

# U.S. History Since 1865

**Professor Jalynn Padilla**  
**History 144-02**  
**Fall 2009**

L&L 100F  
963-1455

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Office Hours: Tuesday at 1:00, Thursday at 10:00, and by appointment

## Course Description

This course is a survey of American history from Reconstruction to the Vietnam Era. Our focus will be on social and cultural history, the stories of everyday life, but we will also examine those people who changed the course of history with political, economic, and social power.

## Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will improve their ability to:

- Organize and present ideas clearly in writing and speaking.
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
- Critically analyze primary sources to recognize their usefulness and their limitations in historical interpretation.
- Recognize the significance of key trends, ideas, and people in U.S. history.
- Think “historically” by making connections between the past and contemporary events and problems.

## Assigned Readings

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation, Volume II: From 1865*  
Wheeler & Becker, *Discovering the American Past: A Look at the Evidence, Volume II: Since 1865*  
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

## Evaluation

Midterm Exam: 20%  
Final Exam: 30%  
Short Essays: 15%  
*Coming of Age* Paper: 15%  
Attendance and Participation: 20%

**Midterm and Final Exams:** will include identification terms and one long essay. Your lecture notes will help you to construct your essays as well as to find the significance of the ID terms. You can use *The Unfinished Nation* to fill in details not covered in lecture. You will need to provide a blue book for the exam (available for free at the bookstore or at Jerrol's).

**Writing Assignments:**

You will write TWO 1-2 page essays based on chapters in *Discovering the American Past*. On selected weeks, I will provide the discussion questions that you will use to write your papers. If you choose to write more than two essays, I will keep the two top scores for your final grade.

You will also write ONE 3-4 page paper on *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. This is a long book, so make sure you pay attention to the course outline so you have plenty of time to construct, write, and edit your paper. I will provide further instructions in class.

**Participation and attendance** are integral parts of the learning experience in this course. You will acquire credit for participation by completing short in-class writing assignments and unannounced quizzes, talking about readings in scheduled discussions, and being prompt and attentive every day.

**Academic dishonesty**—which includes cheating, plagiarism, and any use of the work of others—will not be tolerated in this course.

\*Students with disabilities who wish to set up academic adjustments in this class should give me a copy of their “Confirmation of Eligibility for Academic Adjustments” from the Disability Support Services Office as soon as possible so we can meet to discuss how the approved adjustments will be implemented in this class. Students with disabilities without this form should contact the Disability Support Services Office, Bouillon 205 or [dssrecept@cwu.edu](mailto:dssrecept@cwu.edu) or 963-2171 immediately.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- 9/23-9/25      Reconstruction  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 15
- 9/28-10/2      New South  
Old West  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 16
- 10/2              *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 1  
                    “The Reconstruction Era: Farmers and Workers in the West and  
                    North, 1866-1877”
- 10/5-10/9      Industrial and Urban America  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 17-18
- 10/9              *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 2  
                    “The Road to True Freedom: African American Alternatives in the  
                    New South”  
Paper Due
- 10/12-10/16    Populism  
Progressivism  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 19-20
- 10/16              *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 3  
                    “How They Lived: Middle-Class Life, 1870-1917”

### **October 19: MIDTERM EXAM**

- 10/21-10/23    No Class  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 21-22  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 1-99
- 10/26-10/30    WWI  
Roaring Twenties  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 23-24  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 100-199
- 10/30              *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 4  
                    “Progressives and the Family: The Redefinition of Childhood,  
                    1880-1920”  
Paper Due

- 11/2-11/6 Great Depression  
New Deal  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 25-26  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 200-299
- 11/6 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 6  
“The ‘New’ Woman: Social Science Experts and the Redefinition  
of Women’s Roles in the 1920s”  
Paper Due
- 11/9-11/13 WWII  
Cold War  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 27-28  
*Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 300-384
- 11/11 Veteran’s Day Holiday
- 11/13 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 9  
“Separate But Equal? African American Educational Opportunities  
and the *Brown* Decision”  
Paper Due
- 11/16-11/20 Suburban America  
Civil Rights  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 29-30
- 11/20 *Coming of Age in Mississippi*: Discussion and Papers Due**
- 11/23-11/24 The Sixties  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 31
- 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 11/30-12/4 Vietnam  
The Seventies  
*Unfinished Nation*, Chapter 32
- 12/3 *Discovering the American Past*, Chapter 10  
“A Generation in War and Turmoil: The Agony of Vietnam”

**FINAL EXAM: December 11, 8:00-10:00 a.m.**

“American history is longer, larger, more various, more beautiful,  
and more terrible than anything anyone has ever said about it.”

--James Baldwin