History 80010  
Lit. of American History, II  
Weds. at 4.15pm

This course fulfills the second half of the literature requirement. We will move chronologically and thematically from Reconstruction through the present day; the semester will conclude with a written exam graded by three U.S. historians in the department. Major themes include: the aftermath and legacy of slavery, the emergence of the United States as a global power, the rise and consolidation of the American state, backlashes to the liberal ideal, and the struggle for national inclusion: race, rights, and citizenship. We will also discuss issues of periodization and highlight recent developments in methodology related to our period.

In addition to preparing for the departmental exam, this course seeks to expose students to major historiographical developments in the study of late 19th and 20th century U.S. history, and to provide a foundation from which students can build as they teach their own U.S. introductory courses.

This is a 5-credit course, and we’ll read two books each week. It is, moreover, useful to read the relevant sections in a college-level textbook on the subject/issues/time period covered by the primary reading. Everyone needs to attend class and participate regularly.

Beyond completing the assigned general reading, each student will also read and do an in-class oral presentation on 4-5 supplementary books. Each student also needs to prepare 3-4 summaries of the review literature for the common books assigned that week. Along with an oral presentation of the major themes from the reviews, students will submit a brief (2-3pp.) written summary of the reviews. Individual assignments in each of these areas will be made after registration is complete.

The course is designated as a hybrid class.

My Contact Information:  
email: kcjohanson9@gmail.com  
cell: 207-329-8456

Schedule:  
**Week 1: Reconstruction**  

**Week 2: Late 19th Century**  
Supplementary readings:

- Morton Keller, Affairs of State: Public Life in Late Nineteenth Century America (1977)
- Sven Beckert, The Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896 (2001)

Week 3: Populism & Progressivism

- Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age (2009)

Week 4: Repression & Depression


Supplementary readings:

- Daniel Worster, The Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s (1979)
- Moshik Temkin, The Sacco-Vanzetti Affair: America on Trial (2011)

Week 5: Immigration & Citizenship

- Aristide Zolberg, A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America (2009), chapters 1, 7-11, conclusion.

Week 6: Reform & Its Limits


Supplementary readings:

- Alice Kessler Harris, In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men and the Quest for Citizenship in 20th Century America (2001), chapters 1-4

Week 7: Race, Class, & Urbanization

Week 8: Resisting the Straight Male State

Supplementary readings:
- Sasha Issenberg, *The Engagement* (2021)

Week 9: Civil Rights and Black Liberation Struggles
- Christopher Schmidt, *The Sit-Ins: Protest and Legal Change in the Civil Rights Era* (2018)

Week 10: United States & The World in the Cold War

Supplementary readings:

Week 11: The 1970s

Week 12: Conservatism

Supplementary readings:

**Week 13: History & Memory**

**Week 14: Review**