THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1877

Purposes of Course:
The purpose of the course is to acquaint students with US history from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 to the 21st century, time permitting. The course follows discrete themes, breaking into five thematic sections arranged chronologically: the search for order in an age of transformation; the rise of the Regulatory State; the rise of Semi-Welfare State; the rise of the National Security State; and the triumph of conservatism. In the first third of the semester, we will focus on American society and politics and the economy at the grassroots. During the last two-thirds of the semester we will examine the most important development of the 20th and 21st centuries—the growth of federal power and authority at home and abroad.

Notes:
1. There will be two one-hour examinations, each worth 25 percent of your semester grade, and one final examination, worth 45 percent of your semester grade. The examinations will be largely essay in format with a short objective section. The final exam may be given added weight in determining your course grade should you show steady improvement. Pluses and minuses will not be used for final grades.
2. The date of the hour exams are subject to change depending on the amount of material we cover in each lecture. Any changes will be announced in advance.
3. No make-up examinations will be given. You may be excused from one of the hour examinations only if you have a certified medical excuse or an official university obligation.
4. There will be one short paper (1000 words) based on *The Manhattan Project* (see reading list). It is worth 30 percent of your final examination grade. It will be due in class at the last class meeting.
5. No audio or video recorders are permitted in class.
6. All cell phones and Wi-Fi connections must be turned off in class.
7. You will be assigned a Teaching Assistant who will be responsible for grading your examinations and for helping you with any problems related to the course (see below for TA offices and office hours).
8. For those students with learning and other special needs, please contact Services For Students with Disabilities at <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/index.php> for assistance.
9. While the reading assignments are fixed and followed carefully, the list of lectures may change depending on the amount of material covered in each lecture.
10. This course will have a Supplemental Teaching Assistant who will run voluntary discussion sections. The room and meeting times will be announced in class.
11. Academic dishonesty is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with according to the rules of the university. For a careful explanation, see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.
12. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken for every session beginning 10 minutes before class. Attendance will form 5 percent of the final grade. Entering class after the bell will be counted as ½ attendance for that session. If you are late, please sit in the back of the room and alert the Teaching Assistant to your presence after class. At random, three times during the semester attendance will also be taken at the end of class to avoid signing in and leaving.

Required Reading (please make sure to obtain the correct edition because reading assignments are geared to the editions listed here):
James W. Davidson et al., *U*S*A Narrative History* (2nd ed.), Vol. II
Richard Wright, *Black Boy*
Michael B. Stoff et al., eds., *The Manhattan Project: A Documentary Introduction to the Atomic Age*

Lectures and Reading Assignments:

I. A SEARCH FOR ORDER IN THE AGE OF TRANSFORMATION, 1877-1900
25 Aug.: Introduction: Why Study History?
READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 19; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, Introduction, Prologue, chap. 8.
30 Aug.: A New Industrial Order
1 Sep.: The Rise of Big Business
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 20; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chap. 9.
6 Sep.: The Rise of the Industrial City
8 Sep.: New Immigration and Old: A Comparative Look
   READING: Riordon, Plunkitt, pp. 1-102.
13 Sep.: Urban Bosses and Political Machines
15 Sep.: The Failure of Organized Labor
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 21; Riordon, Plunkitt, pp. 103-134.
20 Sep.: The Revolt of the Farmers
22 Sep.: The Seedtime of Progressivism
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 22.
27 Sep.: HOUR EXAMINATION
II. THE EMERGENCE OF THE REGULATORY STATE, 1900-1932
29 Sep.: The New American Empire
   READING: Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chap. 10; Wright, Black Boy, chaps. 1-3.
4 Oct.: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and National Progressivism
6 Oct.: The First World War and the Failure of Internationalism
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 23; Wright, Black Boy, chaps. 4-10.
11 Oct.: The "New Negro" in the Jazz Age
13 Oct.: The Politics of Provincialism in the 1920s
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 24; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chap. 11;
   Wright, Black Boy, chaps. 11-14.
III. THE EMERGENCE OF THE SEMI-WELFARE STATE, 1932-1945
18 Oct.: Crash and Depression
20 Oct.: Franklin Roosevelt, the New Deal, and the Rise of Modern Liberalism
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 25; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chap. 12.
25 Oct.: HOUR EXAMINATION
IV. THE EMERGENCE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE, 1945-1973
27 Oct.: The Diplomacy of the Second World War
1 Nov.: The New Atomic Age
3 Nov.: The Cold War and Korea
   READING: Davidson, Nation, chap. 27; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chap. 13.
8 Nov.: The American Red Scare
10 Nov.: The Struggle for Civil Rights: The Early Years
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 28; Stoff, Manhattan Project, Preface, Introduction, Parts 1-4.
15 Nov.: The Ike Age
17 Nov.: JFK, LBJ, and the Great Society
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 29; Stoff, Manhattan Project, parts 5-7.
22 Nov.: The War in Vietnam and at Home
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 30-31; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chaps. 14-15.
***THANKSGIVING BREAK***
V. THE TRIUMPH OF CONSERVATIVISM, 1973-2008
29 Nov.: RN, Watergate, and the Unraveling of America
1 Dec.: Reagan, Bush I & II, and the Continuing Search for Order
   (**PAPER DUE**) 
   READING: Davidson, U*S, chap. 32; Davidson and Lytle, After the Fact, chaps. 16-17.
***FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 12, 9 AM-12 PM***

TA OFFICES HOURS & OFFICES:
Dan Wold: M, 10 AM-1 PM, & by appointment (GAR 0.116)
Alex Lang: T, 10-11:30, W, 3-4:30 PM, & by appointment (GAR 0.116)
Nick Roland, T, W, 1-2:30 PM, & by appointment (GAR 0.116)