

Hunter College
History 152: The United States Since 1865
(Fall 2023)

Professor Jonathan Rosenberg
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Office hours: held on Zoom on
Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30, and by appt.

Teaching Assistants
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This course surveys some of the major developments in United States history from 1865 to the 1970s. Among the subjects to be covered are the struggles for justice of African Americans and women; the expanding scope and power of the federal government; and the increasing engagement of the United States with the world.

Course Requirements

There will be **three class meetings each week. On Tuesdays and Fridays, there will be a 50-minute lecture from 11:30-12:20. The third meeting, on Friday, will be a 50-minute discussion section led by one of the teaching assistants.** (Check your schedule for the Friday time and room number of your section.) The weekly discussion sections, in which students will meet in groups of 30 to discuss the assigned readings, are an integral part of the course. The discussion sections provide the opportunity to consider closely many of the key topics and themes that are presented in the lectures. Sections will also focus on the skills necessary to complete the written assignments. Readings should be completed prior to the section meeting. **Students are required to attend the lectures. Students are also required to attend the discussion sections and are expected to contribute to the conversation. Note the attendance policy for the sections: Three unexcused absences from section will result in a 1/3 reduction in the course grade (e.g., B to B minus, B minus to C plus). Four or five unexcused absences will result in a 2/3 reduction in the course grade (e.g., B plus to B minus, A minus to B). Six or more absences will result in a full grade reduction (e.g., B to C, B plus to C plus).**

You will be required to take **two essay exams and write one short paper**, all of which will be based on the material covered in the course readings, lectures, and discussion sections. (No additional reading is required to complete the three assignments.) **The first exam will be worth 25% of your course grade; the second exam will be worth 25% of your course grade; the short paper will be worth 50% of your course grade. There will be no makeup exams. If you miss either of the two exams, the other exam will be worth 50% of your course grade. If you miss both exams, it will be not be possible to pass the course. All students must submit the final paper to pass the course. The details about grading will also be explained in class. Keep in mind that you are expected to complete all three assignments.**

Note the Learning Outcomes for this class: Students will be expected to be able to periodize the history of the United States from the era of Reconstruction through the Vietnam War and be familiar with key themes and some of the leading groups and individuals active during those years. Students will be expected to analyze and interpret primary sources. Students will be expected to understand the different ways in which historians have interpreted the period covered by the course.

Required Text

Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Edward Blum, eds., *Major Problems in American History*, vol. II: since 1865 (4th edition). **Note: It is essential to have the 4th edition of this text.**

Note: All the course lectures have been pre-recorded. If you are unable to attend a lecture in-person due to illness or a family health problem, you can watch the lectures from home. The link will be provided early in the semester.

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Lecture and Discussion Schedule

August 25	Introduction: Course requirements and themes -- and the death of a president. Friday discussions sections meet today (check your schedules for time and classroom).
August 29	Reconstructing America
September 1	Reconstructing America and Race Relations in the South If you have obtained the textbook, you can begin reading <i>Major Problems</i> , xxi-xxiv, ch. 1.
September 5	Race Relations in the South (cont.)
September 8	The Industrialization and Incorporation of America Read: <i>Major Problems</i> , chs. 1, 3.
September 12	Industrialization (cont.)
September 15	No class -- Hunter closed
September 19	An Urban Nation: The City in Turn-of-the-Century America
September 22	Americans All? -- Immigration Read: <i>Major Problems</i> , ch. 3.
September 26	The Age of Reform: The Progressive Era
September 29	The Age of Reform (cont.) Read: <i>Major Problems</i> , ch. 5.
October 3	The Age of Reform (cont.)
October 6	An American Empire? The War with Spain First exam (given in section)
October 10	Monday schedule -- no class
October 13	"Safe for Democracy": Woodrow Wilson and the Great War Read: <i>Major Problems</i> , ch. 4.

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- October 17 Woodrow Wilson and the Peace Settlement
- October 20 The 1920s: Society and Culture
Read: ch. 6.
Optional: *Major Problems*, 200-219.
- October 24 Hard Times: The Crash of '29, the Great Depression, and the New Deal
- October 27 FDR and the New Deal (cont.)
Read: *Major Problems*, ch. 8.
- October 31 New Deal (concluded)
- November 3 FDR and the Road to War
Second exam (given in section)
- November 7 On the Home Front: The Second World War in America
- November 10 From War to Insecurity: Origins of the Cold War
Read: *Major Problems*, ch 9.
- November 14 Suburbanites and Consumers in Postwar America
- November 17 Suburbanites and Consumers (cont.) and the Second Red Scare
Read: *Major Problems*, ch. 10 (not Lawrence essay).
**** Question handed out for final paper ****
- November 21 Struggles for Justice: The African-American Freedom Campaign
- November 24 Thanksgiving break – no Hunter classes
Read: *Major Problems*, ch. 11.
- November 28 Struggles for Justice: The African-American Freedom Campaign (cont.)
- December 1 Struggles for Justice (cont.)
Read: *Major Problems*, ch. 12.
- December 5 The Vietnam War
- December 8 Civil Rights and the Vietnam War// Progress on Civil Rights after 1945
(Final Lecture) Read: *Major Problems*, ch. 13.
**** Final paper due today in class – late papers will be penalized 10 points per day or partial day that they are late. No papers will be accepted after Monday, December 11, at 12 noon.**

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December 12 Hunter Reading Day – no class

Note: The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to any part of the syllabus if it should become necessary. -- Prof J Rosenberg

Please note the following information:

The CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity can be found here:

<https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/pages/540MS0v9xL13dmLGuVgZ>

The CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct can be found here:

<https://hunter-undergraduate.catalog.cuny.edu/policies-and-requirements/institutional-policies/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct>

Policies on Accommodations

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: “In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College’s students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and an appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, or call (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230.”

E-mail: AccessABILITY@hunter.cuny.edu Web: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/student-services/access>