Glendale Community College  
History 104: The United States (1870-)  
Spring 2005  

Course Syllabus

Professor: Lawrence D. Bell  
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Office Hours: M: 12:50-1:30 and by appointment  
Course Section: 2663

Course Description and Objectives

History 104 is an introductory survey of recent U.S. history from the end of the Civil War to the present time that assumes no previous college-level study of history. The course is organized around the broader political, economic, and social themes affecting American society, including industrialization, immigration, urbanization, the rise of a mass consumer society, and the ongoing struggle for social and racial equality. In addition, the course will examine the evolution of American government, foreign policy, and the relationship between the United States and the wider world. The objective of History 104 is to convey a basic factual knowledge of American society during this period and to provide students with an interpretive framework for thinking critically about the past understanding the historical changes that took place.

The class meets MWF at 12:00 pm in Room CL 11. Classes include both lectures and student-based discussion activities.

Textbooks and Readings


Both books are required for this class and are available through the GCC Campus bookstore. They can also be ordered online through Amazon.com.

Course Requirements:

I. **Attendance and Participation (15%):** Class activities are divided between lectures and discussion days. Attendance at both lectures and discussions is mandatory. The attendance portion of this grade is calculated on the number of recorded days present. Each student is allowed two unexcused absences. The participation score is based on the student’s active participation in class activities and discussions. In addition, this portion of the grade will reflect any in-class quizzes that are given.

II. **Critical Book Review (20%):** Each student will be asked to write a critical review of three to five pages (double spaced – typed) on the Philip Caputo book. The review will be worth 20% of the course grade. Complete details concerning the assignment are appended to the syllabus. It is due in class on May 2, 2005. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each class day late up to December 6. Students who fail to hand in a paper by that date will receive a zero for the assignment.

III. **Student Response Papers (10%):** Students will write a series of four short 1-2 page essays in response to assigned discussion readings from the supplemental packet. Specific instructions for each assignment are appended to the syllabus. Each essay is worth 2% of the total grade. These
essays are due in class on the day of the discussion and will be used as the basis for that day’s activities. As a result, no late Response Essays will be accepted without a verifiable excuse.

IV. Midterm Exams (30%): There will be two midterm examinations worth 15% each of the final grade. They will be held on February 16 and March 30, 2005. Both midterms will be composed of a short objective section and a longer essay section. A study sheet will be distributed prior to the exam with sample essay questions; one or more of the questions from the study sheet will appear on the exam. There will also be an in-class review session prior to each test.

V. Final Examination (25%): The final examination time is listed in the Spring 2005 class schedule and cannot be altered or changed. It will take place on Monday, May 9, at 12:00pm in the regularly scheduled classroom. Any students who are unable to appear on the examination date must present a written excuse and receive clearance from the course instructor prior to the examination date. Without such clearance, a student cannot expect to take a make-up examination. Times for make up exams must be arranged in consultation with the instructor.

VI. Please note that students are required to complete each assignment before arriving in class for that day. In the case of discussion sections, they should not only read the material but come prepared to discuss it, with both comments and questions. Students who miss a lecture are responsible for obtaining their own notes for that class.

Schedule of Assignments and Topics

Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Holiday! No Class!
19: Course Introduction
21: Reconstruction. Divine, Ch. 16

24: Western Expansion. Divine, Ch. 17
26: Discussion: The Dawes Act
28: Industrialization. Divine, Ch. 18

31: The Rise of Organized Labor

Feb: 2: Discussion: Andrew Carnegie and Mother Jones. Response Paper #1 Due!
4: Immigration. Divine, Ch. 19

7: The Rise of the Modern City. Divine, Ch. 22
9: Discussion: Immigration Restrictions. FILM: The Statue of Liberty
11: Populism and Progressivism. Divine, Ch. 20 & 23

14: Review for Midterm
16: Midterm Exam 1
18: Foreign Policy in the Age of Imperialism. Divine, Ch. 21

21: Foreign Policy in the Age of Imperialism
23: The First World War. Divine, Ch. 24

28: The 1920’s. Divine, Ch. 25

Mar. 2: The African-American Experience, 1877-1940

7: The Great Depression. Divine, Ch. 26
9: FDR and the New Deal
11: FDR and the New Deal
MAR 14-20: SPRING BREAK!!! NO CLASSES!!!

21: The Road to World War Two. Divine, Ch. 27  
23: The Second World War.  
25: The Second World War

28: Review for Midterm Exam  
30: Midterm Exam 2

Apr. 1: The Cold War. Divine, Ch. 28

4: The 1950’s. Divine, Ch. 29  
6: Discussion: George F. Kennan and Ronald Reagan  
8: GUEST SPEAKER: The Origins of Rock & Roll

11: The Civil Rights Movement  
13: The Civil Rights Movement  
15: Discussion: Betty Friedan, NOW. Response Paper #4 Due!

18: The Great Society. Divine, Ch 30  
20: The Vietnam War  
22: The Vietnam War. Divine, Ch. 31

25: FILM: LBJ Goes to War  
27: FILM: LBJ Goes to War. Discussion of Caputo Paper  
29: Discussion: Caputo Book. (MUST READ ENTIRE BOOK)

May 2: The End of the Cold War. Divine, Ch. 32. Caputo Papers Due!

4: Recent Trends in U.S. History. Divine, Ch. 33  
6: Review for Final Exam

May 9: FINAL EXAM. 12:00 in Room CL 11!!!

Additional Announcements

I. Please note that the provisions of this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group. Announcement in class of any changes shall constitute adequate notification to all class enrollees whether present or not. It is the student's responsibility to remain informed about all class matters.

II. The instructor is happy to make any reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please see me personally during office hours to discuss any accommodations you may need.

III. Any taping or recording of lectures is not permitted without prior approval from the instructor.

Instructions for Caputo Review

As outlined in the schedule of assignments, you will be required to write a 3-5 page book review of Philip Caputo’s *A Rumor of War*. The review is due in class on Monday, May 2.

This book is an autobiographical account of Caputo’s experiences during the Vietnam War. Just as with any good book review, your paper should provide a summary and critique of the book, as well as your overall conclusions about it. It should be well organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Below are a list of questions to help guide your thinking about the book. However, your paper need not
read like a point-by-point answer to them. Rather, you should feel free to include any additional themes or observations as you see fit.

1. Who is Philip Caputo?
2. Why does he join the U.S. Marines in 1960?
3. What is his attitude about the war when he first arrives in Vietnam?
4. How does this change by the time his enlistment is up a year later?
5. What are some of the most significant experiences he discusses in the book? Were there any that were particularly meaningful or relevant for you?
6. How does Caputo represent the Americans who served in Vietnam?
7. How does he depict the Vietnamese?
8. What are Caputo’s duties as “The Officer in Charge of the Dead?” What does this section tell us about U.S. strategy during the war?
9. What is Caputo’s role in the death of Le Dung? How does this incident relate to the rest of the book?
10. Why does Philip Caputo write this book? What does he say about his goals specifically?
11. What sources does he use to write this book?
12. How is it written? Is this a first-person account or an objective narrative history?
13. Does this enhance or detract from its value as a historical source?
14. Do you think the information Caputo provides in the book is entirely accurate?
15. Does Caputo succeed in recreating the experience of Vietnam?
16. How does this book compare to other sources of information (books, movies, family members, etc.) you have been exposed to regarding the war?
17. Would you recommend this book to others?

Late Papers (Caputo Assignment):

Late papers will be penalized 10% for each class day late up to a total of 20%. Papers not received in class by Friday, May 6 will receive a zero. No papers of any kind will be accepted after Friday, May 6, 2005.

Student Response Papers

Student in History 104 will write four 1-2 critical essays in response to the following questions. Be sure to include direct examples from the assigned readings to support your answer. Please remember these essays are due in class on the day of the discussion. No late Response Papers will be accepted without a verifiable excuse.

Essay 1: Due February 2
Read Andrew Carnegie’s statement on “The Gospel of Wealth.” Then read Mother Jones, “The March of the Mill Children.” After reading both essays, do you agree with Carnegie’s central arguments about wealth and philanthropy, that the wealthy can serve as trustees for the poor?

Essay 2: Due February 25
Please read the arguments by Albert Beveridge and William Graham Sumner both for and against annexing the Philippines. Which author do you agree with most and why?

Essay 3: Due March 4
Please read the statements on segregation and Civil Rights by Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois. Which argument would you have supported if you were an African-American living in the South in 1910.

Essay 4: Due April 15
After reading Betty Friedan, “The Problem That Has No Name” and the “Statement of Purpose” by the National Organization for Women, would you consider yourself a feminist. Why or why not?