

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester I Year 1980

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
102 003	American History from the Civil War Era to the Present	Schultz

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will survey the major trends, events, and persons of importance over the past 100 years of the nation's history. While we will discuss politics, economics, intellectual trends, and foreign policies, we will concentrate on the social history of the American people. We will try to recapture what it was like to be alive 100 years ago, or fifty years ago or ten years ago, and what different experiences individuals or groups had because of their social class standing, their ethnic heritage, their race, their sex. We will try to discover or recapture the sentiments, prejudices, goals, successes and failures of the American people--especially what different people meant when they defined through ideology or action the word "American."

We will try to accomplish these ends through reading some of the statements that contemporaries made about themselves or about their society (what it was and what it could become), through reading what some historians have said about the nation's past, through reading novels dealing both with the rural and urban environments, and through viewing four or five feature motion pictures that illustrate certain characteristics of the American past. In addition, there will be several lectures utilizing slides and recorded music as resources to further our understanding.

LECTURES

There will be two lectures a week within a seventy-five minute format although not all lectures will last that long. There will also be one discussion section per week led by a graduate teaching assistant.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

There will be a required six-weeks examination, an optional twelve-weeks, and a required final. All will be in-class examinations. Also, all students will have to do one written assignment about one of the feature films. No term papers will be required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades will depend upon: performance on examinations, the film review, attendance at and participation in the discussion sections. The relative weights given to each of these will be discussed in class.

REQUIRED READINGS

Glad, Paul, PROGRESSIVE CENTURY (Heath)  
Woodward, C. Vann, THE STRANGE CAREER OF JIM CROW (3rd rev. ed.) (Oxford)  
Livesay, Harold C., ANDREW CARNEGIE AND THE RISE OF BIG BUSINESS (Little, Brown)  
Kennan, Geroge F., AMERICAN DIPLOMACY (Mentor)

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