History 258  
Winter Term 2020  
The United States Since the Civil War Era

Andrew Hunt  
Office Hours: TBA  
TAs: TBA  
Course Meeting Time and Location: 10:00-11:20 a.m., MW, ML 246

We will take a kaleidoscopic tour of America's epic past. This course will consider the wide array of social, political, and economic transformations that have occurred in the United States during the past one hundred years. It will combine traditional 'top-down' historical narrative with newer methods of 'bottom-up' social and cultural history to assess changes from the standpoint of women, minorities, immigrants, and working-class and middle-class people. In the process, we will learn how history shaped the lives of ordinary Americans, and how ordinary Americans fashioned their own histories. It will begin with the revolutionary transformations of American society that led to the birth of the modern age, and conclude with at the dawn of the new millennium.

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PLEASE NOTE: Because I have not taught this course in eight years, and it is currently being offered without Tutorial Discussion Sections (unlike its old format, which included them), I am revamping this course – the lecture content, the readings, and the assignments – so that my old syllabi are no longer useful to post to give you a sense of course expectations. Still, below you will find a list of topics that I will be covering in the course.

As soon as I can, I will update this outline with a more detailed syllabus. -- Prof Hunt
Lecture Topics and Dates

January 6: A Snapshot of America in 1877
January 8: America in the Gilded Age

January 13: Birth of a Global Power
January 15: A Movement of Movements: Progressivism

January 20: The First Wave: Women’s Rights to the 1920s
January 22: Struggles for Racial Equality

January 27: A Democracy at War: The Home Front in World War I
January 29: The 1920s (part 1): Resisting Modernity

February 3: The 1920s (part 2): The Rise of Modernity
February 5: The Road to Rock Bottom: The Great Depression

February 10: Saving Capitalism: FDR & the New Deal
February 12: World War II: The Home Front

February 20-24: Reading Week (no classes)

February 24: The Cold War, at Home and Abroad
February 26: Prosperity (for some) in the Age of Eisenhower

March 2: This Little Light of Mine: The Civil Rights Movement
March 4: Liberalism at High Tide

March 9: Into the Quagmire: The Vietnam War
March 11: A Time of Torment: Protest in the 1960s and 1970s

March 18: The Great Malaise: The 1970s

March 23: Conservatism Triumphant?
March 25: Morning in America: The Age of Reagan

March 30: End of the Century: The Uneasy Nineties
April 1: 9/11 and Beyond

NOTE: As far as assignments go, there will likely be a Midterm and Final Exam of some sort, as well as a major paper assignment and/or Historical Diary/Journal assignment (to make up for the missing tutorial/discussion sections). I also plan to include a great deal of Audio-Visual material, possibly via a History 258 Blog, to compensate for the lack of tutorial discussion groups. I am still assessing a variety of options and should have the final assignments decided in a few weeks. Feel free to email me (aehunt@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!
– Prof Hunt