This course examines the social, economic, and political development of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. The main theme of the course involves the question of how Americans viewed themselves and their nation as the United States emerged as a political and economic superpower over the course of the 20th Century. We will begin during the 1870s, when the end of slavery, the conquest of the western territories, the arrival of “new immigrants,” and the rise of corporate capitalism all forced those living within the United States to rethink what it meant to be an American. We will then extend that question into the 20th Century, focusing on the changes to American identity brought by the two World Wars, the Depression, and the Cold War. The course ends in the post-Cold War period, when a new phase of immigration, the banning of race and gender discrimination, and the rise of global capitalism once again challenge Americans to define our roles in the nation and in the world.

Requirements: Weekly assignments for this course include three lectures (50 mins), one discussion section (50 mins), and 100-200 pages of reading. The purpose of discussion is to deepen students’ understanding of lecture and reading materials so it is critical that they attend all lectures and complete the weekly assignment before their section meeting. Students are encouraged to ask questions during lectures, but they should also bring questions about lecture or reading material for discussion during sections.

Evaluation: Students will be graded according to their participation in discussion sections (20%), two midterm exams (25% each), and a final exam (30%).

Participation will be measured by a combination of attendance, preparation and contribution to discussions. Five unannounced quizzes will be given during discussion sections, covering the assigned readings for that week. These cannot be taken at a different time, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quiz grades will be factored into the total participation grade.

Exams will consist of two parts; identification of names, places or concepts defined in lectures and essays on lectures and required readings. Essays will be evaluated primarily according to content and argument, although sloppy writing can make it hard to appreciate strong evidence.
The midterm exams are not cumulative. The final will include one essay question that covers the entire course.

**Required Reading:** There are five required books for this course. They can be purchased at A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 315 W. Gorham St. (257-7888). They are all available in paperback and students can purchase used copies where they are available. Reserve copies are also available for 3 hour loan at College Library.

Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*
Chester Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go: A Novel* (1945)

**Academic Conduct:** Students will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Instances of Academic Misconduct (including cheating and plagiarism) will be prosecuted according to the "Student Academic Misconduct Campus Procedures" of the UW System Administrative Code. Please familiarize yourself with those procedures and their definition of Academic Misconduct: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm>

**Abilities:** Students who need special accommodation due to a disability should contact me privately. Please also contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/> at 608-263-2741 (phone); 263-6393 (TTY); 263-2998 (FAX); FrontDesk@mcb.wisc.edu to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Week 1**  
Rebirth of a Nation  
January 22  Introduction  
January 24  The Promise of Reconstruction

No sections this week

**Week 2**  
American Empire  
January 27  Closing the Frontier  
January 29  Immigration and Restriction  
January 31  American Imperialism?

Reading:  Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 1-113

**Week 3**  
The Gilded Age  
February 3  Redemption and Reunion  
February 5  The Labor Problem  
February 7  Populism

Reading:  Start Bellamy, *Looking Backward*
Week 4  The Age of Reform
February 10  Progress and its Limits
February 12  The New Women
February 14  The Wisconsin Idea

Reading:  Finish Bellamy, *Looking Backward*

Week 5  The Great War
February 17  The New Radicalism
February 19  The New Progressives
February 21  A War to End All Wars


Week 6  Modern Times
February 24  Great Migrations
February 26  The New Exclusion
February 28  First Midterm Exam

No sections this week

Week 7  Hard Times
March 3  The Jazz Age
March 5  The Great Depression
March 7  Making a New Deal

Start Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*

Week 8  The American Century
March 10  Arsenal of Democracy
March 12  War without Mercy
March 14  The War at Home

Reading:  Finish Himes, *If He Hollers Let Him Go*

Week 9  Spring Break

Week 10  The Affluent Society
March 24  The Rise of Organized Labor
March 26  The Way We Never Were
March 28  The New Place of Poverty

Week 11  Origins of the Cold War
March 31  The Iron Curtain
April 2  Second Midterm Exam
April 4  The ‘Third World’

No sections this week

Week 12  Contesting the New Deal Order
April 7  The Long Civil Rights Movement
April 9  Film: “Step by Step”
April 11  Rejecting the Nuclear Family

        “Teaching the March on Washington,” *American Educator* (*Fall 2013*), 22-43

Week 13  The Late Cold War
April 14  The Liberal Hour
April 16  The New Left
April 18  The Vietnam War

Reading:  Register, *Packinghouse Daughter*

Week 14  The New Conservatives
April 21  Suburban Warriors
April 23  Massive Resistance
April 25  Film, “Mr. Conservative”

Reading:  Foner, *Story of American Freedom*, 308-332
        Start Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Week 15  American Babylon?
April 28  A Crisis of Confidence
April 30  The New Immigration
May 2  The Reagan Revolution

Reading:  Finish Eggers, *Zeitoun*

Week 16  Postmodern America
May 5  The Culture Wars
May 7  A New Gilded Age?
May 9  Review

Final Exam: Thursday, May 15, 5:05-7:05PM, Location TBA