

William G. Thomas
HIST 111 Section 3
History of the U.S. Since 1877
Spring 2012
Richards 15
9:30-10:20 MWF

| Teaching Assistants | Office Hours (OLDF 10th floor) | Email |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jeremiah Bauer | MWF 8:30-9:30 | jeremiah.bauer@huskers.unl.edu |
| Brian Sarnacki | M 10:30-11:30 T 12:00-2:00 | bsarnacki@gmail.com |

(Note: this syllabus is subject to change and adjustment during the semester as necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the course. Substantive changes will be made in consultation with the students and communicated in a timely and clear manner.)

William G. Thomas
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Course Description:

This course covers the history of the United States from 1877 to present. The course examines social, political, and economic changes in American history and focuses on several major themes—the struggle to fulfill the nation’s commitment to equality and justice after the Civil War, the development of large-scale industrial capitalism, and the rise of the United States as a world power and its responsibility in global affairs. We will explore some of the most dramatic problems in modern American history: racial conflict, urban growth, suburban expansion, international engagement, demographic change, and political contest. We will use the vast new online resources available in American history, from YouTube to Proquest, and we will develop skills for critically evaluating, using, and understanding these digital sources and databases.

You will have the opportunity to work with these original materials of the past--letters, speeches, diaries, newspaper articles, photographs, and films--and to form your understanding of history from them. Readings in this course will mainly consist of primary source documents. The textbooks, American Passages. Weekly readings will feature a primary source approach and cover the key people, events, and concepts of American history. We will also read two landmark books in American history: Upton Sinclair's The Jungle and Anne Moody's Coming of Age in Mississippi. The course will use several documentary film collections in class--including *Vietnam: A Television History*, *Rising Up: Virginia's Civil Rights Movement*, and *Berkeley in the Sixties*. We will show three Academy award-winning films each of which in different ways addresses

broader cultural themes since World War II: *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) and *The Graduate* (1967), and *Wall Street* (1987). We will also take a class period to visit the Sheldon Museum of Art at UNL, one of finest collections of American art in the U.S., and where we will study realist and modernist painters.

Course Objectives:

- to give students the experience and opportunity to do history for themselves and participate in it through gathering evidence, communicating ideas, and engaging with historical scholarship.
- to improve fluency and proficiency in writing and historical thinking.
- to develop substantial content knowledge of American history from 1877 to the present--the events, structures, ideas, and people that shaped the United States and provide a deep understanding of how we became who we are.

Office Hours:

Students are welcome to come by regular office hours W and F 1-3 p.m. to discuss the course, the history major, assignments, or other academic issues. Students are also welcome to schedule a meeting outside of office hours. The best way to reach me is always by email and I encourage all students to communicate questions directly.

Academic Policies:

Attendance at all lectures and class periods is required. Essays will not be accepted in email format or as attachments, only as hard copy handed in at class session. Assignments will not be accepted after the due dates except in cases where students can document an illness, family emergency, or university-related responsibility that prevented them from completing the assignment on time.

Students are expected to use Blackboard in this course and to follow their email correspondence regularly during the semester to stay informed on any changes in the course syllabus.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

All students are expected to adhere to the University policies regarding academic honesty

set forth in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Cases of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation) will be handled in strict accordance with the guidelines of the University.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Writing Center can provide you with meaningful support as you write for this class as well as for every course in which you enroll. Trained peer consultants are available to talk with you as you plan, draft, and revise your writing. Please check the Writing Center website for locations, hours, and information about scheduling appointments. (<http://www.unl.edu/writing/>)

Required Texts:

1. Edward L. Ayers, et al., *American Passages*
2. selected online readings in syllabus from *History Matters* and other selected web sites
3. Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
4. Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Web Sites:

History Matters--<http://historymatters.gmu.edu>
The Valley of the Shadow, Part III Aftermath of the War--
<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu>
Railroads and the Making of Modern America--<http://railroads.unl.edu>
Historical Newspapers (Proquest)--<http://iris.unl.edu> (electronic journals)
Nineteenth Century Newspapers--<http://iris.unl.edu> (electronic journals)
19th Century British Newspapers--<http://iris.unl.edu> (electronic journals)
Internet Archive--<http://www.internetarchive.org>
Civil Rights Television News--<http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilrightstv>
Gilder-Lehrman Institute--<http://www.gilderlehrman.org>
(need to create free account to login)

Grading:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Paper Sources and Draft Thesis | 10 % |
| Final Paper | 20 % |
| Mid term exam | 25 % |
| Final exam | 30 % |
| Maple TA quizzes/assignments | 15 % |
| | ===== |
| | 100 % |

Grading Scale

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|
| A+ | 97-100 | C+ | 77-79 |
| A | 94-96 | C | 74-76 |
| A- | 90-93 | C- | 70-73 |

| | | | |
|----|-------|----|----------|
| B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 |
| B | 84-86 | D | 64-66 |
| B- | 80-83 | D- | 60-63 |
| | | F | below 60 |

Weekly MapleTA quizzes:

Short multiple-choice quizzes (10-12 questions) will be posted weekly on the textbook and primary source readings. These will be self-paced and cumulative. Students will be allowed to improve to 100 % proficiency on re-takes. This structure is intended to provide students with consistent opportunity to gain historical knowledge in the course and master the material in preparation for mid-term and final examinations.

Paper Topic:

7-Page Paper (double-spaced, 11 or 12 point, 1 inch margins, with footnote citations)

Draft Sources and Thesis Paragraph due Week 5

Rough Draft due Week 10

Final Paper due Week 13

Question: Choose a major event in the history of the American West that interests you and is described in your text or readings, or choose from the posted list of topics between 1877 and 1980. What role did the newspapers play in shaping how the American public understood the event and more broadly the American West as a region?

Sources: Proquest Historical Newspapers
<http://2020-www.unl.edu.library.unl.edu/journals/iris/histnews.html>

Nineteenth Century U. S. Newspapers
<http://library.unl.edu/record=e1000926~S0>

19th Century British Newspapers
<http://library.unl.edu/record=e1000927~S0>

Use only Proquest, 19th century U.S., or 19th century British newspapers databases available through the UNL Libraries (iris.unl.edu), and limit your search to a single event and if necessary a single month or year. Read and compare the coverage and address the question. Please be sure to cite at least 10 newspaper articles in your paper.

ACE Statement:

This course addresses the following ACE outcomes:

Ace Outcome 5: Use knowledge, historical perspectives, analysis, interpretation, critical evaluation, and the standards of evidence appropriate to the humanities to address problems and issues.

Assignments Schedule:

Week One: *American Passages*, Chapter 17

1/9/12 Introduction to Themes
1/11/12 1877 Year of Violence
1/13/12 The Rise of Big Business

Primary Source Documents:

[Allan Pinkerton, Strikers, Communists, Tramps, and Detectives \(1878\)](#)
["Among the Ruins," Pittsburgh Daily Post, July 25, 1877](#)
["The Great Strike," Chicago Daily Tribune, July 23, 1877](#)
[William Graham Sumner on Laissez-Faire, August 22, 1878](#)

Data Visualizations:

[Distribution of the Union Pacific Stockholders by City in 1869](#)
[Western Railroads and Eastern Capital, 1872-1894](#)
[Strike of 1877](#)

Week Two: *American Passages*, Chapter 18

1/16/12 NO CLASS MLK DAY
1/18/12 Labor and Labor Unions
1/20/12 New South/New West

Primary Source Documents:

["To This We Dissented:" The Rock Springs Riot \(1885\)](#)
[Chicago, Burlington & Quincy post-strike report \(1888\)](#)
[Captain Richard H. Pratt on the Education of Native Americans \(1892\)](#)
[The Omaha Platform, Populist Party \(1892\)](#)
[Paul Picotte, Yankton Sioux Remembers Life on the Plains, \(1968\)](#)
[Elfido Lopez, Remembers Rural Mexican-American Life \(1937\)](#)

Data Visualizations:

[U. S. Labor Force, 1850-2000](#)
[African American Mobility After Emancipation](#)

Week Three: *American Passages*, Chapter 19

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------|
| 1/23/12 | Corruption, Politics, and Reform | |
| 1/25/12 | 1894 and 1896 | |
| 1/27/12 | Segregation Discussion Section Meeting: | |
| | Group 1 | Richards 15 |
| | Group 2 | Burnett 115 |
| | Group 3 | Hamilton 112 |

Primary Source Documents:

[Ida B. Wells, letter of protest against lynching \(1898\)](#)
["Democracy and the Trusts," Omaha Daily Bee, August 28, 1894](#)
["Consecrated Perfidy," Omaha Daily Bee, September 3, 1894](#)
[Booker T. Washington, 1895 Atlanta Compromise Speech \(1895\)](#)
[Why the Colored American is not in the World's Columbian Exposition \(1893\)](#)

Data Visualizations:

[African American Population Density, 1840-2008](#)
[The Rise of the American Railway Union](#)

Paper topic selected due 1/27/12

Week Four: *American Passages*, Chapter 20 and Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1/30/12 | Urban Reform |
| 2/1/12 | Who Were the Progressives? |
| 2/3/12 | Theodore Roosevelt, President |

Primary Source Documents:

[Lincoln Steffens, The Shame of the Cities \(1904\)](#)
[An Anarchist by any other Name: Albert Parsons and Anarchist Socialism \(1887\)](#)
[W. E. B. DuBois, "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" \(1903\)](#)
[Theodore Roosevelt, "The Liberty of the People" \(1912\)](#)
[Woodrow Wilson, "On Labor" \(1912\)](#)
[Marie Jenney Howe, "Anti suffrage monologue" parody of opposition \(1913\)](#)

Week Five: *American Passages*, Chapter 21 and Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

| | | |
|---------|--|--------------|
| 2/6/12 | Immigration Policy and Chinese Exclusion | |
| 2/8/12 | The Philippine War and American Imperialism | |
| 2/10/12 | Discussion Section Meeting Upton Sinclair, <i>The Jungle</i> : | |
| | Group 1 | Richards 15 |
| | Group 2 | Burnett 115 |
| | Group 3 | Hamilton 112 |

Primary Source Documents:

[American Federation of Labor, Some Reasons for Chinese Exclusion \(1902\)](#)
[Rudyard Kipling, "Take up the White Man's burden," \(1899\)](#)
[American Soldiers Write Home about the War \(1900\)](#)
[Conclusions and Recommendations by the Committee of Six Disinterested Americans \(1926\)](#)

Data Visualizations:

[Total Immigration by Year, 1800-2000](#)
[New York Times, Immigration Explorer](#)

Paper document analysis of 5 sources and thesis paragraph due 2/10/12 in class

Week Six: *American Passages*, Chapter 22

2/13/12 World War I Causes and Changes
2/15/12 Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance
2/17/12 Sheldon Museum of Art Tour: American Modernism

Primary Source Documents:

[North American Review, Why We Must Fight \(1917\)](#)
[Woodrow Wilson, Request for Declaration of War against Germany, 1917](#)
[Claude McKay, "If We Must Die" \(1919\)](#)
["Declaration of the Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World," \(1920\)](#)
[The Crisis \(1929\)](#)

Week Seven: *American Passages*, Chapter 23 and 24

2/20/12 The 1920s
2/22/12 The Great Depression -- Causes and Consequences
2/24/12 Review Discussion Sections:
 Group 1 Richards 15
 Group 2 Burnett 115
 Group 3 Hamilton 112

Primary Source Documents:

[Lucky Strike advertisement \(1928\)](#)
[Life, February 18, 1926](#)
[Floyd Dell, *Outline of Modern Marriage* \(American Birth Control League, 1926\)](#)
[Margaret Sanger, *The Woman Rebel* excerpts](#)
[Margaret Sanger, "The Civilizing Force of Birth Control" \(1929\)](#)

[Organization of Unemployment Relief ad, Literary Digest, November 21, 1931](#)

Week Eight: *American Passages*, Chapter 25 and 26

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2/27/12 | Mid Term Examination |
| 2/29/12 | The New Deal and Great Depression |
| 3/2/12 | Origins of World War II |

Primary Source Documents:

[Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1st Inaugural Address \(March 4, 1933\)](#)
["The Farmer Learns Direct Action," Nation, March 8, 1933](#)
[Textile Workers write Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, excerpts](#)
[United Steelworkers of America, Declaration, 1936](#)

Historians on the Record--Gilder-Lehrman Institute:

[David Kennedy, "The Great Depression and World War II"](#)

or

[Richard White, "The American West in the 20th Century"](#)

Week Nine: *American Passages*, Chapter 27 and 28

| | |
|--------|--|
| 3/5/12 | World War II: Home Front and Battlefield |
| 3/7/12 | Origins of the Cold War |
| 3/9/12 | The Cold War |

Primary Source Documents:

[Franklin D. Roosevelt, Request for Declaration of War, December 8, 1941](#)
[Executive Order No. 9066: Japanese American Relocation, February 19, 1942](#)
[Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, on Japanese American internment](#)
[Korematsu v. U.S., 1944](#)
[President Harry Truman announces the Atom Bomb, August 6, 1945](#)
[Declaration of Independence, Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 1945](#)
[Vannevar Bush, "As We May Think," Atlantic Magazine, July 1945](#)

The Best Years of Our Lives (1946) -- on reserve in Love Library

Week Ten: *American Passages*, Chapter 29

| | |
|---------|---|
| 3/12/12 | Postwar America: Life in the 1950s |
| 3/14/12 | U.S. Involvement in Vietnam |
| 3/16/12 | The Vietnam War Discussion Section Meeting: |
| | Group 1 Richards 15 |
| | Group 2 Burnett 115 |
| | Group 3 Hamilton 112 |

Primary Source Documents:

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* Part I and II
["Duck and Cover" 1951](#)
["I'm Not Afraid of the A-Bomb," *Collier's*, January 26, 1952](#)
[Redbook Magazine, "In the Suburbs" 1957](#)
[Fred Shuttlesworth, Danville, Va. 1963](#)
[Universal Newsreels, Showdown in Vietnam, Plieku, 1965](#)
[Leslie Gelb, Testimony to U.S. Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations, May 1972](#)

First Draft of 7 Page Paper due 3/16/12

Spring Break March 18-25

Week Eleven: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* Part III and IV

3/26/12 America in the 1960s
3/28/12 Free Speech and Activism
3/30/12 Moody, *Coming of Age*, Discussion Section Meeting:
Group 1 Richards 15
Group 2 Burnett 115
Group 3 Hamilton 112

Primary Source Documents:

[WDBJ interview with Vivian Carter Mason, 1959](#)
[WDBJ interview with Norview High School students, 1959](#)
[Richard M. Nixon, stump speech, Richmond, Va. 1960](#)
[John F. Kennedy, stump speech, Roanoke, Va. 1960](#)
[Mario Savio, University of California, Berkeley, 1964](#)
[Cathy Wilkerson, on women and SDS and the New Left](#)

The Graduate (1967) -- on reserve in Love Library

3/28-29 Center for Great Plains Studies Symposium, "1862-2012: The Making of the Great Plains"--write a 1-page report on session you attended = 5 points extra credit on quizzes

Week Twelve: *American Passages*, Chapter 30

4/2/12 Women's Rights and Feminism in the 70s
4/4/12 The Crisis of Watergate
4/6/12 Detente, Human Rights, and the Cold War

Primary Sources:

[Rep. Margaret M. Heckler, speech for the ERA, 1970](#)
[Richard Nixon, White House Tapes, July 1, 1971](#)
[1976 Jimmy Carter for President ad](#)
[Jimmy Carter, Crisis of Confidence speech, July 15, 1979](#) or [view here](#)

Historians on the Record--Gilder Lehrman Institute:

[Michael Kazin, "Religion vs. Spirituality in 1960s America"](#)
or
[A. E. Dick Howard, "The Changing Face of the Supreme Court"](#)

Week Thirteen: *American Passages*, Chapter 31

4/9/12 Conservatism
4/11/12 Reagan as President
4/13/12 Discussion Section Meeting:
Group 1 Richards 15
Group 2 Burnett 115
Group 3 Hamilton 112

Primary Source Documents:

[Gov. George Wallace, on the March on Washington \(1963\)](#)
[Gov. Mills Godwin, on HEW guidelines, April 19, 1967](#)
[Testimony in Federal Response to AIDS hearings, U.S. Congress, 1983](#)
[Bruce Springsteen, "Born in the U.S.A." \(1984\)](#)
[1984 Campaign ads](#)
[Ronald Reagan, on Iran-Contra, March 4, 1987](#)

Wall Street (1987) -- on reserve in Love Library

Final Draft of 7 page Paper due 4/13/12

Week Fourteen: *American Passages*, Chapter 32

4/16/12 End of the Cold War
4/18/12 Political Realignment, 1960-2008
4/20/12 The Digital Age

Primary Source Documents:

[Ronald Reagan, speech at the Berlin Wall, 1987](#)

[James J. Kilpatrick on the 1965 Voting Rights Act \(March 31, 1966\)](#)

[Roy Wilkins on the 1965 Voting Rights Act \(March 31, 1966\)](#)

[PBS on George H. W. Bush, "The New World Order"](#)

[Apple, Macintosh Super Bowl ad \(1984\)](#)

[First World Wide Web page \(1992\)](#)

Data Visualizations:

[Counties Won in Popular Voting](#)

[BBC News Visualizing the Internet](#)

Historians on the Record--Gilder-Lehrman Institute:

[Thomas Blanton, "The End of the Cold War"](#)

or

[Malcolm Byrne, "The U.S., the Middle East, and the Cold War"](#)

Week Fifteen:

4/23/12

Review

4/25/12

Review

4/27/12

Review and Discussion for Final Examination

FINAL EXAM

MAY 2, 2012

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.