DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

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, immigration from Asia, Latin America, and Europe, 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 three instructors on Mondays and Wednesdays and discussion sections, usually held on Fridays. Course assignments will include a paper comparing a primary and a secondary source, in-class exams, and a take-home final.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!: An American History*
Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers*
Mary Ting Yi Lui, *The Chinatown Trunk Mystery*
Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line*

Textbooks are available at the college bookstore and on reserve at Mudd Library.

REQUIREMENTS

Primary/Secondary Source Paper (6-7 pgs) 25%
Exam #1 20%
Exam #2 20%
Take-Home Final 25%
Attendance/participation 10%

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. Do see us as soon as possible to discuss what steps need to be taken and any modifications that might be necessary.
WEEK 1

2/2 Course overview

2/4 Introductory Discussion Sections
Reading: Foner, Preface, Chapter 15

2/6 Westward expansion and the end of the frontier
Reading: Foner, Chapter 16

WEEK 2

2/9 Empire, the Spanish-American War, and TR
Reading: Foner, Chapter 17

2/11 Conservation

2/13 Discussion Sections
Reading: Lui, Introduction-Chapter 3

WEEK 3

2/16 Progressive movements
Reading: Foner, Chapter 18

2/18 World War I and Wilsonianism

2/20 Discussion Sections
Reading: Finish Lui; Yezierska, Chapters 1-5

WEEK 4

2/23 Jim Crow America
Reading: Foner, Chapter 19

2/25 Leisure and consumerism in the 1920s
Reading: Foner, Chapter 20

2/27 Discussion Sections
Reading: Yezierska, Chapter 6-end

WEEK 5

3/2 Great Depression
Reading: Foner, Chapter 21

3/4 Labor and the Dust Bowl
3/6 New Deal

PRIMARY/SECONDARY PAPER DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009 BY 5PM

WEEK 6

3/9 World War II
   Reading: Foner, Chapter 22

3/11 World War II and Race
   Reading: Borstelman, Prologue-Chapter 1

3/13 No Class: Oberlin College World War I conference
   Students please attend

WEEK 7

3/16 The Cold War
   Reading: Foner, Chapter 23

3/18 Exam Review

3/20 In-Class Exam

WEEK 8    SPRING RECESS

WEEK 9

3/30 Cold War culture
   Reading: Foner, Chapter 24

4/1 The modern American state

4/3 Discussion Sections
   Reading: Borstelmann, Chapters 2-3

WEEK 10

4/6 Brown v. Board and the struggle for civil rights in the 1950s
   Reading: Foner, Chapter 25

4/8 Guest Lecture: Renee Romano, Department of History, Oberlin College
   The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s

4/10 Discussion Sections
   Reading: Borstelmann, Chapters 4-5
WEEK 11

4/13  Vietnam War
4/15  Immigration reform and the “new immigrants”
4/17  Discussion Sections
       Reading: To Be Announced

WEEK 12

4/20  The women’s movement
4/22  Social movements of the late 1960s
4/24  In-Class Exam

WEEK 13

4/27  The rise of conservatism
       Reading: Foner, Chapter 26
4/29  Queering the color line
5/1   Discussion Sections
       Reading: Foner, Chapter 27, Borstelmann, Chapter 6

WEEK 14

5/4   End of Cold War, terrorism
       Reading: Foner, Chapter 28
5/6   American freedom today?
5/8   Final Discussion Sections

TAKE HOME FINAL DUE FRIDAY MAY 15, 2009 BY 5PM