



## **The United States Since 1877**

HTST 361  
(Winter 2020)  
Dr. Kevin Anderson

**Class Location and Time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:00-2:50, ES 054

**Email:** kevin.anderson2@ucalgary.ca

**Telephone:** 403-220-2987

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Office Location:** SS615

### **Course Description:**

This course provides a survey of the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the 1980s. Course topics include the struggle for liberty by groups and individuals, America's rise to global power, and political, social, and economic changes. Of particular interest will be the importance of ideas and rhetoric and its relationship to lived reality. The course will also focus on the shifting political landscape of the United States and how it reflects contemporary divides in America. Finally, the class will examine the fundamental paradox at the heart of the American experiment: a nation fervently dedicated to equality, individual freedoms, and democracy that has simultaneously often been defined by the rejection of these very values for all.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Understand and articulate the major historiographical debates in post-Reconstruction American history.

Identify both large structural changes in American society, such as the Second Industrial Revolution, white supremacy, and the integration of America into a global world, and more contingent developments, such as Progressivism, silver vs. gold, populism, the women's movement(s), Civil Rights, or the triumph of conservatism.

Relate structural changes to contingent developments.

Recognize the importance of Christianity, especially Protestant Christianity, to American identity, culture, and politics, and critically analyze its manifestations.

Recognize the importance of "whiteness" to American identity, culture, and politics, and critically analyze its manifestations.

Recognize the mythology of "rugged individualism," the frontier, and exceptionalism in the American experience, and how mythology creates a "usable past" for the present.

Understand the political system, traditions and culture of this era of American history.

Understand the major intellectual strains of this era of American history, especially populism, exceptionalism, liberalism, and conservatism.

Be able to write a coherent academic essay with a consistent, clear thesis.

Be able to formulate clear arguments orally in class when given time to reflect on course material.

Work with peers in group discussion to reflect critically on course material.

Critically read scholarly articles and monographs and be able to discern key arguments, evidence, and how it fits in a wider literature.

### **Assignments:**

Participation, 10%: On 10 Fridays throughout the semester, you will divide yourself into small groups and be given discussion questions based on the readings and/or a major issue we have covered that week in class. Attendance is a prerequisite for a good participation grade, but quality of answer is important to your evaluation.

Mid-term, 20%: Written in-class, Wednesday, February 26. Essay-based.

Two Book Quizzes, 5% each (10%): Students will write quizzes on Sinclair's *The Jungle* (Wednesday, February 5) and Malcom X's *Autobiography* (Wednesday, April 1).

Research paper, 35%: The final essay is an argumentative and analytical essay: in other words, you must have a clear thesis stated in the introduction of the essay, supported by evidence in the form of sub-arguments and ending with a conclusion. The essay should be analytical, and not simply descriptive; you are not repeating information to me but demonstrating that you can think critically and integrate scholarly and non-scholarly sources into a coherent narrative.

You must use at least **three** primary sources (items from the historical period you are examining produced by the historical actors of the period) and at least **four** secondary sources (scholarly peer-reviewed books or articles usually written by an academic). You are free to write on any historical topic you want, as long as it is related to the course theme of post-Reconstruction America.

You can submit it *either* on Friday, April 3 and have your essay returned by the last class, **OR** you can submit it on Monday, April 13 and have your essay returned by the final exam or soon after. There will be no difference in evaluation.

Final exam, 25%: TBA. Scheduled by the registrar.

All assignments must be submitted as a hardcopy in-class, or in the Red Box in the History Department, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Social Science Building. If email submission is required because of extenuating circumstance, students must contact the instructor.

Please make sure to provide references in your work. Students must use the Chicago Manual of Style, Notes and Bibliography citation system. The *History Student's Handbook* may prove useful for citation format.

References exist for several reasons: 1) to provide credit where credit is due. 2) to demonstrate that the author is familiar with the existing literature on the subject under study and is in dialogue with this literature 3) to allow the reader to find the material the author is presenting, whether primary or secondary material, and expand the exposure of writers and readers to the seemingly infinite amount of information and 4) to keep the author accountable to the evidentiary record while allowing simultaneously for interpretation and argumentation.

Be sure to provide complete bibliographic information for each source you use. Please note that a paper submitted without references is unacceptable and will receive a mark of zero.

Students are required to keep all research notes and rough drafts for their essays and may be required to hand them in. Keep this material even after the essay has been graded.

All essays must be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with margins approximately 2.54 cm on the top and bottom of the page and 3.17 cm on the left and right of the page. This is to ensure the standardization of all papers submitted.

Extensions will be granted on compassionate grounds or because of extenuating circumstances and only after consultation between the student and the instructor.

Late assignments will have a half-letter grade deducted per day, including weekends.

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Laptops are allowed in-class for copying notes only.

### **Required texts:**

James Oakes, Michael McGerr, Jan Ellen Lewis, Nick Cullather, Jeanne Boydston, Mark Summers, Camilla Townsend, and Karen Dunak, *Of the People: A History of the United States, Volume II: Since 1865* (Oxford University Press: 2019).

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (1906).

Malcolm X, with Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965).

### **Helpful Texts (optional):**

This is in no way mandatory for purchase but may help in the composition of your essays.

William Keleher Storey and Towser Jones. *Writing History: A Guide for Canadian Students*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2008.

## **Reading/Class Schedule and Topics**

**Week 1:** Monday, January 13; Wednesday, January 15; Friday, January 17

**Class orientation; A Brief Overview of Reconstruction**

**Week 2:** Monday, January 20; Wednesday, January 22; Friday, January 24

**White Supremacy Triumphant: Separate but Equal, Lynching, and Jim Crow**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapter 15.

**Week 3:** Monday, January 27; Wednesday, January 29; Friday, January 31

**The Indian Wars: Settling the West at the Barrel of a Gun**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapters 16-17.

**Week 4:** Monday, February 3; Wednesday, February 5; Friday, February 7

**Gilded and Progressive, or How to Deal with a Problem Like the Second Industrial Revolution**

**Readings:**

Sinclair, *The Jungle*.

**Quiz in class on Wednesday, February 5!!!**

**Week 5:** Monday, February 10; Wednesday, February 12; Friday, February 14

**America and the World: To be an Empire, but Not Imperial, or How to Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapters 18-19.

**February 16-23 Family Day and Reading Week, No Classes**

**Week 6:** Monday, February 24; Wednesday, February 26; Friday, February 28

**Catching-up and Mid-Term**

**Week 7:** Monday, March 2; Wednesday, March 4; Friday, March 6

**World War One and the 1920s**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapters 20-21.

**Week 8:** Monday, March 9; Wednesday, March 11; Friday, March 13  
**The Great Depression: The New Deal and Populism**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapter 22.

**Week 9:** Monday, March 16; Wednesday, March 18; Friday, March 20  
**War, Again: The Triumph of Democracy, The Triumph of the Military-Industrial Complex**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapter 23.

**Week 10:** Monday, March 23; Wednesday, March 25; Friday, March 27  
**The Cold War, Pax Americana and McCarthyism**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapter 24.

**Week 11:** Monday, March 30; Wednesday, April 1; Friday, April 3  
**The 'Table of Democracy': Civil Rights and Vietnam**

**Readings:**

Malcom X, *The Autobiography*.

**Quiz in class on Wednesday, April 1!!!**

**Week 12:** Monday, April 6; Wednesday, April 8; Friday, April 10  
**The 1970s: The End of *La Trente Glorieuses*, the Decline of American Liberalism, and Rise of Globalization (or Americanization?)**

**Readings:**

Oakes, et. al., *Of the People*, chapters 26-27.

**Week 13:** Wednesday, April 15 (no class on Easter Monday)  
**Catching-up and Exam Review**

--

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

### Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

### Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in the History Student's Handbook.

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

### **Red Box Policy:**

If your instructor requires paper copies of an essay and/or assignment, and the essay/assignment can be handed in outside of class, you can drop them in the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see [\*The History Student's Handbook\*](#).

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, [\*Section K\*](#).

### **Academic Accommodations:**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

### **Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that

instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

*Winter 2020*