

**History 104:
American Civilization Since the Late Nineteenth Century
Fall 2020**

Prof. Kevin M. Schultz

Lectures: online, asynchronous, anytime

Discussion Sections: Fridays, synchronous as per the instructions of your TA
office: 901 UH

zoom office hours: Thursdays 10-11 (link found on Blackboard)

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Course Description

Someone, somewhere, probably a frustrated student, complained, “History is just one damn thing after another.” Unfortunately, many history courses are taught in such a way that one can easily reach this conclusion.

In this class, however, you will not be memorizing a series of facts and regurgitating them for an exam (although there is a bit of that). Instead, we will focus on why specific events took on larger significance over time (i.e. the big *so what?* question). We will be trying to **make sense** of what has occurred and determine how, in James Baldwin’s words, history creates our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations. After all, the study of American history is more than a passive absorption of facts, dates, and names. This course — the survey of American history since the conclusion of the Civil War — focuses on the human consequences of the politics, policies, ideologies, social movements, economic calibrations, and wars (declared and undeclared) that comprise our history. It’s a broad overview of the whole enchilada. No matter where we trace our ancestry, the fact that you are in this class means you live in the world they created. I’m fully convinced it is better to know about it than not.

Learning objectives

Our learning goals are the following: to learn about important events in American and world history since 1865; to draw connections between events from the past and today; to analyze how past events have shaped modern America; to discover how past events emerged and developed in the context of their time; to understand the relationship between the individual and society; to recognize the various forces that shape a society as it develops; to synthesize

primary and secondary sources in order to develop one's own understanding of history; to learn how to make sense of secondary sources (the textbook) and of primary sources (material created during the period in question).

To justify the study of history to your parents or your boss: you will be able to take huge amounts of data and make sense of them; you will write better; you'll be able to make historically informed decisions; and you'll know that everything has a past, and no one can fully understand how to make something better unless one understands how it came to be.

How this class works

Because this class is entirely online, Blackboard is our classroom. But there is a firm structure that you will need to follow. It is this:

Saturdays-Thursdays: learn the content of the course via:

- (1) the online lectures/podcasts;
- (2) the textbook;
- (3) the short online quizzes that are **due each Thursday at 11:59 p.m.**;
- (4) the primary-source experiences (watching a video or reading a primary source document or two).

Fridays: meet virtually at a specific time with your TAs (and sometimes me) in a small group to discuss what you've learned the rest of the week. TAs may vary in how they manage their discussion sections, so be on the lookout for instructions from your TA.

Three times during the semester there will be short-essay exams. These will become available to you on Blackboard at 9am of the exam day and will be due at 11:59 p.m. on that same day.

Where Your Grades Will Come From

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 25%

Exam 3: 30%

Online quizzes: 10%

Class participation: 15%

Exams (75% of your grade) -- I have divided the course into three sections: (1) the Industrial Age, from 1865 to about 1917; (2) the birth of Modern America, from about 1917 to about 1960; and (3) Our Times, from the 1960s to today. At the conclusion of each section, you will be given a test (of varying significance—to allow you to get better over time). Tests will consist of material from lectures, the textbook, and primary-source readings. They will consist of ID-type responses and essay questions. Further instructions will be presenting during the course of the class.

Online quizzes (10% of your grade) -- All are found on Blackboard under the tab "quizzes." They are due on the Thursday of the assigned week, by 11:59 p.m. The point is to have your work done before your Friday discussion sections. Late work will be docked one letter grade for each day it is late. If you have outstanding circumstances, please be in touch with myself or your TA.

Class participation (15% of your grade) -- You are responsible for being an **active participant** in online discussions every Friday. There will be roughly 15 meetings, so think of each one as a way to get one point toward your final grade. If you don't show up, that will hurt your grade. If you show up but don't participate, that will hurt your grade. Please be an **active participant**. In addition, I count **active engagement** as well. What that means is if you are engaged in class in other ways, and send me and your TA notes, and drop in to office hours, this kind of engagement will also help your class participation score.

Online course

This is an online course and therefore there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies. This course therefore requires that you have access to a computer that can access the internet. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and internet connection throughout the course. There is a lot of flexibility as to *when* you have access to a computer and the internet Monday-Thursday, but Friday sections are a mandatory part of the course and we expect you to be present then.

A note about the lectures

One note about the lectures/podcasts: they are lectures I delivered to an in-person course in spring 2019 (the lecture capture system has, uh, been interrupted every time I've taught since then!). Therefore, there will be some conversation at the beginning of each lecture, as well as discussions about various assignments. Ignore these discussions. They are not related to our class. Listen to the lectures for historical content and bad jokes, not bureaucratic instructions.

Office hours

I am available all the time on email and promise to respond within 24 hours to all course-related questions. Also, I will hold virtual office hours every Thursday from 10-11 am for the duration of the course. I may add more, at your request.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the conscious use of the work or ideas of others without attribution. Submitting written work created by someone else or using the words or ideas of another person without citation, constitutes an act of plagiarism. In cases of 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

The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact DRC at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413- 0123 (TDD).

The textbook

Kevin M. Schultz, *HIST5: Volume 2, fifth edition.*

To get to the book, check the link on the Blackboard menu to the left.

A note: because so much of your life will be online this fall, I'd strongly encourage you to get the hardcopy of the book. Read it for real. Underline it, turn pages, etc. This is not a requirement—you can simply get the eBook and go from there. But many studies have shown that reading a physical book helps with retention and with learning in general. Either way, you will have to read the textbook and take short quizzes based on material from it.

Weekly Assignments

PART I: THE INDUSTRIAL AGE, 1865-1918

Week 1 (8/24-8/27)

1.1 Reconstruction

Homework due 8/27 at 11:59 pm:

Listen to Lecture 1

Read Chapter 16

Take Chapter 16 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Analyze [the South Carolina Reconstruction legislature](#)

Read [Johnson's "amnesty proclamation"](#)

Watch [a video about black codes](#)

Week 2 (8/31-9/3)

1.2 The Industrial Revolution: Creating Monopolies, Creating Urban America

Homework due 9/3 at 11:59 pm:

Listen to Lecture 2 podcast

Read Chapter 17

Take Chapter 17 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Watch [a short video about Andrew Carnegie](#)

Read about [Thomas Edison's six key inventions](#)

Watch [a speech by Jacob Riis about wealth inequality](#)

- Sept. 4: Last day to add/drop without receiving a "W" (Withdrawn) grade

Week 3 (9/7-9/10)

1.3 The Industrial Revolution in the North, West, South

Homework due 9/10 at 11:59 pm:

Listen to Lectures 3 AND 4 podcasts

Read Chapter 18

Take Chapter 18 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Watch a video about [reversing the Chicago River](#)

Watch [a 2009 reenactment of the Ghost Dance](#)

Watch a video about [Chicago's Ida B. Wells](#)

Week 4 (9/14-9/17)

1.4 Reactions 1 and 2: Workers and Farmers

Homework: Listen to Lectures 5 AND 6 podcasts
Re-Read Chapters 17.4 AND 18.4
Take Week 4 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
Read the Populist's [Omaha Platform of 1892](#)
Watch a weird video [about the Pullman Strike](#)
Read a [broadside from the Haymarket Affair](#)

Week 5 (9/21-9/17)

1.5 Reaction 3: Progressives

Homework: Listen to Lecture 7 podcast
Read Chapter 19
Take Chapter 19 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
Learn about UIC's most famous "resident" [Jane Addams](#)
Read an [excerpt from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*](#)
Listen to [Margaret Sanger's "Morality of Birth Control"](#) (you can also read the transcript from the link as you listen)

Week 6 (9/28-10/1)

1.6 Progressivism Abroad: The Empire Strikes First

Homework: Listen to Lecture 8 podcast
Read Chapter 20-1 - 20-4
Take Chapter 20 quiz
Read [Rudyard Kipling's poem, "White Man's Burden"](#)
Learn [5 things about the last queen of Hawai'i](#)

Thursday, October 1: optional study session with Prof. Schultz

No section meetings on Friday, October 2

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2: PART I EXAM: 9am drop time, exam due 11:59pm

PART 2: THE MAKING OF MODERN AMERICA, 1918-1963

Week 7 (10/5-10/8)

2.1 Bull Moose America and World War I

Homework: Listen to Lectures 9 AND 10 podcasts
Read Chapter 20-5
Take Chapter 20-5 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
Get a [snippet of American Victorianism](#)
Read the [Zimmerman Telegram \(and background info\)](#)
Look at (and read about) [American propaganda posters](#)
Read at (and read about) [the Espionage Act of 1917](#)

Learn [10 Myths about the 1918 “Spanish Flu”](#)
See how [Oak Park, Illinois handled the pandemic](#)

Week 8 (10/12-10/15)

2.2 The Tribal Twenties

Homework: Listen to Lecture 11 podcast
Read Chapter 21
Take Chapter 21 quiz
Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
Read [the 19th Amendment \(and the “document info”\)](#)
Read [a piece on the second, popular KKK](#)
Watch a [short piece on the second KKK](#)
See [images of illicit “speakeasies”](#)
Read [a successful speech advocated immigration restrictions](#)

Week 9 (10/19-10/22)

2.3 The Great Depression and New Deal

Homework: Listen to Lectures 12 AND 13 podcasts
Read Chapter 22
Take Chapter 22 quiz
Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
See [the Great Depression through photos](#)
Listen to [FDR’s inaugural address](#)
Listen to [FDR’s first “Fireside Chat”](#)
Pick [a Coit Tower Mural and be prepared to explain it](#)

Week 10 (10/26-10/29)

2.4 World War II, Home and Abroad

Homework: Listen to Lectures 14 AND 15 podcasts
Read Chapter 23
Take Chapter 23 quiz
Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:
Read about [the March on Washington Movement](#)
Look at (and read about) [the Four Freedoms](#)
Watch a [video about women’s role in World War II](#)
Watch [a newsreel about D-Day](#)
Watch a [video about the atomic bomb](#)

Week 11 (11/2-11/5)

2.5 The Cold War, Home and Abroad

Homework: Listen to Lectures 16 AND 17 podcasts
Read Chapter 24 AND the UN Declaration of Human Rights
Take Chapter 24 quiz
Watch and read [the UN Declaration of Human Rights](#)
Read [the “massive retaliation” speech](#)
Watch [a video at how scared everyone was at McCarthyism](#)
Watch [the “Kitchen Debate” about women in the Cold War](#)

- Nov. 6: Last day to drop for a “W” (Withdrawn) grade

Thursday, November 5: optional study session with Prof. Schultz

No section meetings on Friday, November 6

NOVEMBER 6: PART 2 EXAM: 9am drop time, exam due 11:59pm

PART 3: OUR AMERICA, 1963-TODAY

Week 12 (11/9-11/12)

3.1 The “Sixties” and Civil Rights

Homework: Listen to Lectures 18 AND 19 podcasts
Read Chapter 25
Take Chapter 25 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Learn about [redlining and “white flight” in America](#)

Take the [1964 Louisiana Literacy Test](#)

Read [James Baldwin’s letter to his nephew](#)

Watch [Malcolm X speak about police brutality](#)

Week 13 (11/16-11/19)

3.2 The “Seventies” and Vietnam

Homework: Listen to Lectures 20 AND 21 podcasts
Read Chapter 26
Take Chapter 26 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Learn about [the anti-Vietnam War protests](#)

Watch [Jimi Hendrix play the National Anthem at Woodstock](#)

Watch [Phyllis Schlafley debate Betty Friedan about the ERA](#)

Watch [the trailer for “Taxi Driver” \(about 1970s America\)](#)

Week 14 (11/23-11/25)

3.3 Identity Politics and Reagan’s America

Homework: Listen to Lectures 22 AND 23 podcasts
Read Chapter 27
Take Chapter 27 quiz

Watch [Springsteen’s “Born in the USA” video \(the words!\)](#)

Watch [Reagan’s “Morning in America” 1984 campaign ad](#)

Watch [NWA’s “Fuck the Police” video](#)

Watch a [news report about the fall of the Berlin Wall](#)

Watch [a video about Reaganomics](#)

View [at least three posters on the AIDS crisis](#)

NO FRIDAY SECTIONS – THANKSGIVING!

Week 15 (11/30-12/3)

3.4 Your America

Homework: Listen to Lectures 24 and 25 podcasts
Read Chapters 28 and 29
Take Chapter 28 and 29 quiz

Go to your Friday section prepared to talk about all the above AND:

Watch a [video about how Osama bin Laden got radicalized](#)

Look at [6 Facts About Income Inequality from Gallup Poll](#)
Watch [Childish Gambino's "This is America" video](#)
Watch/read ["What Does it Mean to be an American in 2020"](#)
Contribute to [UIC's coronavirus archive](#)

FINAL EXAM: TBA Sometime the week of Dec. 7-11, 9am drop time, due 11:59pm

Grades available via my.uic.edu on December 21