



*Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives*

## **AMERICAN CIVILIZATION SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, 1865-2024** Spring 2024<sup>1</sup>

Loyola University Chicago  
HIST 212-001 (2440)  
Spring 2024  
Crown Center Auditorium  
MW, 10:25-11:15 a.m.

[Webpage](#)

Junior Professors and Discussion section times:

Connor Barnes: Fri., 12:35-1:25, 530 Crown (Sec. 122); Fri., 1:40-2:30, 530 Crown (Sec. 125)

Eleanor Carter: Wed., 12:35-1:25, 530 Crown (Sec. 121); Wed., 1:40-2:30, 530 Crown (Sec. 124)

Hannah Fuller: Mon., 12:35-1:25, 530 Crown (Sec. 120); Mon., 1:40-2:30, 530 Crown (Sec. 123)

Prof. Timothy J. Gilfoyle

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(773) 508-2221

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Office Hrs.: Wed. 8-9:30am, 1-2pm

and by appointment

"Without a vivid link to the past, the present is chaos and the future unreadable." Jason Epstein

This course explores the social, political, and economic evolution of the United States after the Civil War of 1861-65. The major themes covered reflect the emergence of the modern United States, including the rise and decline of the U.S. as an industrial power, European, Asian, and Latin American immigration, six wars, a variety of social and political protest movements and changing labor, gender and race relations.

American civic culture cherishes both liberty and equality, individual freedom and social justice. These impulses, frequently in conflict with each other, pervade political, economic, and social life in the United States. This course provides an introduction to the history of these tensions as they shaped the American polity. Since much of this history remains unknown, forgotten, or shrouded in mythology, the course provides a framework to understand and critique American democracy. Many of the revolutionary generation believed the study of history was a prerequisite to citizenship, for a society or community with little knowledge of its past has little chance of comprehending its own identity. The major themes covered reflect the emergence of the modern United States, including the rise and decline of the U.S. as an industrial power, European, Asian, and Latin American immigration, six wars, a variety of social and political protest movements and changing labor, gender and race relations. Consequently, this course attempts to answer fundamental questions regarding the United States: : Is there an American culture? How are racial, ethnic, economic, religious, sexual and other identities formed? How have they changed over time? What were and are the standards for citizenship? Has citizenship

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<sup>1</sup> This syllabus is a working document. The professor reserves the right to modify and alter the syllabus and all materials, guidelines, etc., contained within it at his discretion over the course of the semester.

and freedom been equally available to all Americans? Has the meaning of "freedom" changed over time?

Please remember that the classroom is an intellectually dangerous place. The content of some lectures and reading assignments includes verbal and visual images of controversial and horrifying events in American history (including war, physical violence, sexual assault, racist and misogynist language, lynchings, force feeding, castration, and other examples). Some subjects are shocking and painful. As students of history, we need to engage, not avoid, such topics. "Nothing can be changed until it is faced," the writer James Baldwin reminds us. Students should contact the professor if such content affects their ability to learn. Warnings about specific topics can be found on the class Sakai site under individual class dates.

This course satisfies the Tier 2 Historical Knowledge requirement in the core curriculum and develops critical thinking, complex reasoning, and communication skills. The course requirements and their percentage of the final grade are: 1) a midterm examination (35%), 2) a final take-home and in-class comprehensive examination (35%), 3) participation and class discussion (25%); and 4) an Art Institute of Chicago assignment (5%). **All students are required to register for one of the discussion sections** (marked "DIS" in the course schedule). The exams will be based primarily on the readings below and secondarily on lectures and class discussions. Students will receive a study sheet one week before the midterm exam which will outline questions and issues to be included in the exam. Midterm exams and grades will be returned before 21 March 2024.

A primary responsibility of students is to complete the weekly reading before the date of the scheduled class and contribute their thoughtful, reflective opinions in the weekly class discussion. Students should allocate enough time to complete the required reading, approximately 50 pages per week. The readings can be interpreted in a variety of ways and students should formulate some initial positions and questions to offer in the class discussion. For every article or book, students should be prepared to answer all of the questions found in the "Critical Reading" section of the syllabus below. All required readings may be purchased at the Loyola University Bookstore in the Granada Center on Sheridan Road. Students may shop in person and online using the textbook links in LOCUS or by going directly to the Bookstore website at [www.loyolachishop.com](http://www.loyolachishop.com). Students do not have to buy any of the books since each one has been placed on 4-hour reserve at Cudahy Library. Course materials cannot be shared outside the course without the professor's written permission.

Students who attend the lecture class will receive lecture notes via Loyola's Outlook email system sometime after class. The notes serve as the "textbook" for class and eliminate the need to engage in frantic note-taking. Students should carefully listen to and contemplate the arguments and ideas raised in each lecture. **All computers, cellphones, smartphones, tablets, MP3 players, audio recorders and any other electronic devices should be turned off during class.** Upon accessing the notes, students should transfer the notes to a disk or flash drive and print a "hard" copy. To receive the notes, students must attend the class. No attendance, no

notes. Students may take handwritten notes if it facilitates their ability to learn. Please note that Illinois law **prohibits** the recording of oral communications without the consent of all parties to the recorded communication. Please be aware that any unauthorized recording is considered a felony.

### REQUIRED READINGS

Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction*, abridged and updated edition (New York: Harper and Row, 1988, 2014), pages 1-28, 35-54, 104-123, 180-198, 254-260.

Timothy J. Gilfoyle, ed., *The Urban Underworld in Late 19<sup>th</sup>-Century New York: The Autobiography of George Appo* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2013), pages 1-80, 89-92, 106-112, 140-45, 150-59.

Richard W. Etulain, ed., *Does the Frontier Experience Make America Exceptional?* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1999), pages 3-68, **available on Sakai**.

Essays by Carl Degler, William Leuchtenburg, and Barton Bernstein on the New Deal and **available on Sakai**.

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), Kristen Fermaglich and Lisa Fine, eds. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2013), pages xi-xx, 9-64, 213-257, 280-313 (chaps. 1-3, 11-12, 14-epilogue).

Phyllis Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?" *Phyllis Schlafly Report* 5, no. 7 (February 1972), **available on Sakai**.

Tony Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* (New York: Vintage, 1998), pages 3-44 (chaps. 1-2), 208-281 (chap. 10), 352-390 (chaps. 14-15).

Students with documented learning differences should contact the professor and the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) in the Sullivan Center (773-508-3700, [www.luc.edu/sswd](http://www.luc.edu/sswd)) within the first two weeks of the semester to discuss the need for any special arrangements. Loyola University Chicago provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with the SAC. All information will remain confidential. Please note that in this class, software may be used to audio record class lectures in order to provide equal access to students with disabilities. Students approved for this accommodation use recordings for their personal study only and recordings may not be shared with other people or used in any way against the faculty member, other lecturers, or students whose classroom comments are recorded as part of the class activity. Recordings are deleted at the end of the semester. For more information about registering with SAC or questions about accommodations, please contact SAC at 773-508-3700 or [SAC@luc.edu](mailto:SAC@luc.edu).

Students should keep the professor and junior professors informed of absences well in advance if possible. Students who miss one week or more of class because of illness or a personal emergency should contact the dean's office. Dean's office staff will notify your instructors. Notification of an absence does not excuse the absence; upon returning to classes, students are responsible for contacting instructors, producing appropriate documentation for the absence, and completing any missed work.

## MEETING DATES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Information on the Loyola University Chicago academic calendar (with specific dates on semester breaks and the final exam schedule) can be found at:

[https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/academic\\_calendar.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/academics/schedules/spring/academic_calendar.shtml)

17 Jan.: The American Civil War, 1861-1865

DISCUSSION (weeks from 17-29 Jan.):

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction*, pages 1-28, 35-54, 104-123, 180-198, 254-260.

22 Jan.: Reconstruction, 1863-1877

24 Jan.: The New Industrial Order, 1870-1920

29 Jan.: The Creation of an Urban Society, 1870-1920

31 Jan.: The “New Immigrants,” 1870-1925

DISCUSSION (weeks of 31 Jan.-12 Feb.):

Timothy J. Gilfoyle, ed., *The Urban Underworld in Late 19<sup>th</sup>-Century New York* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2013), pages 1-80, 89-92, 106-112, 140-45 (Committee Report), 150-56 (Thomas Byrnes), 156-59 (Lincoln Steffens).

5 Feb.: The New Nativism, 1870-1930

7 Feb.: P.T. Barnum and the Emergence of American Popular Culture, 1830-1900

12 Feb.: Manifest Destiny and the American Empire, 1800-1920

DISCUSSION (week of 14 Feb.-2 March):

Richard W. Etulain, ed., *Does the Frontier Experience Make America Exceptional?* (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1999), pp. 3-68 (Frederick Jackson Turner, Richard White, & Glenda Riley), **available on Sakai.**

14 Feb.: The Populist Revolt, 1870-1920

19 Feb.: The Era of Progressive Reform, 1890-1920

21 Feb.: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919

26 Feb.: Women and the Rise of Feminism, 1860-1960

28 Feb.: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

4-10 March.: MIDSEMESTER BREAK

Reminder: all History Majors should see their academic advisor before registering for Spring Semester classes.

11 March: The Emergence of a Consumer Culture, 1870-1930

DISCUSSION (weeks of 11-22 March):

Carl Degler, "The Third American Revolution," in *Out of Our Past: The Forces That Shaped America*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (New York: Harper & Row, 1958, 1984), 414-50.

William E. Leuchtenburg, "The Roosevelt Reconstruction: Retrospect," in *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* (New York: Harper and Row, 1963), 326-48.

Barton J. Bernstein, "The New Deal: The Conservative Achievements of Liberal Reform," in *Towards a New Past: Dissenting Essays in American History* (New York: Pantheon, 1968), 263-83.

Please note: these readings are single chapters from each text and are **available on Sakai**.

13 March.: The Great Depression, 1929-1940

18 March: The New Deal, 1933-1940

20 March: World War II, 1939-1945

25 & 27 March: The Cold War and Vietnam, 1945-1991

DISCUSSION (weeks of 25 March-5 April):

Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, pages xi-xx, 5-64, 213-257, 280-313 (chaps. 1-3, 11-12, 14-epilogue); and Phyllis Schlafly, "What's Wrong with 'Equal Rights' for Women?" The Schlafly article is **available on Sakai**.

28 March-1 April: EASTER HOLIDAY – No Friday and Monday Classes

3 April: Civil Rights and Racial Change, 1875-1955

8 April: Civil Rights and Racial Change, 1950-2015

10 April: Lyndon Johnson and Making a Great Society, 1964-1976

11 April: MIDNIGHT BIKE RIDE (weather permitting and optional). Bike rentals are available through ChainLinks in the Parking Structure; see <http://www.loyolalimited.com/chainlinks/about.html>

DISCUSSION (weeks of 8-26 April):

Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic*, pages 3-44 (chaps. 1-2), 208-281 (chap. 10), 352-390 (chaps 14-15).

15 April: The American Family, Sexuality, and Gender, 1945-2015

Recommended: read Allen Ginsberg, "[Howl](#)" (1956).

17 April: The Reagan Revolution and the End of the American Century, 1980-present

22 April: The Age of Rage, 1980-present

24 April: Conclusions: What is American History?

FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY: Due FRIDAY, 26 APRIL, NOON.

FINAL IN-CLASS EXAMINATION: MONDAY, 29 APRIL, 9-11 a.m., Crown Auditorium.

### DISCUSSIONS AND CRITICAL READING

Discussion and class participation is a very important part of your grade (25 percent). Incisive, imaginative and thoughtful comments that generate and facilitate discussion are weighed heavily in final grades. Asking questions, responding to student questions and contributing to an ongoing discussion are a necessary part of the learning experience. Classroom discussion will take place in the discussion sections and will center on the required readings. **All students are required to register for one of the discussion sections** (marked "DIS" in the course schedule). Failure to participate in the preassigned discussion sections will only lower a student's final grade. Discussions are scheduled for 12 or 13 classes, each worth 2 "points." Students will receive 1 point for attendance or minimal participation, and 2 or more points for active participation. Students may enhance their classroom participation grade by raising questions that generate further discussion, interacting with the instructors in office hours, fulfilling periodic assignments made by the instructor, and participating in the occasional opportunities for discussion which arise in the main lecture.

The best ways to prepare for and contribute to class discussion are: 1) complete the reading on time, and 2) critically analyze the reading. The primary goal of critical reading is to find the author's interpretation and what evidence and influences led to that conclusion. Never assume a "passive" position when reading a text. If students ask and attempt to answer the following questions, they will more fully comprehend and understand any reading.

1. What is the thesis of the author?
2. Does the author have a particular stated or unstated point of view? How does the author construct their argument? Are the author's goals, viewpoints, or agendas revealed in the introduction or preface? Does the author provide evidence to support the argument? Is it the right evidence? In the final analysis, do you think the author proves the argument or does the author rely on preconceived views or personal ideology? Why do you think that?
3. Does the author have a moral or political posture? Is it made explicit or implicit in the way the story is told? What is the author's view of human nature? Does change come from human agency and "free will" or broad socio-economic forces?
4. What assumptions does the author hold about society? Does the author see society as hierarchical, pluralistic, democratic or elitist? Does the author present convincing evidence to support this view?
5. How is the narrative constructed or organized? Does the author present the story from the viewpoint of a certain character or group? Why does the author begin and end at certain points? Is the story one of progress or decline? Why does the author write this way?
6. What issues and events does the author ignore? Why? Can you think of alternative interpretations or stories that might present a different interpretation? Why does the author ignore certain events or facts?

Students who miss a class discussion or feel reluctant to speak in class have the option of writing a 2-3 page review essay on the required reading. The essay should summarize the author's thesis in one paragraph and then proceed to criticize and analyze some aspect of that thesis. Students who elect to write such essays must submit them within two weeks of the class discussion.

### ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO ASSIGNMENT



The assignment is simple: go to the Art Institute of Chicago (111 S. Michigan Avenue), locate **ONE** of the art objects below (most of which are discussed or shown in class), have a digital photograph of yourself taken in front of the object or painting (ask a guard if you go alone), and email the photo and your ticket entrance receipt to Prof. Gilfoyle at [tgilfoy@luc.edu](mailto:tgilfoy@luc.edu) **AND** your junior professor. Before you go, be sure to look up the room location of the object at <http://www.artic.edu/aic/> The assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. Students may complete the assignment any time during the semester but no later than Friday, 26 April 2024.

Joseph Louis Hippolyte Bellangé, *Battle Scene*, c. 1825

Alvan Fisher, *The Prairie on Fire*, 1827

Thomas Cole, *Distant View of Niagara Falls*, 1830

John Quincy Adams Ward, *The Freedman*, 1862–63

Daniel Chester French, *Standing Lincoln*, 1912

Daniel Chester French, *Seated Lincoln*, 1916



Albert Bierstadt, *Mountain Brook*, 1863  
 Thomas Moran, *Autumn Afternoon, the Wissahickon*, 1864  
 Winslow Homer, *Croquet Scene*, 1866  
 George Inness, *Catskill Mountains*, 1870  
 Worthington Whittredge, *Indian Encampment*, 1870-76  
 Walter Shirlaw, *Toning the Bell*, 1874  
 Claude Monet, *Arrival of the Normandy Train, Gare Saint-Lazare*, 1877  
 Pullman Observation Car, Thorne Rooms  
 Gustave Caillebotte, *Paris Street; Rainy Day*, 1877  
 Edgar Degas, *Café Singer*, 1879  
 Sullivan & Adler, Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room, 1893-94  
 Camille Pissarro, *The Place du Havre, Paris*, 1893  
 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *Equestrienne (At the Cirque Fernando)*, 1887-88  
 Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *Acrobats at the Cirque Fernando*, 1879  
 Pierre-Auguste Renoir, *The Laundress*, 1877/79  
*Pullman Observation Car*, 1893  
 Frederic Remington, *The Advance-Guard, or The Military Sacrifice (The Ambush)*, 1890  
 Frederic Remington, *Historians of the Tribe*, 1890-99  
 Frederic Remington, *Coming Through the Rye (Over the Range)*, 1902/06  
 Frederic Remington, *The Bronco Buster*, 1899  
 Elbridge Ayer Burbank, *Shu-Pe-La/Moqui*, 1898  
 Hermon Atkins MacNeil, *The Sun Vow*, modeled 1898, cast 1901  
 Hermon Atkins MacNeil, *The Moqui Runner*, modeled 1896, cast 1897  
 Ralph Albert Blakelock, *The Vision of Life, or the Ghost Dance*, 1895-97  
 Everett Shinn, *The Hippodrome, London*, 1902  
 John Sloan, *Renganeschi's Saturday Night*, 1912  
 George Bellows, *Love of Winter*, 1914  
 Gifford Beal, *Spotlight*, 1915  
 James Earle Fraser, *The End of the Trail*, 1918  
 Archibald John Motley, Jr., *Self-Portrait*, c. 1920  
 Charles Demuth, *Business*, 1921  
 Joseph Stella, *By-Products Plants*, 1923/26  
 Todros Geller, *Strange Worlds*, 1928  
 John Bradley Storrs, *Ceres*, 1928  
 Grant Wood, *American Gothic*, 1930  
 Richard Neutra, *Armchair*, 1930  
 Georgia O'Keeffe, *Cow's Skull with Calico Roses*, 1931  
 Charles Demuth, *...And the Home of the Brave*, 1931  
 Horace Pippin, *Cabin in the Cotton*, 1933/37  
 Walter Ellison, *Train Station*, 1936  
 Thomas Hart Benton, *Cotton Pickers*, 1945  
 Charles Wilbert White, *This, My Brother*, 1942  
 Charles Wilbert White, *Harvest Talk*, 1953



Eldzier Cortor, *The Room No. VI*, 1948  
José Clemente Orozco, *Zapata*, 1930  
Frank Lloyd Wright, *Metal Office Furniture for Johnson Wax Co. offices*, 1937-39  
Edward Hopper, *Nighthawks*, 1942  
Eero Saarinen, *Armchair*, 1955-57  
Wendell Castle, *Coffee Table*, 1967  
Robert Venturi & Denise Scott Brown, *Queen Anne Chair*, 1984

### EXTRA CREDIT

During the semester, students will have opportunities to earn extra credit. The professor will announce such opportunities in class and via email at the appropriate moments during the semester. To receive extra credit, attend the exhibition or event in person, take a digital photograph of yourself in front of an object at an exhibition or the speaker or lecturer at a lecture, and email the photo and your ticket entrance receipt to Prof. Gilfoyle at [tgilfoy@luc.edu](mailto:tgilfoy@luc.edu) AND your junior professor. Events already scheduled and available for extra credit include:

Thursday, 11 April 2024: [The Midnight Bikeride](#) (worth 2 points in the final grade). Bike rentals are available through [ChainLinks](#) in the Parking Structure.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will examine ideas, institutions, social life, world-views and notions of United States history over time. The desired outcome is for students to gain historical knowledge about how the history and evolution of the United States. The course will enable you to:

- Evaluate and assess the forces of change and the forces of stability.
- Place events, texts, objects, and ideas (artistic, literary, theological, etc.) in their proper historical and cultural contexts and see how they affect cultures today.
- Understand that historical knowledge is constructed from primary sources and competing paradigms, and use such sources critically to construct history.
- Understand important elements of your cultural heritage as citizens of the United States and the world, including notions such as citizenship, representative government, romantic love, the nuclear family, and the market economy.
- Differentiate between contemporary values and worldviews and those of previous historical civilizations. By comparing the views of past societies with current ones, students can appreciate how present attitudes are as much conditioned by historical context as past attitudes.

- Become a more informed and productive citizen of your country and your world.

## **SKILL OBJECTIVES**

### **1) Critical Thinking Skills**

The skills of the historian are vitally important in this age of information; as world citizens we are required to contextualize, analyze and judge information generated from a variety of sources, both disarmingly familiar and radically alien, with a variety of underlying agendas. Moreover, your future profession will most likely require you to develop reliable sources of information and make judgments based on solid evidence.

This course will develop the following skills:

- Read critically and assess the reliability of sources in several media.
- Generate new ideas, hypotheses, arguments and questions about the historical experiences of humans.
- Predict and respond to counterarguments, adjust your thinking in the light of the process, and maintain throughout cordial and civil discourse with various audiences in a variety of formats.

### **2) Communication Skills and Sensitivities**

This course will develop the following skills:

- Write clearly and effectively.
- The two examinations will involve short answer identifications and/or a choice from among several general essay questions about material covered in lecture and the common readings as outlined on the syllabus. Here, students will be graded on their command of the material. While students are not graded on their writing for examinations, answers must be in essay form with complete paragraphs and sentences.
- Present evidence and articulate a position extemporaneously to peers and instructors in oral discourse and written form.
- Recognize and have the ability to act on your obligation to contribute to civic discourse. In discussions and examinations, you will be asked to distinguish between fact and opinion and to try to understand both sides of conflicts. You are urged to be sensitive to

how seemingly distant events like slavery or nativism still evoke resentment and tension among people today.

### STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty will result in a final grade of F for the examination or assignment as well a letter, detailing the event, to be placed in the offending student's permanent file in the Dean's office. The definition of plagiarism is:

You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else's words or ideas but fail to credit that person. You plagiarize even when you do credit the author but use his [or her] exact words without so indicating with quotation marks or block indentation. You also plagiarize when you use words so close to those in your source, that if your work were placed next to the source, it would be obvious that you could not have written what you did with the sources at your elbow.

Wayne Booth, Gregory C. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), p. 167.

To avoid plagiarism, take notes carefully, putting all real quotes within quotation marks, while summarizing other parts in your own language. This is difficult; if you do not do it correctly, it is better to have all your notes in quotes. The worst thing is to alter a few words from the source, use no quotation marks, and treat the notes as a genuine summary. You will likely copy it out as written in your notes, and thus inadvertently commit plagiarism. Changing around a word, a phrase, or a clause is still plagiarism if it follows the thought sequence or pattern in the original. On the other hand, do not avoid plagiarism by making your paper a string of quotations. This results in poor writing, although it is not criminal.

In any case, do not let this prevent you from quoting your primary sources. As they are the "evidence" on which you build your argument, you will need to quote them at necessary points. Just be sure to put quotation marks around them, or double indent them as in the example above, and follow the quote with a proper foot or endnote.

A final note: The Internet can be a convenient tool for research, but many websites contain unreliable or plagiarized information. **Never** cut and paste from Internet sites without quoting and citing your sources.

The university has developed a helpful website. See: <http://www.luc.edu/is/cease/ai.shtml>

### CONNECT WITH THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Please follow the department's website and social media pages:



Visit: [luc.edu/history](http://luc.edu/history)



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The Loyola History Department's website and social media pages are updated frequently with event announcements, internship and job opportunities, faculty and student achievements, and other news about the department and the history profession. In addition, the website contains a wealth of information essential for students taking history courses, including guidelines for majors and minors, details about scholarships and essay contests, faculty bios and course descriptions, and the department's "Major in History" career guide.