

**College of Alameda:**  
**History 7B History of the United States Since 1865**  
**Summer 2021**  
**June 21 – July 23, 2021**

**3 Units**  
**M-F**  
**Instructor: TBD**  
**Email: TBD**  
**Location: Online**



**Course Description and Goals:** This is a survey class which covers the development of the United States after the Civil War to the present. An understanding of Reconstruction, the growth of big business, and domestic and foreign problems will provide a basis for a comprehensive and intelligent evaluation of current problems. The cultural, social, economic, geographic, diplomatic and political factors involved in the evolution of American society are also analyzed through a variety of chronological topics. Class session will include lectures, group work, films and in-class writing assignments. Students will examine primary and secondary historical sources and will develop skills needed to learn the essential information presented in college history textbooks.

**Required Texts:** One text is required and is available in the College of Alameda bookstore under the History 7B label.  
Divine et al, *American Past and Present*, Tenth Edition, Volume II  
Students are responsible for the assigned pages in the textbook and should complete readings before the lecture. Additional short readings, particularly primary documents will be handed out at lectures.

**Attendance:** The college requires class attendance. Students may be dropped after six cumulative hours of absences. Four late arrivals will be counted as one absence. Students need to come to class on time, come to class consistently, and stay in class during instruction. Please contact me in advance if you have to miss a session. Tests

can only be made up if students present documentation of a valid excuse. Please turn off cell phones and other electronic equipment during instruction.

**Grading:** The students' grade will be determined by the following:

Midterm: 30%

Individual Projects: 15%

Final: 35%

In-class assignments and participation: 20%

The letter grade equivalents for percentages for the course are A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, and F: 59 or less.

**Individual Projects:** This requirement may be met by one of the following:

1. Film critique
2. Book report
3. Internet search and evaluation
4. Poster or original artwork
5. Musical performance or original drama based on class content.
6. Visit to museum or historical site and report
7. PowerPoint presentation

Individual projects are due on the day of the final but may be turned in earlier.

**Class Sessions:**

The following approximates what topics we will cover and when we will cover various historical periods. The chapter numbers refer to the Divine textbook.

**Week of Jun. 21**

Course requirements and overview of class content

Civil War and the background to Reconstruction

Reconstruction

Changes in the Constitution

Amendments 13, 14, and 15

Chapter 16

The fate of Native-Americans

The Bonanza West

Chapter 17

**Week of Jun. 28**

Industrial Society

Chapter 18

Urbanization

The New Immigration

Chapter 19

The Populist Movement  
Chapter 20

**Week of Jul. 5**

The McKinley Administration  
War with Spain  
Chapter 21

Progressive Era  
Chapters Chapter 22 and 23  
The study questions for the midterm will be handed out.

The midterm will be held on March 16  
Foreign Policy  
Isolationism and World War I  
The Treaty of Versailles  
Chapter 24

Jazz and Automobiles  
The Second Industrial Revolution  
The Great Crash  
Chapter 25

**Week of Jul. 12**

Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal  
Chapter 26

World War II  
The Home Front  
Victory  
Chapter 27

Containment  
The Cold War  
Chapter 28

Eisenhower's America  
Chapter 29

**Week of Jul. 19:**

Kennedy v Nixon  
The New Frontier  
The Civil Rights Movement  
Chapter 30

The Vietnam War

## Chapter 31

The Reagan Years

Clinton and the World

The Bush presidency

President Obama

Chapters 32 and 33

The study questions for the final will be handed out.

Personal projects are due on the day of the final.

In-class final

### **Individual Projects: Films**

There are many wonderful feature films and documentaries that are relevant to modern American history. The following list provides you with some suggestions. If you would like to review a film that is not on this list, discuss it with me.

Midway

*Dunkirk*

*The Darkest Hour*

*The Post*

*Lincoln*

*Hidden Figures*

*Selma*

*Twelve Years as a Slave*

*The Help*

*The Pianist*

*Cinderella Man*

*Pearl Harbor*

*Band of Brothers*

*Glory*

*Malcolm X*

*The Great White Hope*

*From Here to Eternity*

*Titanic*

*Good Night and Good Luck*

*High Noon*

*Saving Private Ryan*

*Red Tails*

*San Francisco*

*Singing in the Rain*

*L.A. Confidential*

*Panther*

*Chinatown*

*The King's Speech*

## *Rosewood*

There are several excellent documentaries which are relevant to our period. The PBS series on Reconstruction and Prohibition are excellent.

### **Movie Critique:**

1. What is the context of the film? What historical period and what historical figures are incorporated into the film? Summarize the plot of the film.
2. How accurate is the film? What parts of the film are historically accurate and what is misrepresented?
3. How does the film expand your awareness of the past? Did the film make an impact on you and did you find it engaging?

The critique should be two to three pages and should be typewritten.

### **Individual Projects: Book Reviews**

You may choose a fiction or nonfiction book. The following list provides some suggestions.

John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Yong Chen, *Chinese San Francisco, 1850-1943: A Trans-Pacific Community*

Manuel G. Gonzales, *A History of Mexicans in the United States.*

Leon F. Litwack, *Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow*

Richard Wright, *Native Son*

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

Ronald Takaki, *A Multicultural History of America*

Stephen Ambrose, *Band of Brothers, E. Company, 506<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle Nest*

Judy Yung, *Unbound Feet*

### **Book Review Guidelines:**

1. What historical period is the author writing about?
2. Write a summary of the book.
3. Did the author of this work change your perspective or understanding?
4. Would you recommend this book to other students?

**Individual Projects:** Internet search and evaluation: Students should visit five websites and fill out five website evaluation forms. I will hand out the forms on request. There are many websites relevant to modern American history. There is an excellent list in the Maddox textbook.

**Individual Projects:** Poster or original artwork: The project should include a one-page description of the project's historical context.

**Individual Projects:** Museum visit or visit to an historical site. There are many wonderful local exhibits that are relevant to our course. The Hornet is very close and is an exciting exhibit. Please write a two-page report on your visit.

**Individual Projects:** Musical performances, or original dramas: Please discuss your project with me. The project must deal with the historical issues of this course. The project should include a one-page description of the project's historical context.

**Individual Projects:** PowerPoint presentations: The project should include a minimum of ten slides and the equivalent of one double-spaced page of text.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Develop individual ideas based on the interpretations of the ideas of others

Analyze issues from a multicultural perspective

Communicate reasoned ideas