

# History of the United States, 1865 to the Present

Spring 2019

Dr. Joseph C. Thompson

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## Office Hours:

Monday: 11:00 a.m. until noon and 1:15 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 12:15 until 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday: 11:00 a.m. until noon

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## Contact Information:

**Office:** Room 219 in the HS Building

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**My Website:** [historyprofessorjoe.com](http://historyprofessorjoe.com)

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## My Website:

I strongly urge students to regularly visit my website, [historyprofessorjoe.com](http://historyprofessorjoe.com). There you will find copies of the syllabus, links to the material you will be reading for your writing assignments, as well as links to handouts, primary sources, maps, and graphs that I reference in my lectures. You will also find links to Amazon for those of you who want to buy your books online (you will find these links under the **ABooks@** tab). I will also post announcements about test dates, class cancellations, any changes to class policies, etc. The site also includes **practice quizzes** that are designed to help students prepare for the multiple choice portion of the in-class exams. Each quiz covers a single chapter of the textbook **B** they do not cover the material from my in-class lectures. The answers can be found in the textbook.

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## Textbook:

H.W. Brands, et. al., [American Stories: A History of the United States](#), volume 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
The textbook is available at the MC bookstore on the ground floor of the HS building.

## Gen. Ed. Statement:

HIST 201 fulfills a General Education Program Humanities Distribution requirement. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and personal lives. This course offers multiple opportunities to develop two or more of the following competencies: written and oral communication, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical analysis and reasoning, technological competency, and information literacy. For more information, please see [www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened)

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## Course Description and Objectives:

This course covers a wide variety of topics: from post-Civil War Reconstruction, to the industrial revolution, the rise of the city, the new immigration, the social, cultural, and political responses to these changes, and to the emergence of the United States as a more active world power. Continuing into the twentieth century, we will learn about America in the 1920s, the Great Depression, the Cold War, and the controversies over the American role in world affairs, as well as developments in modern American society and culture.

HIST 201 is an introductory course intended to expose students to the major themes, interpretations, and events in American History since that time. In addition to learning the basic facts of the past, students will learn how to express ideas about historical change in an intelligent, lucid, and analytical manner. They will learn to analyze data and to differentiate between that which can be supported by objective evidence and that which cannot.

**Outcomes:** By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- ✚ Analyze the roles of race, class, gender, religion, and ethnicity in American society.
- ✚ Assess the major political figures and movements since the Civil War.
- ✚ Identify the main themes of US foreign policy, including the emergence of the US as a superpower and the Cold War's impact on foreign and domestic policy.
- ✚ Explicate the relationship between industrial expansion, the evolution of the labor movement, and the role of government.
- ✚ Describe the key developments in American culture since the Civil War.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken regularly so that I can learn your names. You will not be penalized for absences; experience tells me that you penalize yourself if you do not attend class. However, I do not lend my lecture notes, so I encourage you to confer with your fellow classmates about any information you missed. Also, if you arrive late for an exam, you will not be granted additional time.

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**Classroom Conduct:** We follow the normal rules of civility in this classroom. That simply means that we should be respectful of other people and their opinions. In addition to that, I have a few of my own rules. First and foremost, **NO CELL PHONES or TEXT MESSAGING** during the lecture **B (parents and other care givers are exempt from this rule)**. Also, do not do homework during the lecture. Finally, no talking to one another while I'm lecturing.

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## Exams:

- ✚ There will be **three exams** given over the course of the semester.
- ✚ The first two exams consist of 35 multiple choice questions and five short essays or Aidentifications.@
- ✚ The final exam consists of 60 multiple choice questions and six short essays or identifications.
- ✚ **The final exam is NOT comprehensive.**
- ✚ The dates of each exam will be announced in class and on my website approximately one week in advance of the exam.
- ✚ **I strongly urge students to take the practice quizzes on my website.**
- ✚ **Make up tests will be permitted at the discretion of the instructor.**
- ✚ **Grades will be posted on Blackboard**

## **Writing Assignments:**

Over the course of the semester you will be required to write three (3) short reaction papers to primary source documents that have been posted on my website under the tab “Writing Assignments – HIST 201.” Primary sources are materials that provide us with an individual’s personal perspective of history. These are first-hand accounts that contain crucial information about the past to help historians achieve a developed understanding of historical events. Each assigned document will include a series of “Questions to Consider” to help you evaluate the primary source. After reading the assigned primary sources and studying the “Questions to Consider,” you will be write a brief essay that (1) summarizes the document and (2) answers the questions provided. Your goal is to develop a well-supported response to the questions based on the facts you have learned about the topic.

**Due Dates: The writing assignments are due:**

- **Paper 1 – The last class meeting in February**
- **Paper 2 – The last class meeting in March**
- **Paper 3 – The last class meeting in April**

**The first two papers are worth a maximum of 10 points each, the third paper is worth a maximum of 20 points.**

### **General Guidelines:**

▷ Papers must be typed, doubled-spaced using 12 point font on standard 8 2 X 11 paper. Do not paste or tape anything to the paper. Your paper must be free from spelling, typographic, and grammatical errors. Your name, along with the days and time your class meets, should be in the upper right-hand corner.

▷ I recommend that each paper be two to three pages long. This is only a recommendation. There is no minimum number of words. Instead you should let the material determine the length of the review.

▷ I strongly urge students take early drafts of their papers to the Writing, Reading, and Language Center located in room HS 150. I also suggest that students take advantage of the tutoring services available there.

▷ **Late papers:** Students will be penalized one point for every *weekday* their paper is late. I will NOT accept any late papers after I return those that were turned in on time.

; **Any hint of plagiarism** will result in a failing grade for this assignment!! Take the plagiarism tutorial on my website if you have any doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism.

**WARNING:** All papers will be subjected to a plagiarism analysis on Safe Assign, an online service that allows educators to check students' work for improper citation or potential plagiarism by comparing it against continuously updated databases. **Please see me if you have any questions about academic dishonesty.**

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## **Grading:**

First exam = 60 point

Second exam = 60 points

Writing assignment 1 = 10 points

Writing assignment 2 = 10 points

Writing assignment 3 = 20 points

Final exam = 90 points

**Total possible points = 250**

## **Grading Scale:**

225-250 points = A

200-224 points = B

182-199 points = C

150-181 points = D

0-149 points = F

**All grades will be posted on Blackboard.**

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## **Withdrawal Policy:**

Should you decide to withdraw from the course, it is ***your*** responsibility to complete all necessary paperwork. Check My MC for key withdrawal dates (i.e., last day to drop and receive refund, last day to drop with no grade or to change to the audit/credit option, and last day to drop with **AW@**)

## Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct. You will receive a **A0@** on any assignment or exam where you have cheated or where you have plagiarized the majority of your work. Any plagiarism serious enough to warrant a **A0@** will also be reported to the Dean of Student Development. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism or cheating, ask me *before* the assignment is due. I strongly encourage you to take the MC Library's Plagiarism Tutorial, available online at: <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/library/plagiarismintro.htm>.

### All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- ✚ Turning in someone else's work as your own
  - ✚ Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
  - ✚ Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
  - ✚ Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
  - ✚ Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
  - ✚ Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.
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### Important Student Information Link:

In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (**see link below**) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information.

**The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following:** student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

## **Lecture, Reading, and Exam Schedule:**

1. "Reconstruction" – read Chapter sixteen
2. "Industrialization" – read Chapters seventeen and eighteen
3. "The Gilded Age" – read Chapter eighteen
4. "The Industrial City" – read Chapter nineteen
5. "The New Immigrant" – read Chapter nineteen
6. "Gilded Age Politics" – read Chapter twenty

### **First Exam – covers lectures 1 thru 6 *and* chapters 16 thru 20**

7. "American Imperialism" – read Chapter twenty-one
8. "The Progressive Movement" – read Chapter twenty-two
9. "The Progressive Presidents" – read Chapter twenty-three
10. "World War I" – read Chapter twenty-four
11. "The 1920s" – read Chapter twenty-five
12. "The New Deal" – read Chapter twenty-six

### **Second Exam – covers lectures 7 thru 12 *and* chapters 21 thru 26**

13. "World War II" – read Chapter twenty-seven
14. "The Origins of the Cold War" – read Chapter twenty-eight
15. "Postwar America" – read Chapter twenty-nine
16. "The Modern Civil Rights Movement" – read Chapter twenty-nine
17. "The High Tide of Liberalism" – read Chapter thirty
18. "The New Conservatism" – read Chapter thirty-one
19. "Post-Cold War America" – read Chapter thirty-two

### **Final Exam – covers lectures 13 thru 19 *and* chapters 27 thru 32**