

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: American Modern

Course Number and Section:

HISTORY

2302F 550

Instructor Name(s): Nina Reid-Maroney

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Course Description: An Antidote, and a Tonic

History 2302G is a survey course that introduces the study of American History both as an antidote to presentism, and as a tonic that will help to build up our understanding of our own place and time. The course addresses large questions that are just as important to us as they were to the people of the past. What is freedom, and how does the definition of freedom change over time? What have been the avenues to social, economic and political power, and to whom are those avenues opened-- and closed? What sources and historical interpretations influence the way in which the story of the American past is told?

Beginning with a consideration of the late 19th century, and concluding with the late 20th century, the course pays attention to political, social, intellectual, and religious history, and to the interplay among the shifting constructs of race and gender. The course proceeds chronologically but is not meant to be a gallop. To give ourselves time to think, we will concentrate on recurring themes that give shape and meaning to narratives of the American past.

Learning Outcomes:

Recognize and define main themes across the broad sweep of U.S. social, religious and political history

Analyze primary sources

Question and evaluate historiographical debates among U.S. historians across a range of topics

Recognize the sources and interpretive frameworks that have shaped the way in which the story of the American past has been told

Engage the larger question of why any of this matters to us here and now

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Required Reading

1. American Yawp (Open source textbook available online at no cost)
2. The American Yawp Documentary Reader (Open source primary source reader, available online at no cost)

3. Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (UWO Bookstore)

In addition, please choose one of the following:

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* OR

Wendy Rouse, *Public Faces, Secret Lives: A History of the Women's Suffrage Movement*

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	weekly	20
Primary source research proposal	11/10/24	10
Research update	in class	5
Research essay	30/11/24	30
Research reflection	06/12/24	10
Final exam	TBA	25

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Saturday, August 3, 2024