

HIST 232 10A

The Making of Modern America: United States Since 1877  
Spring 2006, MWF 10:40-11:30

Dr. Susan Youngblood Ashmore

Office: Language Hall 101

Office Hours: M-Th  
2:30-4:00 or by appointment

Video Conference Room, Library

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## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the history of the United States from Reconstruction through the Vietnam War. As a survey course we will focus on the making of modern America with specific emphasis on what it means to be an American and how that has changed over time including migration, the changing role of government in American society, defining American freedom, and the growing role of America as a world power. We will learn about the political and economic development of the United States as well as the social history of the country.

### Course Goals:

There are several objectives for this course. First, by gaining a factual knowledge of this historical period the course seeks to assist students in learning to think historically by recognizing and criticizing evidence and using primary and secondary sources to reason inductively going from specifics to generalizations. Second, this course hopes to teach students to ask questions about the past to gain new perspectives on the past as well as the ability to educate themselves in the future. Third, the course strives to help students discover, understand, and appreciate the interplay of forces and personalities that shape historical change in America's past. Fourth, this course will help students develop reading, researching, and writing skills that will benefit them in upper division classes. At the end of the course students should be able to recognize a historical argument when they see one, be familiar with the most important people, ideas, and events of modern American history, and understand their significance for today.

Required Readings: These books are available at the campus bookstore.

Robert M. Goldman, *Reconstruction and Black Suffrage: Losing the Vote in Reese and Cruikshank*, (University of Kansas Press: Lawrence, 2001).

Warner Sollors, editor, Mary Antin, *The Promised Land*, (Penguin Books: New York, 1997, originally published in 1912).

David E. Kyvig, *Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940: How Americans Lived Through the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression*, (Ivan R. Dee Press: New York, 2004).

Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*, 2nd Edition, (Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, 1996).

Constance Curry, *Silver Rights*, (Harcourt Brace & Company: New York, 1996).

James Hoopes, *Oral History: An Introduction for Students*, (University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, 1979).

Primary documents and secondary journal articles on E-Reserves.

#### Grading and Assignments:

Historical Identification Exam (10%) given on February 24 , Midterm Essay Exam (25%) given on March 27; Oral History Essay (15%) on Antin due at the beginning of class on March 10 or on Kyvig due at the beginning of class on April 7 or on Whitfield due at the beginning of class on April 28; Quizzes from E-Reserves and Reading Material (10%); Attendance and General Class Participation (10%); Final Essay Exam (30%) given on Monday, May 8th from 9:00-12 noon. All assignments as well as your final course grade will be based on the +/- system.

Study questions for the midterm examination and final examination will be passed out at least one week prior to each exam.

Explanation of Oral History Essay Assignment will be distributed on a separate hand out.

#### Honor Code:

We are a community of scholars. Therefore, academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Your signature or name on any work submitted for credit in this course shall indicate you have neither given nor received unauthorized information on the work, nor have you condoned the giving or receiving of unauthorized information by others. As a student at Oxford College of Emory University you have agreed to abide by the honor pledge and have taken upon yourself the responsibility of upholding the Honor Code; you are encouraged to inquire of the Honor Council about any doubtful case at any time throughout the semester. For complete details on the Honor Code please see the Oxford College 2005-2006 Catalog.

Note on writing and plagiarism: Students must be scrupulous to avoid plagiarism and to give very precise and complete citations for any work used in any way. Always make it precisely clear to the reader through the use of quotation marks and citations which words, if any, are taken from some other source. Be very careful if you draw on any source—whether from the internet or an archival reference—to give the precise source of each and every word used. Avoid using too many direct quotations; I am much more interested in your paraphrasing of, and commentary upon, the authors' arguments than in your ability to quote directly. Nevertheless, even when paraphrasing you need to cite the source used. For further details see Chapter 5 in Mary Lynn Rampolla's *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* as well as the American Historical Association's "Statement on Plagiarism" that are on reserve at the Oxford College Library.

#### Attendance Policy:

Class begins at 10:40 and ends at 11:30. Regular attendance and active participation in class are assumed to be essential parts of the learning process. You will sign in for yourself at the beginning of each class. Do not sign in anyone else but yourself. Signing in for another classmate is a form of dishonesty that I consider a violation of the honor code. Students are allowed three absences, each absence after that will deduct 2.5 points from the

attendance/class participation portion of your final course grade. I expect you to be awake and focused on the material being covered in class. Do not study for another course while you are in my class. During class discussions of reading material I expect you to have prepared before class. If you attend class regularly but never participate in class discussion your participation grade will be a B-, so do your best to offer your thoughts or opinions throughout the course of the semester. If you participate in class discussion but it is evident you have not prepared for class by reading the assignment you will not be given credit for your participation.

Occasionally participation in a college-sponsored event is an excused absence. However, you must inform me prior to the absence and present written proof of college sponsorship. It is your responsibility to obtain missed lecture notes and turn in all assignments on time.

If you miss the historical identification exam, the midterm exam or the final exam, only absences due to medical or family emergencies (for example, attending the funeral of an immediate family member) are valid. You will need to present written evidence of your illness or family emergency for an excused absence. Students will only be allowed to make up missed work after presenting written proof of a medical or family emergency. All make-up midterm exams will be given on the last day of class (Monday, May 1) during my office hours. You cannot change the time of your final exam because of travel plans, vacation plans, job opportunities, or having more than one final exam on one day.

If you miss the due date on a written assignment, a late penalty of five points per day (including weekends) will be deducted from your grade for that assignment. If you turn your written assignment in after the beginning of class but on the same day it is due you will be deducted 2.5 points from your grade for that assignment. I do not accept written assignments turned in through e-mail. I only accept hard copies of written assignments.

Visiting the Professor:

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours, or make an appointment with me if my office hours do not coincide with your schedule. One of the positive experiences you can have at Oxford College is getting to know your professors well. So, take advantage of that opportunity and come see me throughout the semester. I am interested in what you think about what we are studying. If you have questions about an assignment or need clarification on something you have read come see me.

Class Etiquette:

E-mail: We will have a class conference on LearnLink that corresponds with this course. I will post on the conference all assignments, reading questions, as well as other pertinent items that may enhance class discussion. When communicating with your fellow classmates on the conference or with me on my personal e-mail address do not post anything that you would not be comfortable saying to your classmates or to me in person.

E-mail has become an important educational tool. All of us use it on a regular basis. However, the convenience of e-mail can often lead to informality and misunderstanding. For this reason, there are different rules for writing in formal situations—class discussions, letters to professors,

student discussion lists—that do not necessarily apply when writing to friends and family. So, here are my suggestions for using e-mail in our class. When writing to me or on our LearnLink conference you should use a serious tone. Address me by my proper title, include information in the subject heading, follow rules of grammar and mechanics, and do not use all lower or upper case letters or instant messaging language. You should use black ink in your e-mail messages. Avoid using expletives and other slang in formal situations. I have heard it said that writing is like fashion, one style is not appropriate for every situation. For example you would not wear your bathing suit to a job interview at a bank. So, get in the habit of using your professional voice when communicating as a professional, in your case your profession right now is being an undergraduate student.

Do not assume just because you can get in touch with me when you want to that I will be available to read your message. I rarely check e-mail once I leave campus, which is usually around 5:30 p.m., and I don't check e-mail over the weekend. So, note that I read e-mail from 9:00-5:30 Monday through Friday. Take time to think about your message before you send it. Never send a message when you are feeling emotional, particularly if you are upset or angry. I also do not accept written assignments (oral history essay, book review, or reading journals) via e-mail. I only accept hard copies of written assignments.

Finally, remember that e-mail is not a very private communication system. Your messages can be printed out, and they can also be sent on to others as forwarded messages. Any private message you send potentially can come under public scrutiny; therefore you should not write anything that would cause you or someone else embarrassment or trouble should your e-mail become public. Most importantly, remember that even though you cannot see them, you are communicating with real human beings whenever you send e-mail. Do not let the impersonal screen make you forget to be as respectful in your communication as you would be when speaking face to face.

Cell phones: I do not take phone calls during class so you should not either. Turn off your cell phone during class. Do not refer to your cell phone text messages at anytime during class or during an exam. If necessary I will require that you leave your cell phone with me during class or an exam.

Ipods and MP3 Players: Do not listen to your ipod or MP3 player during class. You may not listen to your ipod or MP3 player during an exam.

## SCHEDULE

Jan 18	Syllabus, Why Study History?	
Jan 20	Presidential Reconstruction	E-Reserves, Goldman
Jan 23	Radical Reconstruction	E-Reserves, Goldman
Jan 24	Last day to drop/add	
Jan 25	The South During Reconstruction	E-Reserves, Goldman
Jan 27	The End of Reconstruction	E-Reserves, Goldman
Jan 30	Reading Quiz and Discussion of Robert Goldman, Recon and Black Suffrage	
Feb 1	Race Relations: Defining the Color Line	E-Reserves
Feb 3	Rise of Corporate Economy	E-Reserves
Feb 6	Rise of Corporate Economy	E-Reserves
Feb 8	Immigrant Society in the Gilded Age	Antin
Feb 10	Immigrant Society in the Gilded Age	Antin
Feb 13	Labor & Society in the Gilded Age	Antin
Feb 15	Labor & Society in the Gilded Age	Antin
Feb 17	Reading Quiz and Discussion of Mary Antin, The Promised Land	
Feb 20	Gilded Age Politics 1875-1900	
Feb 22	Spanish-American War	E-Reserves
	Last day to drop without penalty	
Feb 24	Historical Identification Exam covering Reconstruction through Gilded Age Politics, E-Reserve readings, Goldman, Antin, and lectures through Feb 20.	
Feb 27	Progressivism	E-Reserves
March 1	The Great Migration	E-Reserves
March 3	World War I	E-Reserves
March 6	World War I/Treaty of Versailles	E-Reserves
March 8	1920s Society and Thought	E-Reserves, Kyvig
March 10	1920s Economy and Politics	E-Reserves, Kyvig
	Reading Quiz and Discussion of Kyvig on 1920s section of the book	
	Oral History Essay on Immigration/Migration and Antin Due at the Beginning of Class	
March 13	No Class-Spring Break	
March 15	No Class-Spring Break	
March 17	No Class-Spring Break	
March 20	Great Depression	E-Reserves, Kyvig
March 22	From New Era to New Deal	E-Reserves, Kyvig
March 24	Social Impact of the New Deal	E-Reserves, Kyvig

Reading Quiz and Discussion on Kyvig on 1930s section of the book

March 27 Midterm Essay Exam: covering Reconstruction through the New Deal,  
E-Reserve readings, Goldman, Antin, Kyvig, and class lectures through March 25th

March 30 World War II E-Reserve

April 1 Domestic Impact of WWII E-Reserve

April 3 Domestic Impact of WWII E-Reserve

April 5 End of WWII Beginning of Cold War Whitfield

April 7 Cold War Whitfield

Oral History Essay on 1920s and 1930s and Kyvig Due at the Beginning of Class

April 10 McCarthyism E-Reserves, Whitfield

April 12 Cold War Culture E-Reserves, Whitfield

April 14 Reading Quiz and Discussion of Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War

April 17 Civil Rights Movement 1950s E-Reserves

April 19 Kennedy and Cuban Missile Crisis E-Reserves

April 21 Johnson and the Great Society E-Reserves, Curry

April 24 Civil Rights Movement 1960s E-Reserves, Curry

April 26 Vietnam

April 28 Vietnam

Oral History Essay on Cold War Culture and Whitfield due at the Beginning of  
Class

May 1 Reading Quiz and Discussion of Curry, Silver Rights and Course

Conclusions

May 3 Reading Day

May 8 Final Essay Exam, 9:00-12 noon

## History 232 United States History since 1877

E-Reserves Spring 2006

### Reconstruction

#### Documents:

The Fourteenth Amendment

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.amendmentxiv.html>

The Fifteenth Amendment

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.amendmentxv.html>

Mississippi Black Codes

#### Readings:

Robert M. Goldman, Reconstruction and Black Suffrage: Losing the Vote in Reese and Cruikshank

## Race Relations 1880-1900: Drawing the Color Line

#### Documents:

Plessy v. Ferguson (163 US 537), 1896,

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infouse/facts/democrac/33.htm>

Booker T. Washington Delivers the 1895 Atlanta Compromise Speech,  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/39>

W.E.B. DuBois Critiques Booker T. Washington, <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/40>

## The Gilded Age

#### Readings:

Werner Sollors, editor, Mary Antin, The Promised Land

## Spanish American War

#### Documents:

“Suspended Judgment”: A Times Editorial on the Maine Tragedy,

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5472> [ <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5472>.

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5472>.

“Shameful Treachery”: Hearst’s Journal Blames Spain,

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5471> [ <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5471>.

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5471>.

The Maine and the World: Sailing into History,

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5474>

Rudyard Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden”[

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5474> ]

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5474>

## The Great Migration

#### Documents:

W.E.B. DuBois, “The Migration of Negroes,” June 1917, in Eric Arnesen, Black Protest and the Great Migration: A Brief History with Documents, (Bedford/St. Martin’s Press: Boston, 2003), pp. 46-50.

Mary De Bardeleben, “The Negro Exodus: A Southern Woman’s View,” March 18, 1917, Ibid., pp. 50-53.

Charles S. Johnson, “How Much Is the Migration a Flight from Persecution?”

September 1923, Ibid., pp. 54-58.

McDowell Times, "1100 Negroes Desert Savannah, Georgia," August 11, 1923, Ibid., pp. 58-59.

New Orleans Times-Picayune, "Luring Labor North," August 22, 1916, Ibid., pp. 59-60.

## World War One

### Documents:

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points," January 8, 1918,  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm> [  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm>  
]<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm>

## 1920s Culture and Society

### Documents:

Scopes Trial Political Cartoons, posted on class learnlink conference  
The Carter Family, "Hold Fast to the Right" lyrics on class learnlink conference

H.L. Mencken, "Homo Neanderthalensis," The Baltimore Evening Sun, June 29, 1925, in Marion Elizabeth Rodgers, ed. The Impossible H.L. Mencken: A Selection of His Best Newspaper Stories, Doubleday: New York, pp. 562-565.

H.L. Mencken, "Yearning Mountaineers' Souls Need Reconversion Nightly, Mencken Finds," The Baltimore Evening Sun, July 13, 1925, Ibid., pp. 576-582.

H.L. Mencken, "Bryan," The Baltimore Evening Sun, July 27, 1925, Ibid., pp. 604-608.

H.L. Mencken, "Aftermath," The Baltimore Evening Sun, September 14, 1925, Ibid., pp. 608-611.

### Readings:

David E. Kyvig, Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940: How Americans Lived Through the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression

## Great Depression/New Deal

### Documents:

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt, The Letters and Mrs. Roosevelt's Response  
<http://newdeal.feri.org/eleanor/index.htm>.

### Readings:

David E. Kyvig, Daily Life in the United States, 1920-1940: How Americans Lived Through the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression

## World War II

### Documents:

Truman and the Bomb, a Documentary History Chapter 7: The Potsdam Declaration, July 26, Edited by Robert H. Ferrell,

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/...large/ferrell\\_book/ferrell\\_book\\_chap7.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/...large/ferrell_book/ferrell_book_chap7.htm)

Draft of a White House press release, "Statement by the President of the United States," ca. August 6, 1945 (3 pages).

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/small/mb10.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/small/mb10.htm)



Readings:

Martin J. Sherwin, "The Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War: U.S. Atomic-Energy Policy and Diplomacy, 1941-1945, *The American Historical Review*, Vol 78, Issue 4 (Oct. 1973), pp. 945-968. JSTOR

Cold War

Documents:

Winston Churchill, "Sinews of Peace (the Iron Curtain Speech), March 5, 1946,  
<http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchil.html>  
<http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html>  
[\]http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html](http://www.historyguide.org/europe/churchill.html)

Readings:

Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*, 2nd Edition

McCarthyism

Documents:

"I Am Entitled to Counsel of My Choice: Radical Attorney Robert Treuhaft Challenges HUAC and 'McCarthyism'" <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6898>  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6898> ]<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6898>

"You Are the Un-Americans, and You Ought to be Ashamed of Yourselves": Paul Robeson Appears Before HUAC" <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6440>  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6440> ]<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6440>

"I Have Sung in Hobo Jungles, and I Have Sung for the Rockefellers": Pete Seeger Refuses to "Sing" for HUAC <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6457>  
[http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6457/](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6457) ]<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6457/>

"A Damaging Impression of Hollywood Has Spread": Movie "Czar" Eric Johnston Testifies before HUAC <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6443>  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/> ]<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/>

"We Must Keep the Labor Unions Clean": "Friendly" HUAC Witnesses Ronald Reagan and Walt Disney Blame Hollywood Labor Conflicts on Communist Infiltration  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/6458> <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/>  
[\]http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/)

Reading:

Stephen J. Whitfield, *The Culture of the Cold War*, 2nd Edition.