

**Worcester State College HI 112**

Tues/Thurs 11:30 – 12:45 am

Sullivan Room 318

**US History II (1865-1945)**

**Spring 2009**

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### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This course covers the period of time from the end of the Civil War through the Second World War. Topics to be discussed include Reconstruction; immigration; labor and reform movements; expansion of the nation into the American West; conflict with Native American tribes and the development of Indian reservations; American imperialism and colonialism; the Progressive Era and First World War; 1920s cultural, political and literary history; the Great Depression; and the Second World War abroad and on the homefront. The course will also cover relevant aspects of the US and Massachusetts state constitutions, in accordance with MA General Laws, Chapter 73, Section 2A.<sup>1</sup>

In this course you will learn information about the past, but more importantly, you will learn about the craft of doing history. This is more of a history “lab” course than a lecture course. You will become familiar with multimedia and digital resources for historical research, as well as more traditional archival and print resources in the library. You will hone your writing and critical thinking skills. You should expect to be actively involved in your own learning and will begin the process of contributing to the field as budding historians.

### **Required Texts:**

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! Volume 2* (Norton paperback - ISBN 0-393-93028-9) – Seagull edition is also fine. **Note:** This text is also available as an e-book (online or download) for half price (\$32.50) – preview it or purchase directly from Bedford at <http://www.nortonebooks.com/disciplines/Discipline.asp?DiscId=11>

Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford - ISBN 0-312-24919-5)

Any additional readings will be available on the course Blackboard page as PDFs, or online in the public domain. You need (free) Adobe Reader or FoxIt Reader to open them. You should plan to print the additional readings on your own printer, or bring your laptop to class if you choose to read them online. Consider the cost of a ream of paper for printing to be part of the materials cost of the course.

### **Course Requirements:**

This course involves reading, writing, research and group discussion. You will be expected to read 20-30 pages a week (sometimes more), and to write approximately 20 pages over the course of the term. You will need to put in consistent effort during the whole semester. You’ll need to

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<sup>1</sup> MA General Laws, Chapter 73, Section 2A. “In all state colleges the constitutions of the United States and of the commonwealth shall be taught as required subjects for the purpose of fitting the students, morally and intellectually, for the duties of citizenship and of school teaching.”

have (or learn) basic computer research skills. You'll need to speak up in class and demonstrate active learning, not passive absorption.

To take advantage of multiple learning styles, and to help create a community of learning in this classroom, this course will assess your learning in several different ways.

- **Attendance and participation** in class – I will take attendance in each class session. You should be prompt, present, and ready for discussion each day. I expect class discussion will be lively, respectful, and substantive.
- **Exams** – we will have 3 closed-book tests. The last test will take place during the final exam period but will be the equivalent of the other two exams. Your lowest score is dropped; there are no makeup exams.
- **“Little Papers”** (at least 2 pages, double-spaced) – there will be 6 of these, as listed in the syllabus. Each one will ask you to consider a different kind of historical source, or explore a different approach to historical interpretation. These small assignments are a way for you to experiment with new formats or sources and to give you hands-on experience with making your own conclusions from historical evidence. For your grade I will take the best 4 out of these 6. There are NO makeups or late work accepted on the Little Papers.
- **Projects** – you will do two additional projects. One involves adding one item of new content to the “Digital Worcester” online archive ([www.digitalworcester.org](http://www.digitalworcester.org)) by digitizing material in the college’s historical collection. We will work on this project as a class. **Due on 3/12**. More details on that will be given later. The other project will be an essay 4-5 double-spaced pages long, **due on 4/2**, based on a defined set of primary sources.

Your grade will be determined this way:

Attendance & Participation	20%	
Exams (best 2 of 3)	30%	Exam dates: 2/26, 4/9, 5/12
Little Papers (best 4 of 6)	30%	Due dates 1/27, 2/5, 2/19, 4/7, 4/23, 4/30
Digital Project	10%	Due 3/12
Research Essay	10%	Due 4/2
	100%	

Note: your lowest test grade and two of the short assignments will be dropped. For that reason, there will be no makeup exams, nor can you make up missed Little Papers.

**The Fine Print:**

- My in-class technology policy: we will be busy in every class session, and we don't need any technological distractions. Silence your cell phones before you enter the classroom. If you choose to bring a laptop to class, I expect that you will be using it **only** for taking notes or accessing the course’s relevant electronic documents to refer to during discussion. Do not use your laptop in class to surf the internet, check your email, update your Myspace page, or the like.

- On papers and exams, doing your own work is absolutely essential – my general policy is that if you plagiarize a paper or cheat on an exam, you will get a zero on the assignment and you may fail the class, at my discretion. You *must* cite the sources of any information or ideas which are not your own work. Please familiarize yourself with the college policy on Academic Honesty in the Student Handbook, and learn how to correctly use citations in your writing.
- If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise), and you need a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please consult with me immediately at the outset of the course so we can design a solution that will help you be successful in the class.

### **Syllabus:**

For each class, you will have a main reading assignment, usually a chapter of Foner's *Give Me Liberty!* You may also have specific primary source documents, usually located on Norton's history studyspace page, [www.wwnorton.com/college/history/foner2/](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/foner2/). You can also make use of the many other study aids on the Norton site for free, including interactive maps, multiple choice or true/false quizzes, and flashcards.

### **Week One: Introduction**

#### **1. Tues 1/20 What is History? Why Does it Matter?**

Reading: none assigned; worksheet for "Wet With Blood" is posted online

#### **2. Thurs 1/22 The Death of Lincoln and the Birth of Modern America**

Reading: peruse <http://chicagohistory.org/wetwithblood/> and complete the worksheet. Bring it with you to class.

**Due in class: "Wet With Blood" worksheet**

### **Week Two: What is Freedom? Reconstruction 1865-1877**

#### **3. Tues 1/27 Overview of Reconstruction, the Unfinished Revolution**

Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty* (GML) Ch 15 (548-560) "The Meaning of Freedom" and (575-583) "The Overthrow of Reconstruction"

Primary Source (PS) documents on Norton StudySpace = Uncivil Liberty; Oration by Frederick Douglass; Barrow Plantation.

**Due in class: Little Paper #1 (Objects/ Websites)**

#### **4. Thurs 1/29 Constitutional Change**

Reading: GML Ch 15 (560-575) "The Making of Radical Reconstruction" and "Radical Reconstruction in the South"

PS = Amendments 13, 14 and 15; Sherman's Field Order 15 (1865); Johnson's Veto Message; Civil Rights Bill

### **Week Three: the Gilded Age, 1870-1890**

#### **5. Tues 2/3 Industry, Corporate Capitalism, and Wealth**

Reading: GML Ch 16 (590-601) "The Second Industrial Revolution"

PS = Story of a Monopoly (1881); *Sunshine and Shadow in New York*

Link: Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth"

**6. Thurs 2/5 "The Labor Question"**

Reading: GML Ch 16 (615-633) and Chapter Review

PS = City Slave Girls; Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* excerpt (full text of Riis's book is online at: <http://www.yale.edu/amstud/inforev/riis/title.html>)

**Due in class: Little Paper #2 (Journalism)**

**Week Four: How the West Was Won... and Lost**

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**7. Tues 2/10 Homesteading and Ranching**

Reading: GML Ch 16 (602-607) "The Transformation of the West"

PS = Homestead Act documents, < <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/homestead-act/#documents>>

**8. Thurs 2/12 Indians Defend their Homelands**

Reading: GML Ch 16 (607-614)

PS = Chief Joseph (p. 611) Crazy Horse; Sitting Bull; Douglass at Carlisle School

**Week Five: Freedom's Boundaries, 1890-1900**

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**9. Tues 2/17 Populism and Jim Crow**

Reading: GML Ch 17 (636-654) "The Populist Challenge" and "The Segregated South"

PS = Plessy v. Ferguson; Race Riots in North Carolina; Ida B. Wells; Letter to McKinley; Lynching from the Negro View

**10. Thurs 2/19 The New Immigration; Chinese Exclusion**

Reading: GML Ch 17 (654-661) "Redrawing the Boundaries"

PS = Lynching Chinese; Chinese Exclusion Act; Massacre of Chinese at Rock Springs (image)

**Due in class: Little Paper #3 (Dime Novels/ Representations of the Other)**

**Week Six: American Imperialism**

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**11. Tues 2/24 American Imperialism and the Lure of Empire**

Reading: GML Ch 17 (661-673) "Becoming a World Power" and Chapter Review

Link: 1893 Columbian Exposition, <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma96/WCE/title.html>

**12. Thurs 2/26 Exam #1 in class**

**Week Seven: The Progressive Era, 1900-1916**

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**13. Tues 3/3 American City and its Muckrakers**

Reading: GML Ch 18 (676-700) "An Urban Age and a Consumer Society" and "Varieties of Progressivism"

PS = Jungle; Bloor; Carrie Chapman Catt; Eugene Debs; Bill Haywood

**14. Thurs 3/5 Progressive Politics**

Reading: GML Ch 18 (700-715) "The Politics of Progressivism" and "Progressive Presidents" and Chapter Review

### Week Eight: World War I and America Before 1920

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**15. Tues 3/10 Digital Project Day**

We will meet in the College Archives on the Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for class today & work on our digital archive project.

**16. Thurs 3/12 The United States and World War I, 1916-1920**

Reading: Ch 19 (718-757) "An Era of Intervention" and "America and the Great War"  
PS = Safe for Democracy; Fourteen Points; Espionage Act; Enemy Alien

**Due by Friday, 3/13: Digital Project**

### Week Nine: Spring Break, March 16-20

### Week Ten: Why the Twenties Roared

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**17. Tues 3/24 Women Get the Vote, and Other Constitution-Quakes**

Reading: Kris Kobach, "Woman Suffrage and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment,"  
< <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/nineteenthkobach.html>>

**18. Thurs 3/26 New Society & American Business; the Election of 1928**

Reading: Ch 20 (764-789) "The Business of America," "Business and Government," "The Birth of Civil Liberties" and "The Culture Wars"  
PS = Monster Mass Meeting; Consumerism; Sacco and Vanzetti

### Week Eleven: Summer in Dayton, 1925

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**19. Tues 3/31 The Scopes Trial: A Case Study, Part 1**

Reading: Moran, *Scopes Trial* – Introduction, pp. 1-49

**20. Thurs 4/2 The Scopes Trial, Part II**

Reading: Moran, *Scopes Trial*, Part Two I – trial transcripts and day-by-day analysis  
**Due in class: Research Essay**

### Week Twelve: The Culture(s) of the 1920s

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**21. Tues 4/7 Harlem Renaissance**

Reading: Document packet [pdf]

**22. Thurs 4/9 Exam #2 in class**

### Week Thirteen: American Popular Culture of the 1930's

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**23. Tues 4/12 Great Depression, 1929-1932 and First New Deal, 1932-1935**

Reading: Ch 20 (790-799) "the Great Depression" and Ch 21 (802-817) "The First New Deal" and "The Grassroots Revolt"

**Due in class: Little Paper #4 (Culture of the 1920s)**

**24. Thurs 4/14      Second New Deal, the Court Fight, and the Election of 1936**

Reading: GML CH 21 (817-841) "The Second New Deal," "A Reckoning with Liberty," "The Limits of Change" and "A New Conception of America"

PS = Voices of Freedom, pp. 822-823

**Week Fourteen: Radio Days; "A Day That Will Live in Infamy"**

**25. Tues 4/21      Radio Days**

Reading (actually, listening): RadioLab podcast (1 hour) PLUS 1 radio program from the 1930s, of your choice

**26. Thurs 4/23      Entering the War; FDR's Four Freedoms; Mobilization**

Reading: Ch 22 (844-862) "Fighting World War II" and Private Art's War, specific letters TBA  
<http://www.private-art.com/>

**Due in class: Little Paper #5 (Radio)**

**Week Fifteen: The American Homefront During World War II**

**27. Tues 4/28      Japanese Internment**

Reading: Goldstein-Shirley, "Enemies in Their Own Land" [pdf]  
Excerpts from JARDA, Japanese America Relocation Digital Archive,  
<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/jarda/>

**28. Thurs 4/30      Race in World War II: Braceros, Zoot Suit Riots, and Double-V**

Reading: Bailey and Farber, "The Double V Campaign in World War II Hawaii" [pdf]

**Week Sixteen: Postwar America**

**29. Tues 5/5      Demobilizing America**

Reading: McEnaney, "Nightmares on Elm Street: Demobilizing in Chicago, 1945-1953" [pdf]

**Due in class: Little Paper #6 (Oral History/Letters)**

**Exam #3 = Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm**

1/20/09