HIST7B:
The United States Since the Civil War

Instructor: Robert Chester
Email: robertnchester@gmail.com or rchester@berkeley.edu
Office: 2225 Dwinelle
Consultation Hours: Tuesdays, 10-11 & Thursdays, 1:30-3

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the history of the United States from the Civil War to the present. Readings, lectures, films, discussions, papers, and exams will all familiarize students with the ways historians look at the past, think about evidence, and write clearly about complex relationships of cause and effect. By exploring Reconstruction, the Indian Wars, Jim Crow segregation, changing immigration policies, and the suffrage and civil rights movements, the course will explore changing, overlapping, and stratified processes of inclusion and exclusion that have redefined categories of whiteness, citizenship, and American identity. We will also analyze how industrialization, immigration, westward expansion, and the increasing intervention of state and federal governments illuminates the causes and consequences of the United States’ rapid and transformative economic growth in the second half of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. Ultimately, social and political movements emerged to address the uneven distribution of economic, environmental, and social burdens created by this economic expansion. Students will study the ways that consumer culture, new media, and suburbanization influenced American popular attitudes and perceptions of the political process, the economy, the environment, and a variety of social movements. This course will finish by charting the origins, influence, and legacies of the Cold War, de-industrialization, and Neoliberalism. Students must attend lecture and discussion and complete assigned readings, a research essay, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Course Requirements:
Section: 30%
Midterm: 20% (Thursday, July 25)
Essay: 20% (Due Thursday, August 8)
Final Exam: 30% (Thursday, August 15)
Required Texts
- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War*

Suggested Text

Exams: The midterm exam will consist of a blue book analysis of course materials comprising four short-essay identifications and one longer essay based on a pre-circulated prompt. The Identification portion of the midterm will account for forty percent and the longer essay will account for the remaining sixty percent of the student’s exam grade. The final exam will also require a blue book. Students will answer two identifications and write two essays based on pre-circulated prompts. The Identification portion of the final exam will account for twenty percent and the essays will account for forty percent each.

Essay: Each student must write an essay between 1500 and 2000 words. All essays must be double-spaced and typed in 12-point Times New Roman font. All essays must also provide a minimum of twelve footnotes. The essay must provide a clear and explicit thesis that frames the student’s analysis of evidence and arguments found in primary and secondary sources. DO NOT USE PARANTHEtical CITATIONS. DO NOT USE OR CITE OUTSIDE SOURCES UNLESS APPROVED THE INSTRUCTOR OR GSI.

Cheating or Plagiarism: “Achievement and proficiency in subject matter include your realization that neither is to be achieved by cheating. An instructor has the right to give you an F on a single assignment produced by cheating without determining whether you have a passing knowledge of the relevant factual material. That is an appropriate academic evaluation for a failure to understand or abide by the basic rules of academic study and inquiry. An instructor has the right to assign a final grade of F for the course if you plagiarized a paper for a portion of the course, even if you have successfully and, presumably, honestly passed the remaining portion of the course. It must be understood that any student who knowingly aids in plagiarism or other cheating, e.g., allowing another student to copy a paper or examination question, is as guilty as the cheating student.” The above language comes from the University of California’s own policy description defining cheating and plagiarism (which can be found at http://catalog.berkeley.edu/policies/conduct.html). More specifically for this course, the following all qualify as cheating and/or plagiarism in my view: failure to cite sources, the repeated absence of quotation marks where warranted, presenting someone else’s ideas or work as your own, and using notes, books, or electronic devices during in-class exams.
**Laptops and Other Electronic Equipment:** If you wish to use a laptop to take notes during my lectures, feel free to do so. However, please sit in the very back of the lecture hall in order to avoid distracting other students. Please refrain from texting or manipulating your phone or other gadgets while in class. More generally, please act courteously out of respect for me and your fellow students during both lectures and discussions. Thank you.

**bSpace:** The instructor will use bSpace ([https://bspace.berkeley.edu/](https://bspace.berkeley.edu/)) to provide students with a range of course materials. The instructor will post the following on bSpace: the syllabus, lecture outlines, discussion questions for assigned readings, writing assignments, and primary documents. The instructor will also use bSpace to make announcements, such as reminders about deadlines and extended office hours.

**Course Calendar**

(Assigned Reading:)
Monday, July 8: 1) Introduction & Orientation  
2) Contingency & Its Consequences  
3) Reconstruction
Wednesday, July 10: Greater Reconstruction & the Incorporation of the West
Thursday, July 11: Industrialization & Immigration

(Assigned Reading: )
Monday, July 15: 1) Populism  
2) Progressivism
Wednesday, July 16: 1) WWI  
2) Suffrage & Social Movements
Thursday, July 17: 1) The Growth of Consumer Culture  
2) Culture Wars in the Twenties

(Assigned Reading:)
Monday, July 22: 1) The Great Depression & the Dust Bowl  
2) The New Deal
Wednesday, July 24: WWII
Thursday, July 25: Midterm Exam
(Assigned Reading: )
Monday, July 29: 1) Cold War Abroad   2) Cold War at Home
Wednesday, July 31: 1) Suburbanization   2) Civil Rights Movements Part I
Thursday, August 1: 1) Civil Rights Movements Part II   2) Film: Bridge to Freedom

(Assigned Reading: )
Monday, August 5: 1) Vietnam   2) Film: Two Days in October
Wednesday, August 7: 1) Women’s Movements   2) Immigration Since WWII
Thursday, August 8: The Seventies

(Assigned Reading: )
Monday, August 12: 1) Reagan to the Rescue   2) LGBT Movements
Wednesday, August 14: 1) Neoliberals, NAFTA & the New Economy
2) From Beirut to Baghdad
Thursday, August 15: Final Exam