This course is designed to provide undergraduates with a thorough background in the history of the United States from 1877 through the present including, but not limited to: the second great wave of immigration and America’s forays into Empire; the Gilded Age and Progressive Era; the two world wars; the Depression and New Deal; consumer society; the Cold War; the rise and fall of liberalism; the Vietnam antiwar movement, women’s rights, civil rights, and other political, economic, and social movements; America’s challenges in the post-Cold War era and the possibility of a new Cold War. The breadth of the course will allow students to examine US history from many different historical perspectives: social, cultural, economic, political, ethical, technological and environmental. This course emphasizes a “US in the world” perspective, highlighting the US’ emergence as a world power over time. The goals of the course are to give undergraduates a basic understanding of pivotal events in the history of the United States and its diverse people, and to enable undergraduates to begin thinking like historians by participating in debate and examining sources and methodology.

**Required Readings:**
Raymond M. Hyser and J. Chris Arndt’s *Voices of the American Past, Volume II, 5/e* is available to rent at the following link:  
https://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ProductDisplay?storeId=10151&urlLangId=-1&productId=550683&urlRequestType=Base&langId=-1&catalogId=10057  
If you choose to rent an earlier edition, note that you are responsible for all the primary source documents in the fifth edition.

Readings not listed below as “Voices”, such as the following, will be available on Blackboard:  
David McCullough, *Truman.*  
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era.*  
Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried.*  
Additional readings available on Blackboard.

Students must read the assignment indicated on the syllabus before coming to class on that date, and be prepared to discuss it.

**Disabilities Policy**
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form](https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form). For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu).

**Food/Drink Policy:**
Drinks of the non-alcoholic variety are allowed. Food is prohibited.

**Technology Policy:**
No cell phones or similar devices. They are distracting to you, the students around you, and to the professor. Turn them off, keep them off the desk, and wait until after class to resume use. (See attendance policy below.)

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the class. There will be no makeup opportunities for missed classes.

Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to other students, and is only acceptable in an emergency situation. If you arrive late (after I take attendance), or miss attendance because you were briefly out of the room or otherwise distracted, you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

If you are coming from another class and are concerned that you may arrive late (after I take attendance), you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to other students, and is only acceptable in an emergency situation. If you arrive late (after I take attendance), or miss attendance because you were briefly out of the room or otherwise distracted, you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

If you are coming from another class and are concerned that you may arrive late (after I take attendance), you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of the class. There will be no makeup opportunities for missed classes.

Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to other students, and is only acceptable in an emergency situation. If you arrive late (after I take attendance), or miss attendance because you were briefly out of the room or otherwise distracted, you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

If you are coming from another class and are concerned that you may arrive late (after I take attendance), you must send me an email within a half hour of the class’ conclusion the same day you miss attendance explaining why you were late and reminding me of your contribution to that class. I will update Blackboard to change your attendance for that day. Note: I will do this only once.

Students may be excused for illness, family emergency and similar extreme situations, and religious observance (see the Rutgers Catalog: [http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nwk-ug_0608/pg23613.html)). If you plan to claim a religious holiday as an excused absence, you must inform me of this fact via email within the first two weeks of class. As a serious adherent of your faith, you should know at the outset of the semester which holidays are important enough to warrant time away from the civic community of the classroom. The only exception I will make for a belated decision to attend a religious holiday is an unexpected conversion to a new religion (proof of conversion required).

Documentation for excused absences must be provided via email. Absences for work, job interviews, travel, and similar events will not be excused.

If you have more than four unexcused absences, your grade will be lower one half grade (from “B+ to “B”, for example). If you have more than six unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered one full grade (from “B+” to “C+”, for example). Students who miss eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this class. Such students should withdraw from the course to avoid an “F”.

**Participation:**
Participation during class discussion is expected. Debate will count toward your participation grade as well. Students will be judged on the quantity and quality of their participation.

American history is a story of the rise of and interplay between individual rights and civic duties. The classroom is a microcosm of that relationship, and the classroom rules reflect a respect for individual rights and the need for group responsibilities. I expect students to behave in a manner that shows respect for the civic community: for others’ needs and desire to learn. Any behavior that might be disruptive to other students, making it difficult for them to hear or distracting them from the lecture, or in any way intimidates them from participating in class, is prohibited and will be counted against the participation grade. This means, in concrete terms: no talking in private conversations (even in whispers), no cell phone use or any other form of texting, no use of computers (except with my permission) or surfing the web, no working on other course homework. Private conversations draw attention away from the common civic forum – if I have to interrupt the class to ask you to stop a private conversation, you will receive an “F” for your participation grade for the course.

**Plagiarism Policy:**
Plagiarism, or the copying of someone else’s words or ideas, will not be tolerated in this class. You MUST SIGN the FORM on plagiarism pledge before any assignments will be accepted. Use footnotes or endnotes when citing someone else’s work at all times. See appended “Citation FAQ” and “Citation Basics.”

Quizzes:
Some quizzes will be announced, others unannounced. Most quizzes will be closed book individual efforts, but group quizzes, such as a group effort to interpret a primary source, will also count toward your quiz grade. Note: It is impossible to make up the quizzes, as it defeats their purpose. There is no solution to this problem other than: come to class on time, having read the materials. I will drop the lowest of the quiz grades, so this is your insurance policy against missing one quiz due to unforeseen circumstances.

Midterm Exam:
The Midterm Exam will be given on Thursday, March 8th.

Exam:
The University has scheduled the final exam for May 8th from 11:45AM-2:45PM EST. Review sheets will be made available on Blackboard prior to the exam. IF YOU ARE AWARE OF A CONFLICT YOU NOW HAVE WITH THE EXAM DATE AS INDICATED ON THE SYLLABUS, DO NOT TAKE THIS COURSE. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL ONLY BE ARRANGED IF WRITTEN, ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES ARE PROVIDED. Travel plans do not constitute sufficient reason for missing exams. Students that do not take the exam will not pass the course.

Grading Policy:
Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 20%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 40%
TOTAL: 100%
No extra credit will be available in this course.

Week One:
Jan. 16
Course Introduction

Jan. 18
The New South and the Western Frontier

Week Two:
Jan. 23
The Frontier Closes

Jan. 25
The Industrial Experiment
151. An Italian Immigrant’s Experience in America (1902). 152. A Woman’s Perspective on Women and the Economy (1898).

**Week Three:**

**Jan. 30**

The New Urban Nation


**Feb. 1**

State and Society

Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, *The Glitter & the Gold*.

**Week Four:**

**Feb. 6**

The Progressive Era


**Feb. 8**

The Experiment in American Empire


**Week Five:**

**Feb. 13**

Making the World Safe for Democracy


**Feb. 15**

WWI Ends and a New Era Begins


**Week Six:**

**Feb. 20**

The New Era: the 1920s


**Feb. 22**

Fear Itself: Crash and Depression


**Week Seven:**

**Feb. 27**

Fear Itself: New Deal


**Mar. 1**

War and Society: WWII

Week Eight:
Mar. 6  The Cold War

Mar. 8  MIDTERM EXAM

Week Nine:
Mar. 20  Containment, Civil Rights, and the Consumer Society

Mar. 22  The Consumer Society Continued

Week Ten:
Mar. 27  The Turbulent 60s

Mar. 29  Consensus and Confrontation

Week Eleven:
Apr. 3  The Politics of Polarization
Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*.

Apr. 5  The Politics of Polarization and Malaise

Week Twelve:
Apr. 10  The Reagan Experiment

Apr. 12  The Reagan Experiment and the End of the Cold War

Week Thirteen:
Apr. 17  America After the Cold War
Apr. 19  The Challenges of the New Century

Week Fourteen:
Apr. 24  A New Cold War?

Apr. 26  Course Conclusion and Review

May 8  11:45AM-2:45PM EST  FINAL EXAM
CITATION FAQ

What do you need to cite?

Any phrase, sentence or paragraph that you have taken from another source, even if it's a sentence fragment. For example, if you use the phrase "to be or not to be: that is the question," you must provide a citation to the relevant page in a published edition of William Shakespeare's play Hamlet. As a general rule, if you are using words that someone else wrote, you must cite. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Any information that you found in another source (and isn't common knowledge), even if you paraphrase. For example, if you write something like "almost ten per cent of the adult males in the United States in 1924 were members of the Ku Klux Klan," you have to say where you got that information. If you don't, how do I know that you're not making it up?

As a general rule, you don't have to provide citations for information that we covered in class.

What happens if you don't cite?

It depends. The highest grade that a term paper without citations will receive is C+. If you quote substantially from another source and do not (a) indicate that it is a quote and (b) indicate where the quote came from, I will consider this plagiarism. You will receive a zero (0) on the paper and I will submit it to the Dean's office for review.

If you don't know whether you should cite a passage, quote or information, err on the side of caution and cite it.

What do you need?

As a general rule, you will need a bibliography page, and footnotes or parenthetical notes in text for all of your references. Please use either the University of Chicago/Turabian citation style or follow the basic citation guide on the next page.

SUBMISSION POLICY

All assignments must be submitted in hard copy by the beginning of class, and the paper must also be submitted to turnitin.com on Blackboard. No assignments will be accepted after the deadline, except with prior arrangement. If you miss a class – and a deadline – due to illness or other excused absence, you must inform me, and submit the assignment to turnitin.com (to be followed with hard copy at the earliest opportunity). You will not receive credit for assignments unless they are submitted to Turnitin.

Assignments must be typed double-spaced in 12-point Times on white paper, stapled or bound in a cover. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

All students are required to sign the Rutgers Honor Code Pledge. To receive credit, every assignment must have your signature under the following phrase: “On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination / assignment.”

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

Historians refer to primary and secondary sources. A primary source is a document, speech, or other sort of evidence written, created or otherwise produced during the time under study, or by a participant. Primary sources offer an inside view of a particular event. Secondary sources provide interpretation and analysis of primary sources. Secondary sources are usually (though not always) written by professional historians and are one step removed from the original event.
Citation Basics

Book

Bibliography:

Footnote First Reference:

Footnote Subsequent References:
Lears, 113.
Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation*, 113. (If you cite more than one work by this author.)

Parenthetical Reference: (Lears, 236)
Parenthetical Reference (if you use more than one source by this author): (Lears 2009, 236)

Article

Bibliography:

Note that you include the volume number of the journal or publication following the title. Omit it if it is not known.

Footnote First Reference:

Footnote Subsequent References:
Rosenfeld, 318.
Rosenfeld, "On Being Heard," 320.

Parenthetical Reference: As with books.