2014

144-4S History of the United States since 1865

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**History of the United States since 1865**

History 144  
Summer 2014

Instructor: Paul O’Hara  
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**Course description:**

History 144 is an introduction to the major trends in the economic, political, social, and cultural history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. It is also an introduction to the academic study of history. Students will learn the major historical trends and transformations of modern America. Students will also develop an understanding of the historical method including the use of historical documents, the questioning of sources, and the analysis and interpretation historians apply to the past.

**Required texts:**

Robert Divine, et al., *The American Story*  
Plus additional readings as noted

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- A = 93-100%  
- A- = 90-92%  
- B+ = 87-89%  
- B = 83-86%  
- B- = 80-82%  
- C+ = 77-79%  
- C = 73-76%  
- C- = 70-72%  
- D+ = 67-69%  
- D = 63-66%  
- D- = 60-62%  
- F = 59% and below

This course meets the following NCSS Reporting Standards for Social Studies:

1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.10 2.1 3.2

**CORE CURRICULUM:**

This course fulfills part of the history requirement for the core curriculum. The academic goals for the core curriculum include:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to express themselves articulately, orally and in writing.
- Students will, individually and cooperatively, demonstrate ability to think and to solve problems, critically, analytically and creatively, within and across disciplines.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to differentiate the methods and to understand the interrelationships of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
- Students will demonstrate, in a way consistent with the Jesuit tradition, an ability to understand and analyze significant religious, ethical, and moral issues within a rapidly changing global society.
The history requirement is designed to:
“introduce students both to a body of knowledge and to historical methods which include understanding change over time and arguments about cause and effect. In these courses students examine the evolution of ideas, institutions, organizational systems and values which have shaped and are shaping societies.”

This section of History 144 also fulfills the diversity core requirement.

**Class policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** University policy on academic honesty reads as follows:

“The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University. The dean of the college in which the student is enrolled is to be informed in writing of all such incidents, though the teacher has full authority to assign the grade for the assignment, test, or course. If disputes of interpretation arise, the student, faculty member, and chair should attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this is unsatisfactory, the dean will rule in the matter. As a final appeal, the academic vice president will call a committee of tenured faculty for the purpose of making a final determination.”

**Caveat:**
The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as necessitated by circumstances.

**Calendar:**

**Module 1:**  **New Frontiers- 1868-1890**
American Story, chaps. 17-18

7/8  Section 1a: Reconstruction and redemption
7/9  Section 1b: The West
7/10 Section 1c: Building railroads
7/11 Section 1d: folklore and American culture

**Module 2:**  **Industrialism- 1873-1901**
American Story, chaps. 19-21

7/14 Section 2a: The rise of monopoly capitalism
7/15 Section 2b: Immigrant worlds
7/16 Section 2c: The Victorians
7/17  Section 2d: The Populists
7/18  Section 2e: Imperialism

Module 3:  A New Age- 1901-1929
           American Story, chaps.22-24

7/21  Section 3a: Progressivism
7/22  Section 3b: The Great War
7/23  Section 3c: Fordism
7/24  Section 3d: Gender and individualism
7/25  Section 3e: The origins of the crash

Module 4:  A Consumers’ democracy- 1930-1954
           American Story, chaps. 25-26

7/28  Section 4a: The Great Depression
7/29  Section 4b: The New Deal
7/30  Section 4c: Why we fight
7/31  Section 4d: The Good War
8/1   Section 4e: Race and integration

Module 5:  The Cold War- 1947-1972
           American Story, chaps. 27-30

8/4   Section 5a: The Cold War Consensus
8/5   Section 5b: Suburban America
8/6   Section 5c: Civil Rights and the myth of consensus
8/7   Section 5d: the crucible of Vietnam
8/8   Section 5e: an era of protest

Module 6:  Pax Americana- 1972-
           American Story, chap. 31-32

8/11  Section 6a: Nixon’s America
8/12  Section 6b: The geopolitics of oil
8/13  Section 6c: the new conservatives
8/14  Section 6d: the post cold war world