

Chicago and the World HIST 199 – Spring 2020

Instructor: Michał J. Wilczewski, PhD

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Office Hours: University Hall 916, Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12pm or by appt.

Class Time: MWF, 1:00pm-1:50p.m., BSB 187

Course Description

This course is designed to integrate students into academic life in the United States, and more specifically into life at UIC, through a broad introduction to the study of the liberal arts and humanities from a historical perspective. The course is composed of five units, or subject areas, covering: General U.S. History; The History of Chicago; The History of American Capitalism; Race, Gender, and Class in the U.S.; and American Popular Culture. These units are designed to introduce students to basic knowledge and concepts of American history and to help students understand important dynamics of American society and culture. I expect students to finish the course with both a broad understanding of the basic history of the U.S. and Chicago as well as a foundation for further study in the liberal arts and humanities.

Required Texts and Readings

Kevin Schultz, *HIST5*, 5th edition (Cengage, 2017)

This book is available at the UIC Bookstore.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard (uic.blackboard.com) on a weekly basis. I will indicate on Blackboard what readings are to be done for each day. If no reading is posted for a particular day then there are no readings for that day. Detailed instructions on how to access to Blackboard will be given on the first day of class. I may also occasionally hand out readings in class.

Unit Descriptions

Unit One: General U.S. History

This unit will focus on a number of important historical eras and events, beginning with colonization of the Americas and ending with recent U.S. history. This will give students a basic understanding of important historical periods, events, and themes of American history.

Unit Two: The History of Chicago

This unit will focus on the history of Chicago, beginning with its roots in the early nineteenth-century and ending with Chicago's emergence as a modern metropolis. It will cover topics including but not limited to Chicago's role as an agricultural and industrial center, urban politics, and segregation.

Unit Three: Capitalism in the U.S.

This unit will focus on the role played by capitalism in the history of the U.S., beginning with the colonial roots of the American economy and ending with the emergence of the information age of the 21st century. It will cover topics including but not limited to industrialization, labor history, changes in work, and consumer culture.

Unit Four: Class, Race, and Gender

This unit will focus on introducing students to three categories of analysis in the humanities and social sciences and the role played by each in American society. It will cover topics including but not limited to racial difference and racism, gender difference and feminism, and class divisions, all in the American context.

Unit Five: American Culture

This unit will focus on the powerful influence of various elements of culture in America, including "high culture" (literature, painting) and popular culture (music, sports, film, and theater). It will cover topics including but not limited to American sports, popular music, and Internet culture.

Grading Breakdown

Attendance and Participation	10%
In-Class Presentation	5%--End of Semester
Fieldtrip Assignment	10%--Due March 13, 2020
Weekly Written Work	15%--See course schedule for due dates
Paper Outline	5%--Due February 28, 2020
Paper 1st Draft	10%--Due April 10, 2020
Paper Final Draft	15%-- Due May 1, 2020
Midterm Exam	15%-- March 9, 2020
Final Exam	15%-- May 4, 2020

Attendance/Participation

Attendance is mandatory and I will take attendance for every class meeting. You will be allowed two unexcused absences during the semester – any further unexcused absences will result in penalties to your attendance/participation grade. Participation in classroom activities is an important element of university education in the U.S. and we will work on developing your skills in participation over the course of the semester.

Some tips for successful class participation:

1. Always bring necessary texts and assigned readings to class.
2. Take notes on the assigned readings. Try to pick out the main ideas, arguments, and themes of the material. Make a special note of material you find confusing or material that you find especially thought-provoking. Be sure to mark such passages for easy reference.
3. Participate in class discussions. This would include questions, short comments, extended opinions, and everything in between. You should feel comfortable engaging with the material from any angle.
4. Participation should be respectful and thoughtful. Every student is entitled to their viewpoint and should be able to express it.

In addition to your voluntary participation in class discussions during the semester I will also require each student to deliver a brief presentation on an important American historical figure selected from a list that I will give you during the first week of the semester. I will also give each student a handout explaining the assignment in further detail.

Written Work

Periodically throughout the semester, students will write a short response to a question about material covered during the previous week. I will post the questions on Blackboard every Wednesday and the typed response will be due the next day during class. Written responses will not need to be more than a page in length but will need to answer any question completely.

Paper

Over the course of the semester I will guide students in writing a paper using historical evidence on the general theme of “The American Experience.” I will select documents that students will read and cite from to write a paper of 3 to 4 pages in length. Students will present evidence of work done (outlines, rough drafts) at various points during the semester as outlined in the course schedule. The paper will be due at the end of the semester. I will also give each student a handout explaining the assignment in more detail early in the semester.

Midterm/Final

Students will take two in-class closed book exams during the semester, one at the midpoint of the semester and one during finals week. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course and the final will cover material from the second half of the course. Both exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. I will also provide students with a study guide for each exam.

Late Work/Makeup Exam Policy

Late work is decreased by a letter grade for each day that it is late. Extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances. No make-up exams will be granted without a valid excuse. Make-up exams must be scheduled well ahead of time except in extraordinary cases.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the conscious use of the work or ideas of others without attribution. Submitting written work created by someone else, paying for the work of someone else, or using the words or ideas of another without citation, constitutes an act of plagiarism in the context of this course. I expect all the written work in this class, including the weekly responses and the final paper, to be the work of each student alone. In cases of identified plagiarism, the student will receive a grade of F for the assignment. Further action may also be pursued in accordance with UIC's policy on academic integrity.

Accommodations

Concerning disabled students, the University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that individuals with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation in UIC Programs must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact DRC at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TDD).

Classroom Policies

The use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets) during class is permitted only for classwork, such as taking notes or accessing online readings. Cell phones will be put away for the duration of the class unless necessary for an emergency.

Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change if I deem it necessary. Students are responsible for changes announced in class.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignment
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Week 1	Jan 13	Introduction to Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read syllabus
	Jan 15	Introduction to Chicago	
	Jan 17	Introduction to History	
Week 2	Jan 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day No Class	
	Jan 22	Unit One: Colonial Roots of American Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 22-43; reading on Blackboard
	Jan 24	Asking Historical Questions/ Analyzing Primary Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
Week 3	Jan 27	Unit One: The American Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 86-123 • Reading on Blackboard
	Jan 29	Unit One: The Constitution - Foundations of American Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 124-141, • Reading on Blackboard
	Jan 31	Unit One: Jacksonian America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 196-211 • Reading on Blackboard • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1: What were the causes of the American Revolution?
Week 4	Feb 3	Unit One: Slavery and the Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 248-289 • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 5	Unit One: The Progressive Era	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 356-371 • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 7	Unit One: The Great Depression and World War II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 414-459 • Reading on Blackboard • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2: What role did

			slavery play in the outbreak of the Civil War?
Week 5	Feb 10	Unit One: The Cold War and America's Place in the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 460-469 • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 12	Unit One: Mid-20 th Century Rights Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 476-509, • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 14	Unit One: Modern American Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 558-575 • Reading on Blackboard
Week 6	Feb 17	Writing an Outline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #3: In what ways did African Americans continue to face discrimination in the United States despite the abolition of slavery in the 1860s?
	Feb 19	Unit Two: Chicago - Nature's Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 21	Unit Two: Chicago - Late 19 th Century Immigration and Industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
Week 7	Feb 24	Unit Two: Chicago - Urban Progressivism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 26	Unit Two: Chicago - Prohibition and the Great Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Feb 28	Documentary about Al Capone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard • OUTLINE DUE
Week 8	Mar 2	Unit Two: Chicago - Segregation and the Urban Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard

	Mar 4	Unit Two: Chicago - Chicago as a Modern Metropolis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Mar 6	MIDTERM REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STUDY!!!
Week 9	Mar 9	MIDTERM EXAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STUDY!!!
	Mar 11	Unit Three: Colonial Roots of American Capitalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 62-85 • Reading on Blackboard
	Mar 13	Unit Three: Late 19 th Century Industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 308-329 • Reading on Blackboard • Due: Field Trip Assignment
Week 10	Mar 16	Documentary about Industrialization	
	Mar 18	Unit Three: A 20 th Century Consumer Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schultz, p. 394-399, 471-475 • Reading on Blackboard • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #4: What were the negative effects of industrialization in the 19th century and how did the Progressive Era try to address them?
	Mar 20	NO CLASS	
		Spring Break March 23-27 No Class!	
Week 11	Mar 30	Unit Four: Roots of Race in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 1	Documentary about Slavery and Race in America	
	Apr 3	Unit Four: Modern Racial Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
Week 12	Apr 6	Unit Four: Gender and Patriarchy in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #5: What does it mean to say that race is socially and historically constructed? How have perceptions of race changed over time?
	Apr 8	Unit Four: Feminism and Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 10	Unit Four: Class Structures in America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard • First Draft Due
Week 13	Apr 13	Unit Four: History of the American Labor Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard • DUE: WRITING ASSIGNMENT #6: What does it mean to say that gender is socially and historically constructed? How have perceptions of race changed over time?
	Apr 15	Unit Five: American Art and Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 17	Unit Five: American Film and Television	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
Week 14	Apr 20	Unit Five: American Popular Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 22	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 24	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
Week 15	Apr 27	Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading on Blackboard
	Apr 29	Final Exam Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study!!!

	May 1	No Class	• Final Paper Due!!!
Week 16	May 4	FINAL EXAM 1:00-3:00	• STUDY!!!