

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
SPRING 1984

HISTORY 102

MR. SCHULTZ

AMERICAN HISTORY FROM THE CIVIL WAR  
TO THE PRESENT

Texts:

Henry F. Bedford and Trevor Colburn, THE AMERICANS:  
A BRIEF HISTORY SINCE 1865  
James W. Davidson & Mark H. Lytle, AFTER THE FACT: THE  
ART OF HISTORICAL DETECTION (vol. II)  
Harold C. Livesay, ANDREW CARNEGIE AND THE RISE OF  
BIG BUSINESS  
Upton Sinclair, THE JUNGLE  
John Steinbeck, THE GRAPES OF WRATH  
Malcolm Little, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X

Assignments and Examinations:

There will be two examinations. a mid-term scheduled for March 6th, and a final examination at the conclusion of the course. These examinations will be a combination of essay questions and short identification questions. Either similar study questions or the precise questions will be handed out in class prior to each examination.

In addition to the examinations, there will be one short (3-6 pages) writing assignment handled through the discussion sections. This will be an essay-review of one of the books listed above under "texts," excluding Bedford & Colburn and Davidson & Lytle, or a review of another book mutually agreed upon by the student and the Teaching Assistant. We will give you a sample format and the due date for this assignment in the discussion sections.

Discussion Sections and Grading:

Students will attend two lectures (75 minutes each) and one required discussion section (50 minutes) per week. A Teaching Assistant will lead the discussion sections which will focus on the reading assignments for the course, although time also will be devoted to clearing-up any mysteries or absurdities advanced in lectures.

Grades will depend upon performance on the examinations, the short essay-review, and attendance at and participation in the required discussion sections. Steady improvement in quality of performance over the semester will find its reward in the final grade.

We consider the study of history as more than dreary memorization and dull regurgitation of facts. Some factual knowledge, of course, is necessary, but we are more concerned

about your grasp of broad themes and the processes of historical change. We will evaluate your work on its blend of necessary factual information and thought-filled analyses of the issues.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

I. THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, 1865-1917

| <u>Lecture Topics</u>                           | <u>Date</u> |
|---|-------------|
| History, Historians, and You                    | Jan. 24     |
| Reconstructing the Nation                       | 26          |
| The "New South"? Promises and Propaganda        | 31          |
| Which "Old West" and Whose?                     | Feb. 2      |
| The Gilded Age and the Politics of Corruption   | 7           |
| Businessmen and "That Creature" the Corporation | 9           |
| Labor and the Workers' Search for Power         | 14          |
| Foreign Immigrants in Urban America             | 16          |
| How Ya' Gonna' Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?       | 21          |
| The Dawn of Liberalism                          | 23          |
| The Policeman of the World                      | 28          |
| Roosevelt, Wilson, and the Morality of Power    | March 1     |

Readings: (The precise order of readings will be given in discussion sections. The following should be completed by the end of Sec. I)

Bedford & Colburn, pp. 242-366, 370-408  
Davidson & Lytle, Chs. 7, 8, 9  
Livesay (entire book)  
Sinclair (entire book)

\* \* \* \* \* EXAMINATION, MARCH 6--NO CLASS MARCH 8 \* \* \* \* \*

II. THE REORDERING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, 1880s-1940s

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| The Great Migration: Blacks in American Thought and Life | 13      |
| Women, Feminism, and Sex in Progressive America          | 15      |
| The Politics of Prosperity: The 1920s                    | 27      |
| The Politics of Frustration: The 1920s                   | 29      |
| Crashing Hopes: The Great Depression                     | April 3 |
| Liberalism at High Noon: The New Deal                    | 5       |
| "Dr. New Deal" Becomes "Dr. Win-the-War"                 | 10      |

Readings:

Bedford & Colburn, pp. 366-70, 410-81  
Davidson & Lytle, Chs. 10, 11  
Steinbeck (entire book)

## III. THE REDIRECTION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, 1940s-Present

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| From New Deal to Fair Deal: Same Rules<br>or New Game?           | 12    |
| The Affluent Society   | 17    |
| The Rise and Fall of Camelot                                     | 19    |
| Civil Rights in an Uncivil Society                               | 24    |
| The Almost "Great Society"                                       | 26    |
| The Asian Connection: Diplomacy and War<br>from Korea to Vietnam | May 1 |
| The Twilight of Liberalism: Or, Water<br>Through the Milhous     | 3     |
| From Nixon to Nowhere  | 8     |
| The Individual in a Corporate Society                            | 10    |

Readings:

Bedford & Colburn, pp. 482-559  
 Davidson & Lytle, Chs. 12, 13  
 Malcolm X (entire book)