

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

AMH 2020

U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1877

Fall 2017

Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

Classroom: ED 119

3 credit hours

Prof. Evan P. Bennett

Office: AL 151

(561) 297-0008

E-mail: ebennett@fau.edu

Skype: evan.bennett.history

Office Hours: MW 11:15 p.m. – 12:15 p.m.,

Tues., 2:00-3:30 p.m., and by appointment

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Ms. Kayleigh Howald – khowald1@fau.edu

Mr. Stephen Krzeminski – skrzeminski2013@fau.edu

“What history should our children learn? They should learn what is not at all obvious to them: that people long dead were once profoundly alive. They should learn that the past is a place from which we came, each of us arriving in the present via different pathways even as we and our ancestors eventually found ourselves sharing (and sometimes fighting over) the common ground we now inhabit together. They should learn that the past is a foreign country, a land whose inhabitants made livings and spoke languages and held ideas far different from our own – indeed so very different that only a great act of historical imagination can help us see the distance we have traveled in our journey away from their time.” – William Cronon

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys American history from 1877 to the present. It covers the U.S.’s transformation to an ethnically-diverse, industrialized world power. It will focus on struggles over the meanings of citizenship, political realignment, and globalization. AMH 2020 satisfies the IFP Foundations of Society & Human Behavior Part A requirement. It is a General Education course; also fulfills state-mandated Civic Literacy requirement.

In 1865, the people of the United States faced the challenge of determining what kind of nation to make out of the pieces left by a destructive civil war. While they found ways, as President Lincoln put, “to bind up the nation’s wounds,” the challenge of determining what kind of nation to make of the United States has remained central to the nation’s identity. Using this question as something of a lodestar, we will examine how Americans have struggled to answer it.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Identify key people, places, and events of U.S. history since 1877.
2. Explain the course of modern U.S. history, including its chronology, major turning points, and major political, economic, social, and cultural themes through time.
3. Relate how U.S. history connects to world history.
4. Analyze how the nation's past influences its present.
5. Write essays that synthesize primary and secondary sources related to modern U.S. history.

Civic Literacy Learning Outcomes and Course competencies

- 1) Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government
- 2) An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application
- 3) Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance
- 4) An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions, and their impact on law and society

REQUIRED BOOKS

Students are required to obtain their own copies of the following books for use this semester. All are available in the FAU Bookstore, although you are free to buy them wherever you can find them.

Jennifer D. Keene, Saul Cornell, and Edward T. O'Donnell, *Visions of America: A History of the United States*, 3rd Edition, volume 2 (Pearson, 2017) **Revel Electronic Edition (see below)**

Jo Ann Argersinger, *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents*, 2nd edition (Bedford, 2016)

Constance Bowman Reid, *Slacks and Calluses: Our Summer in a Bomber Factory* (Smithsonian, 1999)

Tim O'Brien, *If I Die in a Combat Zone* (Broadway Books, 1975)

Students can buy the book and Revel access code or just the access code in the FAU Bookstore.

For students waiting for loans, G.I. Bill, or athletic book payments, you can get a 14-day free trial of Revel from Pearson. Once your finances are arranged, you can pay for the remainder of the semester's use of Revel.

On-line work is required for this class and access to Revel is a non-negotiable course requirement.

ASSESSMENTS

Revel Assignments

Once you have obtained a registration code, you will need to register with the Pearson Revel website. This should be done through Canvas. Each week before the Wednesday lecture, you will need to complete the Revel assignments for that week. The assignments quiz your knowledge of that week's readings.

Directions for completing these will be given in class during the first week of classes.

Papers

Students will be responsible to write two brief papers this semester. Details regarding each paper assignment will be distributed three weeks before each paper is due.

Paper 1 Due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 15

Paper 2 Due by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15

All students will submit their papers through Canvas.

Under no circumstances will e-mail submissions be accepted.

Exams

Students will have two exams during the semester: a mid-term exam and a final exam during the scheduled final exam period. These exams will consist of essay questions.

Mid-term Exam: Wednesday, September 27 (in class)

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, 7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Weekly Discussion Sections

Each student must be enrolled in a Monday discussion section in addition to the Wednesday/Friday lecture.

Each week, you will have readings you need to complete before coming to discussion section. The teaching assistants will lead you in a discussion of the readings. *They will not go over what we did in class, so don't ask for a recap of the lectures.*

Participation grades will be determined using the following criteria:

- Excellent (14-15 points) – Active, frequent, and thoughtful participation in discussions
- Good (12-13 points) – Thoughtful but less frequent participation in discussions
- Fair (10-11 points) – Rarely participate and only with much effort on the leader's part
- Poor (10 points or less) – You were either not in the room or no one could tell you were

Attendance and participation in these discussion sections is mandatory. Missing more than one section meeting will result in the loss of one point for each additional absence.

CRN	Meeting Time	Location	Discussion Leader
20769	10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	AL 345	Krzeminski
20312	10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	AL 343	Howald
20313	11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	AL 342	Howald

20314	11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	AL 344	Krzeminski
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AL = Arts & Letters Building

GRADES

Revel Assignments	20%
Discussion Section Participation	10%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
First Paper	15%
Second Paper	15%
Total	100%

Following is the scale for determining final grades.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Points	93+	92-90	89-88	87-83	82-80	79-78	77-73	72-70	69-68	67-63	62-60	<60

Appropriate rounding will be considered when calculating grades.

Grading Policy

I am more than willing to discuss your grade with you in person. However, any request for a grade change must be made in writing and include a detailed rationale of why the grade should be altered.

Assignments may be turned in up to one week late with 3% penalty for each calendar day it is overdue.

I only rarely offer extra credit assignments and never create alternate/additional assignments so please do not ask.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Class Climate: I expect that students will create and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect in which everyone's ideas and questions can be heard.
2. Cell phones/Portable Electronic Devices: Please silence cell phones/portable electronic devices when you enter the classroom. Please show common courtesy and do not send text messages, use Facebook, or use with any other apps during the class.

3. Technology: Students are to use technology in the classroom only as far as its use relates to the class. Headphones must be removed from your heads/ears.
4. Tardiness: Students are to arrive on time for each class meeting. If you arrive late, please enter the room quietly. Chronic tardiness (as defined by the instructor) will result in a reduction in the final grade.
5. Seating: The instructor and teaching assistants reserve the right to tell students where to sit.
6. Students enrolled in this class are required to have the computer technology necessary to complete the online course requirements. Ensuring sufficient computing capacity, Internet connectivity, and software compatibility are the responsibility of the student. Students are required to have access to an Internet browser capable of running Canvas.
7. Communication: We will communicate in several ways in this class.
 - a. Announcements: The professor will communicate any important updates to the course through Canvas.
 - b. Email: Feel free to email me if you have any questions. Please allow 24 hours for a response, and do not expect a reply on weekends. Please use your best emailing skills when writing.
 - c. Phone: I will be available by phone during office hours, provided I am not meeting with anyone at that moment. If you receive voicemail, please leave a message with a contact number and a best time to call you back. My office number is 561-297-0008. You may also reach me through Skype: evan.bennett.history
8. Wikipedia: Wikipedia and other open source information sites are not reliable enough for scholarly research and are thus not appropriate for use as a source in a formal history paper. Students in need of general information are required to use a standard, reliable encyclopedia. The FAU Libraries maintain a subscription to Britannica Online, which provides full access to *Encyclopaedia Britannica* both on campus and off campus through Off Campus Connect. ***In other words: WIKIPEDIA IS NOT PERMITTED FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT.***

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Students with Disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS)—in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 203 (954-236-1222); or in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8585)—and follow all SAS procedures. For more information, go to <http://fau.edu/sas/>

Academic Integrity: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system

of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.

University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW): Students seeking to improve their writing should avail themselves of all available resources. I am eager to discuss your writing with you in person during office hours and am willing to look over drafts provided you give me ample time to do so. You may also seek the assistance of the University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW). Staffed by certified graduate student consultants, the UCEW's Writing Center offers both online and in-person one-on-one consultation sessions. UCEW services are available on the Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter campuses. You must first register at their website in order to access their services. <http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/WC/>.

Counseling Services: Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services -- individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few -- offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. CAPS is located on the second floor above the Breezeway food court of the Boca Raton campus. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling> or call [561-297-3540](tel:561-297-3540)

Course Calendar

Required Revel readings for each day are in italics. You must complete the Revel quizzes by 10:00 a.m. the day the readings are due.

Discussion readings are listed under the topic title for each meeting. *These readings must be completed before coming to class.*

Week of	Monday (Discussion)	Wednesday	Friday
8/21	Introductions	Introductions	Intro to History
8/28	Reading Historical Documents Mos Def, "New World Water" (audio and text in Canvas)	Reconstruction <i>Chapter 14</i>	The West <i>Chapter 15</i>
9/4	No Class: Labor Day	Industrialization <i>Chapter 16</i>	Industrialization
9/11	Industrialization Chapter 16 Source Collection	Gilded Age <i>Chapter 17</i>	Gilded Age
9/18	Gilded Age <i>The Triangle Fire</i> , 1-16; 39-72	Progressives <i>Chapter 18</i>	Progressives
9/25	Progressives <i>The Triangle Fire</i> , 16-33; 73-120	Empire <i>Chapter 19</i>	World War I <i>Chapter 20</i>
10/2	Empire/World War I Chapters 19 and 20 Source Collections	Midterm Exam	1920s <i>Chapter 21</i>
10/9	1920s Chapter 21 Source Collection	New Deal <i>Chapter 22</i>	New Deal
10/16	New Deal Chapter 22 Source Collection	World War II <i>Chapter 23</i>	World War II
10/23	World War II <i>Slacks and Calluses</i> , entire	Cold War <i>Chapter 24</i>	Cold War
10/30	Cold War Chapter 24 Source Collection Watch: <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (Canvas)	Affluence <i>Chapter 25</i> Watch: <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> (Canvas)	Civil Rights
11/6	Affluence/Civil Rights Chapter 25 Source Collection	Vietnam <i>Chapter 26</i>	No Class: Veterans' Day

11/13	Vietnam <i>If I Die in a Combat Zone...</i> , entire Watch: <i>My Lai</i> (Canvas)	Protests <i>Chapter 27</i>	1970s
11/20	Protests/1970s Chapter 27 Source Collection	Reagan Era <i>Chapter 28</i>	No Class: Thanksgiving
11/27	Reagan Era Chapter 28 Source Collection	The 1990s <i>Chapter 29</i>	After 9/11

Final Exam: Friday, December 13, 7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.