

**History 2112: United States History Since Reconstruction
Fall Semester 2014**

Clayton Hall/ Room T128
Course # 81323/Section # 10
T/TR 9:50-11:05

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Course Description and Objective

This course explores the social, political, economic, and cultural, trends in American history since the end of Reconstruction. Lectures and reading assignments will focus on the diversity and competing beliefs of the American people and how these beliefs guided the social, economic and political direction of this country, both at home and abroad. The thematic scheme of this course will illuminate both America's promise and America's pain. It is through this lens that the issues surrounding America's rise in prominence can best be understood. This course will therefore attempt to examine the social, political, and economic issues in such a way that adequately demonstrates how various segments of America strived to have their voices heard in a society that in both practice and in theory deemed them as both inferior and in many ways invisible. Topics include the racial struggle in America, immigration and regulation of national borders, the growth of the economy and class formation, urbanization and social reform, changes in gender roles and sexual norms, and the relation between America's domestic and foreign policies. In taking this course, you will gain basic historical information about the evolution of American society and further develop your ability to assess and think critically about historical issues.

Course Requirements

The course mixes lectures with course readings in an effort to prepare students for their quizzes and exams. **Make up exams and quizzes will be given only for documented medical or family emergencies.** It is therefore imperative that students attend class and come having read the assigned reading for the week. In class discussion and questions are highly encouraged. Instances of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism) are strictly prohibited. **It is at my discretion and professional judgment whether work has been plagiarized. Plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established by the University.**

If arriving in class late or if you have intentions of leaving class early, please take the seat nearest the exit.

Each student is expected to carry themselves in the manner outlined by the Student Handbook.

No assignments will be accepted via email. All assignments must be handed in during class.

Late work is not acceptable. Students attempting to hand in late work should expect a reduced grade and must contact the instructor before handing in overdue assignments.

STUDENTS MUST TAKE EXAMS AND QUIZZES ON TIME AND WITH YOUR OWN CLASS AND DURING THE TIME IN WHICH YOUR EXAM OR QUIZ HAS BEEN SCHEDULED.

No assignments will be accepted via email. All assignments must be handed in during class or during office hours. All assignments must be typed. Handwritten assignments are unacceptable.

Grading

Midterm Exam	25%
Essay	20%
Quizzes (4)	20%
Final Exam	35%

Required Texts

James L. Roark, *Understanding the American Promise: A Brief History, Volume II – From 1865.*

Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents, Volume II: From 1865*

Martin Luther King Jr., *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*

All books can be found in the University Bookstore

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Course Introduction

August 19

“The Problem of the 20th Century”: Public Policy and Popular Culture in Post Reconstruction America

August 21 – August 28: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 16
RTAP – Chapt. 16

The Seeds of Big Business: Government, Industry, and American Expansion

Sept. 2 – Sept. 9: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 17 & 18
RTAP – Chapt. 17 & 18

Reform and “Progress”: America During the Progressive Era

Sept. 11 – Sept. 18: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 19 & 20
RTAP – Chapt. 19 & 20

Hear Our Voices: The Social and Political Strivings of Marginalized Groups in America
Sept. 23 – Sept. 30: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 21
RTAP – Chapt. 21

*****MIDTERM Oct. 2nd*****

The Great War and the Roaring Twenties: The World at War and the Dawning of the American Century
Oct. 7 – Oct. 9: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 22 & 23
RTAP – Chapt. 22 & 23

*****LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS WITH A “W”*****

*****NO CLASS OCTOBER 13th & 14th*****

Depression and Dealing: The Economic Pitfalls of America
Oct. 16 – Oct. 23: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 24
RTAP – Chapt. 24

The World at War: A Generation of Pain and Promise in the Atomic Age
Oct. 28 – Oct. 30: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 25
RTAP – Chapt. 25

Birth of a Superpower: America and the Cold War
Nov. 4 – Nov. 6: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 26 & 27
RTAP – Chapt. 26 & 27

We Can Change the World: America and The Civil Rights Movement
Nov. 11 – Nov. 20: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 28
RTAP – Chapt. 28

*****ESSAY DUE NOV. 13th*****

Hawks, Doves, and Buzzards: Vietnam, Counter-Culture, and the Conservative Backlash
Nov. 18 – Nov. 25: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 29
RTAP – Chapt. 29

*****NO CLASSES ON FRI. NOV. 27 IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING**

Where Do We Go From Here: Pt. II: The Inheritance of the Hip Hop Generation
Dec. 2 – Dec. 4: *Understanding the American Promise*: Chapter 30 & 31
RTAP – Chapt. 30 & 31

**CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS MAY OCCUR DURING THE SEMESTER.
STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IF CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE.**

COURAGE • HONESTY • ENLIGHTENMENT • DIALOGUE

THE BOONDOCKS

BY AARON McGRUDER

