This course focuses on some of the key developments in the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the late twentieth century. It is designed to help you prepare for the written comprehensive exam in late May. It is also intended to help you prepare your own post-1865 syllabus when the time comes to do so. You will be expected to do a considerable amount of reading during the semester. Thorough preparation and informed participation on a weekly basis are essential.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with some of the key developments in the history of the United States from 1865 to the late twentieth century, including but not limited to the expanding role of government in American life; the centrality of race (black-white relations, in particular) in American history; and the changing role of the United States on the world stage (with special attention paid to the way world affairs have informed U.S. domestic life). To that end, we will read both classic and newer texts, and consider some of the key historiographical debates of the last several decades. We will also encounter and reflect on some of the more important approaches in historical writing that have emerged in recent years, in particular, the move to globalize the study of U.S. history.

**Reading Assignments**
For each class, everyone will be expected to read two books. In addition, there will usually be one or more supplemental readings “on the table” for discussion. These additional texts will be assigned for student presentations to be given during the semester; those responsible for the various supplemental readings will give a short oral presentation (15-20 mins.) on the text. Thus, each week, we will discuss at least two books—and typically more than that. To be sure, this represents a considerable amount of reading, but one of the professional tasks you will need to master is the ability to make your way through a large amount of reading with care and efficiency.

**Writing Assignments**
Each week, you will be required to submit a response paper (no longer than 3 pages, double-spaced). The response—which should be carefully composed—should not summarize the book. Instead, it should identify the central point(s) of each text and explain the historical problem each reading addresses and why it matters. It should include 2-3 questions that flow from the readings, which you think would stimulate classroom discussion. Please email me a copy of the
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response paper by 12 noon each Wednesday. You should also bring a copy to class, to which you can refer during the discussion.

Grading
Your course grade will be based upon the quality of your response papers, presentations, and contribution to the weekly discussion.

Note: An * indicates a common (required) reading. The symbol + indicates supplemental readings for student presentations. These will be assigned at the first class.

January 31  Introduction: (Re)Writing American History  [Note: no response paper due]
*Ellen Fitzpatrick, History’s Memory: Writing America’s Past, 1880-1980
*Thomas Bender, “Historians, the Nation, and the Plenitude of Narratives,” in Rethinking American History in a Global Age, Thomas Bender, ed.
*Akira Iriye, “Internationalizing International History,” in Ibid.

February 7  Reconstruction
*Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction
*Laura Edwards, Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction
+William A. Dunning, Reconstruction, Political and Economic, 1865-1877
+Kenneth Stampp, The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877

February 14  Industrialization and Incorporation
*Alfred Chandler, The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in America
*Richard White, Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America
+S.J. Kleinberg, The Shadow of the Mills: Working-Class Families in Pittsburgh

February 21  An Era of Reform
*Michael McGerr, A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America
+Richard Hofstadter, The Age of Reform: From Bryan to FDR
+Jackson Lears, Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920 (skip foreign policy sections)
+Robert Wiebe, The Search for Order, 1877-1920
February 28  America and the World
*Ernest May, American Imperialism: A Speculative Essay
*Kristin Hoganson, Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars
+William Appleman Williams, The Tragedy of American Diplomacy, intro-ch. 1
+Kristin Hoganson, Consumers’ Imperium: the Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920

March 7  World War I
*Alan Dawley, Changing the World: American Progressives in War and Revolution
*Thomas Knock, To End All Wars: Woodrow Wilson and the Quest for a New World Order
+Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age, ch. 7.
+Christopher Capozzola, Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen

March 14  Politics and Culture between the Wars
*David Levering Lewis, When Harlem was in Vogue
+Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings, chs. 8-9.

March 21  The New Deal
+Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings, chs. 10-11
+Alan Brinkley, The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War, intro-ch. 7.

March 28  World War II
+Brinkley, End of Reform, ch. 8-epilogue

April 4 – No class: vacation

April 11 – No class: Friday schedule
April 18  The Cold War: The Origins Debate—and Beyond
*Williams, *Tragedy*, chs. 5-conclusion
*Frank Costigliola, *Roosevelt’s Lost Alliances: How Personal Politics Helped Start the Cold War, in toto.*
+Michael Krenn, *Fall-Out Shelters for the Human Spirit: American Art and the Cold War*

April 25  The African-American Freedom Struggle
*Charles Payne, *I’ve Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*
*Michael Klarman, *From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality*

May 2  Race Relations: The Global Context
*Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*
*Penny von Eschen, *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War*

May 9  American Politics: Theory and Practice
*Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the American Right*

May 16  Reflecting on the Twentieth Century
*Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*
*Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*
+Dudziak, *War-time*

May 22 — Ph.D. Comp Exam