: Postwar Society
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 26, 288-94.
- Fri, Apr. 8: Postwar Culture
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 26, 301-310.
- Week 13 Discussion: *Walking With the Wind III*
Read: Lewis, *Walking With the Wind*, 300-422.
- Mon, Apr. 11: The Long Civil Rights Movement I

- Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 26, 294-301; chapter 27, 317-324.
- Wed, Apr. 13: The Long Civil Rights Movement II
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 28, 347-351.
- Fri, Apr. 15: Postwar Politics and Johnson's Great Society
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter, 25, 269-278, chapter 27, 324-327.
- Week 14 Discussion: No Discussion Section
- Mon, Apr. 18: The Vietnam War
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 27, 327-329; chapter 28, 344-347.
- Wed, Apr. 20: Youth Revolt of the 1960s
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 27, 329-339; chapter 28, 351-352.
- Fri, Apr. 22: The 1970s ***Walking With the Wind Paper Due***
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 28, 352-356, 361-371.
- Week 15 Discussion: Modern Feminism
Read: (x) Modern Feminism Documents
 - National Organization for Women, "Statement of Purpose," (1966).
 - Phyllis Schlafly, *The Power of the Positive Woman* (1977).
 - Gayle Greene, "Empire Strikes Back," (1992).
- Mon, Apr. 25: Ascendance of Modern Conservatism
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 29, 376-386.
- Wed, Apr. 27: Reagan Presidency
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 29, 386-394, 399-405.
- Fri, April 29: Recent Social Trends
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 28, 356-361; chapter 29, 394-399.
- Week 16 Discussion: History of Now
Read: (x) History of Now Documents
- Mon, May 2: America in the Post-Cold War World
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 30, 411-425.
- Wed, May 4: Contemporary America
Read: *American Yawp*, chapter 30, 426-437.

Fri, May 6: Course Review

Final Exam: In class, Thursday, May 12, 10:10-12:10