



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN TIRANA

Course: United States History II
Instructor: Bledar Kurti
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Catalog Description

This course examines the history of the United States from 1861 through the present.

Course Purpose

This course will examine the history of the United States from the Civil War and Reconstruction through the beginning of the twenty-first century. Particular attention will be given to the history of segregation and civil rights movement, immigration, industrialization, the U.S. involvement in WWI and WWII, the Cold War period, and the growth and the establishment of the United States as a world power.

Required Readings, Text

Boyer et al. (2006). *The Enduring Vision*. Boston: Houghtton Mifflin.

Required Additional Materials

During the class meetings, students will be given some supporting materials which will help them to have a better understanding of certain events in the U.S. history. Certain materials will be taken from primary and secondary sources, internet, newspapers, magazines and will be used for class discussions, but could also be part of the questions during tests. Particular topics and supporting materials will be taken from Gaddis, John Lewis. (2005). *The Cold War*. London: Allan Lane, Penguin Books, and Andrew, Christopher. (1996). *For the Presidents Eyes Only*. Secret Intelligence and the American Presidency from Washington to Bush. London: HarperCollins Publishers.

I will be showing some documentaries about the Civil War, the Great War, WWII, the Cold War, the Kennedy years and more, therefore your attendance is very important.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Know and master the chronology of events and important facts in the U.S. history since 1861 through the present.

2. Reach a high knowledge of certain events and figures that changed the world's politics and other peoples' way of living.
3. Have a better understanding of why the U.S. has world power.
4. Demonstrate good language skills and use proper historical and political terminology.
5. Understand the importance of the U.S. history and approach issues with the appropriate point of view.

Content of the Course

1. An Introduction to the U.S. History II. An explanation given on how to prepare presentations and essays.
2. The Civil War, 1861-1865. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 15.) Primary sources; A. Lincoln's presidential election and inaugural speech. I will be showing a DVD 'The American Civil War' Narrated by Robert Powell. Other supporting materials to be handed out.
3. Reconstruction, Jim Crow and the Western Frontier. 1865-1900. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 16,17.) Primary sources; United States Constitution, Article II / Story of a former slave. Secondary source; Blight, David W. *Race and Reunion; The Civil War in American Memory*, (2001).
4. Industrialization in America, 1865-1900. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 18.) Supporting Materials; John D. Rockefeller / Pinkerton's Detective Agency / Statement by Plutarch. Secondary Sources; Scranton, Philip. *Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865-1925*. (1997). Other supporting materials; power-point presentation on environmental issues related to the development of industrialization.
5. Immigration, politics, crisis, the expansion and progressive era, 1860 – 1900. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 19, 20, 21.) Other materials; Brogan, Hugh. *Longman History of the United States of America*, (1998) Ch. 19. Fink, Leon. *Progressive Intellectuals and the Dilemmas of Democratic Commitment* (1997). I will be showing the DVD 'History of the US Presidents – Teddy Roosevelt'. Other supporting materials to be handed out.
6. World War I and the global involvements., 1902 – 1920. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 22). I will be showing the DVD 'The Great War.' Primary Sources will be taken from photographs and videos of the Great War. Additional information will be taken from Brogan, Hugh. *Longman History of the United States*, pp. 481-505. Other supporting materials will be handed out.
7. Mid-Term Exam.
8. The Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929 – 1939. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 24). Primary sources from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, video clips of the conditions of the US citizens during this period, photographs and recorded testimonies. Economic charts and other supporting materials will be handed out.
9. World War II – Americans and a World in Crisis, 1933 - 1945. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 25). There will be a numerous primary sources on this subject, starting from real and genuine newspapers dating December 1941 to eye-

- witness accounts, documentaries, photographs and a variety of other materials. The secondary sources and supporting materials for this subject will be numerous.
10. The Cold War and the fight against Communism, 1945-1952. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 26). Primary sources will be taken from formerly Top-Secret documents issued by the US and USSR government, real and genuine posters, leaflets, and other materials dating to this period. I will be showing DVDs, photographs, statements and speeches of Truman, Churchill and Stalin. Secondary sources will be taken from Gaddis, Lewis. *The Cold War*.
 11. Civil Rights and the Vietnam War, 1960 – 1974. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 28. 29). I will be showing the DVD ‘*Martin Luther King – Man of Peace in a time of war.*’ Primary and secondary sources will be numerous on the subject.
 12. After Watergate to the Reagan years, 1974 – 1989. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 30) During this period we will focus also on the collapse of Communism in Europe. Primary sources will be taken from eye-witness accounts, documents, video-clips, speeches and more. Secondary sources will be taken from Gaddis, Lewis, *The Cold War*, Andrew, Christopher, *For the President’s Eyes Only*.
 13. Beyond the Cold War and the Clinton Era, 1989 – 2000. (Boyer. *The Enduring Vision*. Ch. 31, 32). Primary and secondary sources on this subject will be numerous. I will be showing a DVD, photos, interviews and will hand out materials and comments of the critics and the defenders of this period. .
 14. 21st Century America. In this class we will discuss the American way of life and politics in the 21st century. I will show different video-clips, and interviews. This class will focus on the 9/11 event, how the spread of terrorism has affected the American and our way of life, and we will analyze the 21st century America in the historical perspective. In the political perspective we will discuss the criticism of Noam Chomsky toward US politics and compare his ideologies with other scholars’.
 15. Final Exam.

Course Requirements

Attendance: I will be keeping track of your attendance every hour. Missing classes could affect your grade. Any absence should be excused with a valid reason and document which should be submitted at the Records Office. Your absences will be observed and dealt with in accordance with the UNYT policy.

Participation: Contribution during the class discussions is very important and will be taken into consideration in your final grade. All the students are most welcome to ask any question or raise any topic relevant to the subject during the class sessions. Interaction is essential in the class: it produces a better and more effective learning.

Presentation: Each students will be asked to give a presentation. This presentation could be individual or in group, depending on the number of the students on each class. The presentation will be in writing as well as given verbally in front of the class. It will consist of a research topic, visual aids, supporting materials, etc.

General Requirements

In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask your instructor for clarification.

Criteria for Determination of Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Attendance	- 10%
Participation	- 10%
Presentation	- 15%
Short essays	- 15%
Mid-term exam	- 20%
Final exam	- 30%

The grading scale listed below is the official UNYT grading scale for all courses

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	96-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-95	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

Technology Expectations

Assignments are to be word-processed and formatted according to UNYT Writing Center Guidelines. Continuing and regular use of internet is expected.

Bledar Kurti / October 2007.