

**United States History 102**  
**Section 2344**  
**1877- Present**  
**Fall 2010**  
**Monday & Weds. 1:00-2:25 PM**  
**ARTB 348**  
**Instructor: Edgar Pacas**  
**Contact information:**  
[eapacas@hotmail.com](mailto:eapacas@hotmail.com)

## **Course Syllabus:**

### **Course Outline:**

This course is a chronological survey of American historical development from 1877 to the present. Emphasis is placed on the understanding of American social, intellectual, political, economic, and diplomatic institutions. Special topical consideration will be given to the nation's culture and diversity. The emergence of the United States as a superpower is analyzed against the background of world history.

### **Course Goals:**

The main goal of this class is to prepare students with analytic and critical thinking skills necessary to successfully compete at the college level. You will be challenged to critically think and analyze diverse social perspectives, historical narratives, and interpretations of U.S. History.

### **Class attendance/participation:**

Because of the time constraint we will have to cover plenty of material each week so class attendance and participation are extremely important and count a total of 60 points towards your final grade. **If there is an emergency that will force you to miss a class please call or email with enough time to let me know that you will be absent. Please refer to online website or schedule of classes for add/drop policy of El Camino College.**

**Required Text: Howard Zinn. Voices of a People's History of the United States**

### **Grades**

Please refer to [www.schoolrack.com/pacasearlyus/](http://www.schoolrack.com/pacasearlyus/) for further instructions concerning the assignments.

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

List the major objectives of the course. These must be stated in behaviorally measurable terms.

1. Describe and assess the process by which the United States was economically transformed and modernized in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
2. Evaluate major American political, religious, and cultural values for the 1877 to 1914 period.
3. Compare and contrast the changing demography of America from 1877 to 1914 and from 1945 to the present.
4. Determine the processes of assimilation and acculturation expected of immigrants to the United States from 1900 to the present.
5. Discuss and evaluate the interaction of majority and minority groups during the 20th century.
6. Identify and analyze the causation, sequence of events, concepts, development, and impact of various American political reform movements, such as Populism, Progressivism, the New Deal, the Fair Deal, Civil Rights, and the Great Society.
7. Conceptualize and discuss the meaning of conservatism, liberalism, and radicalism in American history from the post World War II era to the present.
8. Discuss the evolution of gender roles and evaluate the efforts and impact of feminists in the United States from 1877 through the contemporary period.
9. Summarize and analyze the development of American foreign policy since 1890, including imperial expansion and the rise of the United States as a world power and leader among a large community of nations.
10. Trace and evaluate United States diplomacy and armed conflict through isolationism, imperialism, and collective security policies of the 20th century.
11. Compare and contrast the core political and philosophical ideas and modes of expression in American culture in the 20th century.

**The class grade is based on a point system.** You are responsible for turning in a total of 7 assignments which will consist of the following:

Assignment 1: Draft 5 analytical questions

Assignment 2: Draft 1 analytical question and write a short response

Assignment 3: Create an outline for an analytical research paper

Assignment 4 & 5: Research prospectus

Assignment 6 & 7: Write a 2-3 page analytical essay.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class and are considered late 15 minutes after class begins. No late papers will be accepted unless you and I have come to some previous agreement. I will not accept papers that are emailed. Please allow time and flexibility so that you can solve any problems that might arise.

You will also be responsible for a multiple choice midterm and final.

Please visit <http://www.schoolrack.com/pacasearlyus/> and print out a copy of the class syllabus for important due dates. Visit this website for readings and other information not found in the Howard Zinn book.

### **Important Dates for assignments:**

Assignment due dates:

\*Assignments #1&2 are combined and due on the same date.

\*#1 due September 13, 2010

\*#2 due September 13, 2010

#3 due September 27

#4 due October 11

#5 due October 25

#6 due November 15

#7 due December 6

Midterm

October 18

Final

December 13

### **Total possible grades and grade scale:**

Assignment 1 = 20 pts.

Assignment 2 = 50 pts.

Assignment 3 = 70 pts.

Assignment 4 & 5 = 75 pts. Each

Assignment 6 & 7 = 150 pts. Each

Midterm = 100 pts.

Final = 150 pts.

Attend. & participation = 60pts.  
900pts. total.

### **Grade Scale:**

900-800 = A    799-700 = B    699-600 = C    599-500 = D    499-0 = F

**U.S. History Tentative Outline of Class Discussions and weekly readings.**

**Reconstruction – Present**

### **Week 1:**

Class Intro

### **1877- 1890's An Industrial Nation**

- The birth of nations/ What is a nation?
- Free labor
- Modernization
- Industrialization and a new economy.
- Oppression in society- The war against race, genders, immigrants and socio-economic classes.
- Labor movements against the exploitation of worker.
- Competing philosophies: Conservatives, liberals, capitalists, socialists, communists, etc.
- Tools of social control

- Systems of Justifications
- Speech by Mary Elizabeth Lease, "Wall Street Owns the Country." Found in Zinn pg. 226.
- Plessy vs. Ferguson article found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Booker T. Washington, "The Atlanta Compromise." Found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Frederick Douglas, "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro." Found in Zinn pg. 183.

## Week 2:

### 1898-1900 The U.S. Empire

- European colonialism and imperialism-A New World Order.
- Capitalism, Markets & Trade and the nation.
- U.S. and the adoption of imperialism.
- War with Spain.
- Intellectuals, socialists and others speak against philosophy of empire and colonialism.
- Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden." From McClure's Magazine 12 February, 1899.
- Lewis H. Douglass on, "Black Opposition to McKinley." Found in Zinn pg. 243
- Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden." Found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Joan Mortensen, "The Case for Commodore Perry in the Class." Found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>

## Week 3:

### 1900-1910 Class Struggles on the World Stage

- Business policy on a world stage.
- The exploitation of the laborer at work.
- The exploitation of men in the military, labor, etc.
- The exploitation of women: an underrepresented majority.
- Labor conditions in factories, death and injury rates, and government involvement.
- IWW, Socialist, and Labor Unions fight exploitation.
- Success and failures of the socialist challenge.
- W.E.B. DuBois, "Souls of Black Folks." Zinn pg. 264

## Week 4:

### 1914-1917 WWI the Preservation & Struggle for Empire

- European competition to acquire developing countries of Africa, Asia and Middle East and their natural resources.
- The myth of nations- a catalyst for a world at war.
- U.S. business ventures- Allies need to win war so that U.S. can collect on debt.
- System of Justification to enter war.
- From the Outlook 12/19/1917, "Growth of Despotism." Teacher will provide copies.
- Helen Keller, "Strike Against the War" Zinn pg. 284
- Emma Goldman, "Patriotism: A Menace to Liberty." Zinn pg. 270

## Week 5:

### 1917-1930 Revolutionary Movements, Economic Catastrophe and the World Stage.

- 'Native' Revolutionary movements and the attempt to end colonialism.
- Global disillusion with some factors of modernization: industrialization, capitalism, and imperialism.

- The Russian Revolution and its implications for lower and labor classes on the world stage.
- The American socialist exodus to Russia.
- U.S. anti-socialist policy a new world police and covert ops.
- The roaring 20's and unsound economic practices.
- Few concessions granted- women's right to vote.
- Development of consumerism.
- President Wilson's, "Fourteen Points." Found in <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Lenin, "Declaration of the Rights of the Toiling and Exploited Peoples." Found <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Articles on revolutions in Latin America supplied by teacher.

### Week 6:

1930-1937 Economic recessions, the Great Depression and the New Deal. Revolutions around the Globe.

- The Great Depression on the world stage
- The rise of socialism at home and abroad.
- Revolutionary movements on the world stage- the new danger to imperialism.
- The capitalist-industrial complex and its world in crisis.
- Trouble at home and abroad the need for a New Deal.
- New Deal a reactive approach to the problems faced by the nation.
- The New Deal- success or failure?
- Economy of the Nation and the need to get out of the hole.
- Dumping surplus products on other nations in Asia and Latin America.
- Paul Y. Anderson, "Tear Gas, Bayonets, and Votes" Zinn pg. 315
- Story of the Scottsboro Boys supplied by teacher.
- Mary Licht, "I Remember the Scottsboro Defense" Zinn pg. 320

### Week 7:

1940-1945 WWII and the end of the Great Depression.

- The war in Europe.
- The need to go to war with Japan.
- Danger to natural resources of South East Asia if Japan becomes too powerful.
- A world economy what happens in Asia affects our business in Latin America.
- War is the health of the state.
- A new social order- Women and WWII.
- The Atlantic Charter found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>

### Week 8: MIDTERM

### Week 9

1945-1960's A World in Chaos

- U.S.S.R. a new competitor for empire.
- Threat of nuclear war.
- The Marshall Plan
- The Iron Curtain
- The Cold War
- Communist containment
- NATO

- Truman Doctrine
- NATO, Truman Doctrine and U.S. foreign policy.
- The re-emergence of Native Revolutionary movements on the world stage.
- Foreign policy and Native Revolutionary movements.
- Why these nations fight.
- The success of the Cuban Revolution.
- The Cuban missile crisis.
- Korea and Vietnam
- The Marshall Plan 1947 found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- NSC 68 found at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas/>
- Speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara supplied by teacher
- Malcolm X: Message to the Grass Roots. November 10, 1963.

### Week 10:

#### 1960's-1970's Developing Nations, Native Revolutionary movements and Cultural Revolutions, Race Relations, Politics and the World Stage.

- Revolutionary Ideology/philosophy exported: Gandhi, Che, Malcolm X and MLK.
- Challenging European and Anglo-American theories of racial superiority and imperialism around the globe.
- The fight to end oppression of minorities and developing nations by the white races (men and women).
- Civil Rights –Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.
- Emergence of Women's Rights and feminism.
- The Counter Culture movement and Vietnam War.
- The Middle East on fire: Orientalism and Occidentalism.
- Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet." Supplied by teacher.
- MLK "Beyond Vietnam" April 1, 1967

### Week 11:

#### 1970's Recuperating and Striking Back. Watergate, Covert Ops, School of the Americas, and more.

- U.S. retaliates against socialism in developing nations- covert ops and the School of the Americas.
- Watergate
- FBI and covert ops against 'seditious' elements at home: Brown barrettes, Black Panthers, AIM, etc.
- Latin America, Africa, Middle East and Asia on fire the 70's and Native Revolutionary movements around the globe- their success and failures.
- The Trilateral Commission
- Jimmy Carter and the presidency
- The Trilateral Commission supplied by teacher
- Howard Zinn, "The Problem is Civil Obedience" Zinn pg. 483
- Noam Chomsky, "COINTELPRO: What the ... Was It? Zinn pg. 507

### Week 12

#### 1980's The Decade of Republican Hegemony.

- The world and Ronald Reagan.
- The Cold war and Ronald Reagan.
- Reagan and the Iran-Contra Scandal.

- Foreign Aid in a time of crisis for developing nations.
- The Military-Industrial Complex.
- Article, “Massacre at El Mozote” at <http://www.schoolrack.com/epacas>

### Week 13:

#### 1984-1990 Fall of the Iron Curtain and the World Stage.

- Thatcher, Reagan and Gorbachev.
- The end of a Communist Empire.
- The end of the Cold War.
- How to keep the Military Industrial complex afloat.
- Iran Contra Affair article(s) supplied by teacher.

### Week 14:

#### 1990-1998 The U.S.- A policing force on the global stage?

- The Middle East at war with U.S.
- Clinton and policing of the world.
- Wars in Europe after the fall of communism: The Myth of Nations.
- Globalization
- Eqbal Ahmad, “Roots of the Gulf Crisis” Zinn pg. 546
- Alice Walker, “Letter to President Bill Clinton.” Zinn pg. 578

### Week 15:

#### 1998-2008 War at Home and Abroad-U.S. Policy and the Globe.

- The Middle East and 9/11/01
- The War on Terror.
- The second war against Iraq.
- George W. Bush and foreign policy.

### Week 16:

**FINAL.**