

History 2311G
The United States: 1865 to the Present
Winter 2027

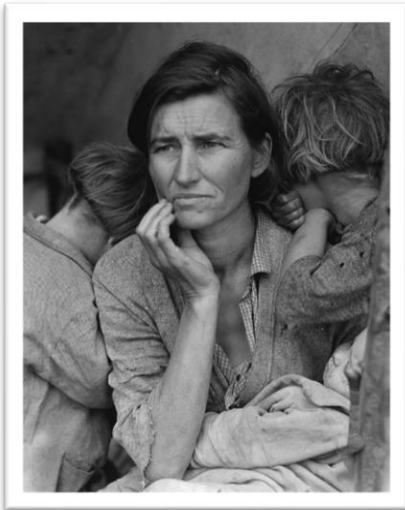
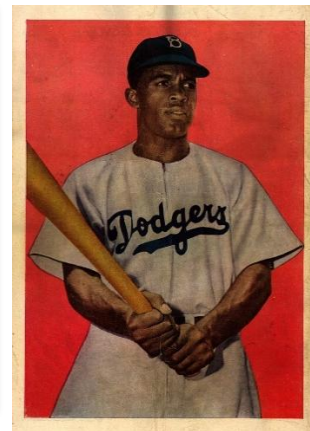
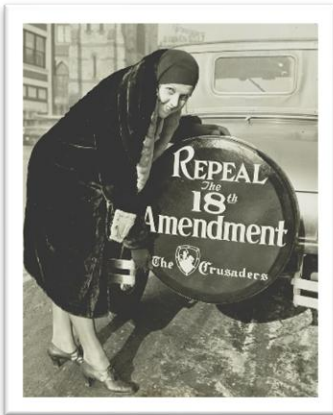
Instructor: **Professor Aldona Sendzikas**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall 1222**

Office Hours: **TBA**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.



Images: (1) Elizabeth Thompson, one of the first members of “The Crusaders” national organization formed to overthrow prohibition; 16 Dec. 1930. (Library of Congress LC-DIG-ds-00143). (2) Flag raising on Iwo Jima, 23 February 1945. (NARA 520748). (3) Back cover of Jackie Robinson comic book, c. 1951. (Library of Congress LC-USZC4-6147). (4) “Migrant Mother” (Florence Thompson) photo by Dorothea Lange, March 1936. (Library of Congress LC-DIG-ppmsca-23845). (5) Participants, some carrying American flags, marching in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. (Photo by Peter Pettus; Library of Congress LC-DIG-ppmsca-08102).

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Course Description

In 1865, a war-weary United States began the process of trying to heal from the wounds of civil war and move forward as a nation. But how could a nation that had been so divided over so many issues come together and meet the challenges to come?

This course surveys the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present day. We will examine the political, social, cultural, and military history of the U.S., the challenges the country faced, and the transformations it underwent as it dealt with these challenges. Topics to be studied include: race relations; American expansionism; immigration; the rise of industry, big business, and mass culture; America's wars; and populism and progressivism from the 19th century to the present.

Antirequisites: History 2301E, History 2303F/G.

Course Syllabus

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

In this course, students will:

- Familiarize themselves with key people, events, concepts, ideas and movements in the history of the United States from 1865 to the present, and be able to explain their significance.
- Learn to identify primary documents and how to use them as historical sources.
- Practice using secondary sources, including analyzing and critiquing the authors' methods, sources, structure, and arguments.
- Use both primary and secondary sources to formulate and support an argument.
- Practice basic research skills, including locating primary and secondary sources and determining whether the sources are reliable and accurate.
- Improve written communication skills, including the proper citation of sources, by completing written assignments.
- Gain a better understanding of how the events of today are influenced and informed by events of the past.

Expectations:

- Attendance at all lectures.
- Completion of each week's assigned readings before the start of class.
- Participation in classroom discussions and activities.
- Completion and prompt submission of all written assignments.
- Courtesy and respect towards all other members of the class.
- Be present! Put away cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops may be used to take notes and to refer to course readings; they are NOT to be used for other purposes during class. Use of a cell phone in class, or use of a laptop for non-class purposes, may affect your participation grade.
- Academic integrity. This includes not using GenAI in this course.

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Course Materials

Weekly course readings will be posted on the OWL course website, or available through the Western Libraries website.

Methods of Evaluation

Assignments and Marks Distribution:

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|--|-----|
| • Attendance | 10% |
| • Midterm Exam (in class, Feb. 25 th) | 25% |
| • Final Exam (during April exam period) | 25% |
| • In-class assignments and activities (these may include reaction papers, document analyses, group work, library activities, etc.) | 20% |
| • Short essay (6-8 pages in length) (due March 30 th) | 20% |

Exams:

There will be a 2-hour midterm exam that will be written in class on February 25th. It will consist of short answer and essay questions. Requests for a make-up midterm exam must be submitted through Academic Advising. SRAs may not be used.

There will be a 2-hour final exam that will take place during the April exam period. (Students are advised not to make travel plans or other commitments for April until the university publishes the exam schedule.) The final exam will be in the same format as the midterm exam, but will focus on material covered since the midterm. Requests for a make-up exam must be submitted through Academic Advising.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising.

Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

No electronic devices, books, notes, etc., will be permitted during the midterm and the final exam.

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken at each lecture. Students may miss two lectures without penalty. (If you must miss a lecture, make sure to get a copy of a classmate's lecture notes. Review the notes, complete the readings, and if you have any questions about the day's material, please see the instructor.)

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In-class assignments and activities:

Most classes will include an in-class assignment or activity. These may be response papers, document analyses, group work, or other activities. Together, these assignments will constitute 20% of your final grade. In order to build in some flexibility in case of necessary absences from class, the two lowest grades earned on these assignments will not be counted.

Given this built-in flexibility, requests for further consideration will generally be denied.

Short essay:

The short essay will be on a topic of the student's choice, and is intended to have students practice the skills of finding and analyzing sources, formulating and supporting an historical argument, scholarly writing, and proper use of citations and formatting. The essay will be due on March 30th.

A late penalty of 2% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays) will be incurred for papers submitted after the due date. **Papers will not be accepted more than 10 days after the due date.**

Please note:

This is an essay course. This means that, **in order to pass this course, you must write both exams and complete the short essay assignment.**

Additional Statements***Communication policies:***

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. (Please write "HIS 2311" or "US History" as the subject line of your e-mail.) I may not be able to answer immediately, but I will do my very best to respond within 48 hours. You are welcome to chat with me before or after class, or to drop by my office during my office hours. You can also e-mail me to request a meeting at another time that is more convenient for you, or a meeting over Zoom.

I am available to answer your questions about the course, review your assignments with you, help you with study tips for the exams, *etc.*—or just to chat with you. I appreciate the opportunity to get to know you better!

Use of electronic devices:

Students may use laptops during class to access course readings and to take notes, but not for any other purposes. The use of other electronic devices (cell phones, audio or video recording devices, etc.) is not permitted during class. The use of a cell phone during class may negatively affect your participation mark.

No electronic devices are permitted during the midterm or final exam.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):

The goals of this course include learning to think critically and creatively, to locate and evaluate historical sources, to use your analysis of these sources to formulate and support an argument, and to communicate your argument clearly and in your own words. The use of GenAI bypasses these important learning activities.

Therefore, *unless a specific assignment's instructions specify otherwise, you may not make use of generative AI tools*, such as ChatGPT, in this course. Any use of such tools for any of the work in this course will be considered a form of academic misconduct and handled accordingly.

And finally...

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

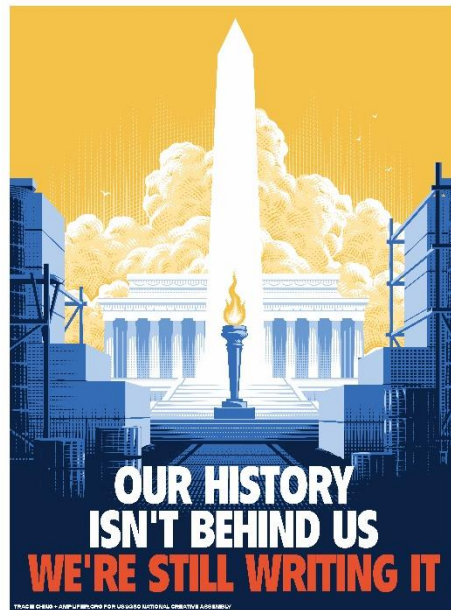


Image source: Amplifier.org