History 104: American History from 1877 to the Present
Spring 2012
MWF 10:00-10:50

Clayton Koppes
ckoppes@oberlin.edu (5-8317)

Renee Romano
rromano@oberlin.edu (5-6584)

Office Hours. Rice 305:
Mon. and Wed., 11:00-12:00, 2:30-3:30
Fridays, 11:00-12:00

Office Hours, Rice 306:
Mondays, 1:30-3:30
Wednesdays, 11:00-12:15

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 and participating in section discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull-House
Steven Lawson and Charles Payne, Debating the Civil Rights Movement
James Olson and Randy Roberts, Where the Domino Fell: America and Vietnam, 1945-1995

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Paper #1 (Due Friday, March 2) 20%
In-class exam (Friday, March 23) 20%
Paper #2 (Due Monday, April 16) 25%
Take-Home Final (Due May 16) 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.
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

2/6 Course overview (CK and RR)

2/8 The World in 1877 (CK and RR)
Reading: Foner, Preface and Chapter 15

2/10 Industrialization, the Closing of the Frontier, and Populism (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 16; Andrew Carnegie, “The Gospel of Wealth (1889)*

WEEK 2

2/13 Jim Crow America (RR)

2/15 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)*

2/17 Discussion Sections

WEEK 3

2/20 Immigration, Nativism, and the Shift to an Urban Nation (RR)
Reading: Introduction, Jane Addams: Twenty Years at Hull-House, 1-38; Edward Ross, “Racial Consequences of Immigration.” Document #6 in Twenty Years at Hull House, 238-243; Madison Grant on the New Immigrants as Survival of the Unfit, 1918*; Randolph Bourne, “Trans-National America”*

2/22 Jane Addams and the World of Women’s Reform (RR)
Reading: Jane Addams: Twenty Years at Hull-House, 41-114 (chapters 1-8); “If Men Were Seeking the Franchise,” Document #5 in Twenty Years at Hull House, 232-238
2/24  **Discussion Sections**
Reading: Addams, *Jane Addams: Twenty Years at Hull House*, 115-206; Documents #1, 2 and 7 from *Twenty Years at Hull House*, pp. 207-224, 243-252

**WEEK 4**

2/27  **Progressivism (CK)**
Reading: Foner, Chapter 18; William Sumner, “The Concentration of Wealth,” Document #2 in *Twenty Years at Hull House*, 225-228

2/29  **World War I and the League of the Nations (CK)**
Reading: Foner, Chapter 19

3/2  **Discussion Sections**
*Paper #1 due at start of section today*

**WEEK 5**

3/5  **The Jazz Age (CK)**
Reading: Foner, Chapter 20

3/7  **The Great Depression (RR)**
Reading: Great Depression Photo Essay online at [http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/depression/photoessay.htm*); Read a selection of letters to Eleanor Roosevelt, available online at [http://newdeal.feni.org/eleanor/er3a.htm](http://newdeal.feni.org/eleanor/er3a.htm*); Southern Tenant Farmer’s Union: Oral History”*; “The Sit-Down Strike at General Motors” (1937)*

3/9  **Discussion sections**
Reading: TBA

**WEEK 6**

3/12  **The New Deal (CK)**
Reading: Foner, Chapter 21; Norman Thomas, “What Was the New Deal?” (1936)*; Herbert Hoover On the New Deal and Liberty (1936)*; Father Coughlin, “Roosevelt and Ruin” (1936)

3/14  **Debating the New Deal—Discussion**
Barton Bernstein, “The New Deal: The Conservative Achievements of Liberal Reform”*; David Kennedy, “What the New Deal Did” in *Freedom from Fear*

3/16  **TBA—Exhibit Visit**
WEEK 7

3/19 World War II (RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 22; Franklin Roosevelt, Fireside Chat, February 3, 1942*

3/21 World War II At Home (RR)

3/23 In-Class Midterm

WEEK 8 SPRING RECESS

WEEK 9

4/2 The Cold War (CK)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 23; George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct”

4/4 American Politics and Culture in the 1950s (RR)

4/6 Discussion Sections
Olson and Roberts, Where the Domino Fell, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-73 (can skim Chapt. 1)

WEEK 10

4/9 Stirrings of Change: The Civil Rights Struggle in the 1950s (RR)
Reading: Steven Lawson, “The View from the Nation” and selected documents in Debating the Civil Rights Movement, pp. 1-42; 45-73

4/11 The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s (RR)
Reading: Charles Payne, “The View from the Trenches” and selected documents in Debating the Civil Rights Movement, pp. 99-136, 75-97, 139-149

4/13 Discussion sections

WEEK 10

4/16 The Great Society and the Modern American State (CK)—2nd Paper Due in Class
Reading: Foner, pp. 1043-1062

4/18 Vietnam War (CK)
Reading: Olson and Roberts, Where the Domino Fell, pp. 75-end
4/20  Discussion Sections

WEEK 11

4/23  The Women’s Movement (RR)
Reading: Gloria Steinem, “Statement in Support of the Equal Rights Amendment”*.
Bella Abzug, Testimony Before the New York City Human Rights Commission*;
“Redstockings Manifesto (1969)”*

4/25  Other Social Movements of the 1960s (RR)
Reading: Foner, pp. 1062-1076; Port Huron Statement (1962)*; Rachel Carson, “And No
Birds Sing” (1962)*; Malcolm X, “To the Mississippi Youth” (1964)*; Cesar Chavez,
“Letter from Delano” (1969)*

4/27  Discussion sections
Reading: Terry Anderson, “The Sea Change” in The Movement and the 60s*

WEEK 12

4/30  Queer History (CK)
Reading: George Chauncey, Chapter 2 of Why Marriage?*

5/2   The New Immigration (RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 27

5/4   Discussion sections
Reading: TBA

WEEK 13

5/7   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)*

5/9   End of the Cold War/Neoliberalism and the Economic Crisis (CK)
Reading: George Bush, “Address to Congress on Persian Gulf Crisis,” Sept. 11, 1990*

5/11  American Since 9/11 (CK and RR)
Reading: Foner, Chapter 28; “National Security Strategy of the United States,” 2002*

TAKE HOME FINAL DUE by 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16th

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