History 104: American History from 1877 to the Present
Spring 2011
MWF 10:00-10:50
King 337

Clayton Koppes
Rice 305
Office Hours:
MWF 11:00-1:00
MW 2:30-3:30

Renee Romano
Rice 306
Office Hours:
T 2:00-4:00
W 11:00-12:30

Writing Tutors:  Brooklyn Demme
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Sam Lawrence
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This course will explore American politics, society, and culture from the post-Civil War era to the present, focusing on the theme of "freedom" as a way to bind together multiple threads of the nation's past. From revolution to emancipation to "freedom flights" and "free to be you and me," calls for freedom have animated political struggles and cultural change in the country for over two centuries. We will focus on changes in power relations in American society produced by social and political movements. Major topics will include civil rights movements, foreign policy, the expansion of the state, sexuality, and consumer culture. This course will also emphasize the use of primary sources, different modes of historical analysis and interpretation, and scholarly controversies.

As a team-taught course, the syllabus will alternate between lectures by the instructors on Mondays and Wednesdays and discussion sections, which will be held on Fridays. Each student will sign up for one of four discussion sections for the course. These sections will meet either at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, or 11:00 am on Friday. Students will be sorted into sections in the first week. Course assignments will include two papers, an in-class exam, a take-home final, and attending one lecture outside of regular class meeting time.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Endesha Ida Mae Holland, *From the Mississippi Delta*
Robert McMahon, *The Cold War*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*

Textbooks are available at the college bookstore and are on reserve at Mudd Library. Readings marked with an * on the syllabus are available on the blackboard site.

REQUIREMENTS
Paper #1 (Due Friday, March 4)  20%
In-class exam (Friday, March 25)  20%
Paper #2 (Due Friday, April 22)  25%
Take-Home Final (Due Wednesday, May 18)  25%
Attendance/participation  10%
All written work is due by the date and time indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be marked down by 1/3 of a grade for every day they are turned in after the due date.

As part of your attendance/participation grade, all students are required to attend at least one of the following lectures and write a short response (no more than a page). Students who attend additional lectures and write responses can receive up to two points extra credit per lecture for a maximum of six extra credit points.

February 17, 2011 at 4:30
Place TBA

Nell Irvin Painter, Edwards Professor Emeritus of American History at Princeton
February 22, 2011 at 7:30
Finney Chapel

Julie Sze, “Gendering Environmental Justice”
February 28, 2011 at 7:30
Hallock Auditorium

Gloria Steinem, founder of Ms. Magazine and the National Organization of Women
March 2, 2011 at 7:30
Finney Chapel

General Anthony Zinni, Former Commander in Chief of U.S. Central Command
March 10, 2011 at 7:30
Finney Chapel

David Boies on the California gay marriage case and the Constitution
April 5, 2011 at 7:30
First Church (corner of Main St. and Lorain Ave.)

HONOR CODE
By enrolling in this class you are agreeing to abide by Oberlin’s Honor Code and Honor System. Be sure you have read and understood your rights and responsibilities. You can find it at this link: http://www.oberlin.edu/students/student_pages/honor_code.html

SPECIAL NEEDS
We will make every effort to accommodate the needs of students with physical or learning disabilities. Please see us as soon as possible to discuss your what modifications might be necessary to meet your particular needs.
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

2/7 Course overview

2/9 The World in 1877 (CK and RR)
Reading: Foner, Preface and Chapter 15

2/11 Populism, Industrialization, and the Closing of the Frontier (RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 16; Andrew Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth (1889)*

WEEK 2

2/14 The Contradictions of Conservation (CK)
Reading: William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness"*

2/16 Jim Crow America (RR)

2/18 Discussion Sections

WEEK 3

2/21 U.S. Empire and the Spanish-American War (RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 17; Albert Beveridge, "The March of the Flag" (1898)*; Anti-Imperialist League Platform (1899)*

2/23 Immigration, Nativism, and the Shift to an Urban Nation (RR)
Reading: Yezierska, Book 1, chapters 1-9; Madison Grant on the New Immigrants as Survival of the Unfit, 1918*; Randolph Bourne, "Trans-National America"*

2/25 Progressivism (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 18; Yezierska, Book 2, Chapters 10-16

WEEK 4

2/28 World War I and the League of the Nations (CK)
4/6 American Politics and Culture in the 1950s (RR)

4/8 Discussion sections
Reading: Elaine Tyler May, “Cold War, Warm Hearth: Politics and the Family in Postwar America”*; Excerpt from Stephanie Coontz, A Strange Stirring*

WEEK 10

4/11 Stirrings of Change: The Civil Rights Struggle in the 1950s (RR)
Reading: Holland, Prologue through Chapter 6

4/13 The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s (RR)
Reading: Holland, Chapters 7-12

4/15 Discussion sections
Reading: Holland, Chapters 13-18

WEEK 11

4/18 The Great Society and the Modern American State (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 25

4/20 The American War in Vietnam (CK)
Reading: McMahon, Chapter 5; Selected Documents on Vietnam*

4/22 Discussion Sections
Paper #2 Due in Section

WEEK 12

4/25 The Women’s Movement (RR)

4/27 Other Social Movements of the 1960s (RR)

4/29 Discussion sections
Reading: Terry Anderson, “The Sea Change” in The Movement and the 60s*
WEEK 13

5/2  The Rise of Conservatism (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 6; The Sharon Statement*; Ronald Reagan, “Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals” (1983)*

5/4  The New Immigration (RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 27

5/6  Discussion sections
Reading: McMahon, Chapter 7

WEEK 14

5/9  End of the Cold War/Neoliberalism and the economic crisis (CK)
Reading: McMahon, Chapter 8

5/11  9/11, Bush, and the Age of Obama (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 28

5/13  American Freedom Today (CK and RR)

TAKE HOME FINAL DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 18th BY 9PM

**The contents of this syllabus are subject to change. We will notify you in class of any updates or modifications.**