

Imperial Valley College

History 121 “U.S. History since 1877”

CRN: 20576

Professor: Bradford W. Wright, Ph.D.

Spring 2017

Meeting days/times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:25

Class Location: Room 208

Prerequisites: None

Office 301 Hours:

Mon. 1:00-2:00
Tues. 3:30-4:30
Wed. 5:00-6:00
Thurs. 12:50-1:50

Phone Number: 355-6597

E-Mail: bradford.wright@imperial.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

This is an introductory course in the history of the United States since the late 19th century. History is about much more than the memorization of names, dates, and facts. It is about understanding the past and its relationship to the present. In this class, we will learn something about what it meant to live in the United States in the not-too-distant past. We will learn about the challenges, decisions, hopes, fears, successes, and failures of all kinds of Americans—influential leaders and common folk alike. From this study, we will gain a greater context through which to appreciate our own diverse experiences and values as well as our common struggle to achieve a meaningful existence. The study of history is ultimately a process of discovering ourselves through our relationship to those who came before us.

As a broad survey of a lengthy period of time, this course will examine a variety of topics and themes. Special emphasis will be paid to the sweeping changes wrought by industrialization and urbanization, the emergence of the United States as a world power with global interests and commitments, the struggle of diverse Americans to achieve freedom and equality, and the rise of a consumer culture which has both reflected and transformed the way we all live.

You should come out of this course with a good basic understanding and appreciation of the people, trends, and events that have shaped the modern history of the United States. And in the process, you will have the opportunity to sharpen your own critical, argumentative, writing, and analytical skills. These will help you in whatever academic, career, or personal goals you may have.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) evaluate the significance of a primary or secondary history source by the end of the course.

Paul Boyer and friends, *The Enduring Vision, Vol. 2.*, 8th ed

Bradford Wright, *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America.*

Grading

Final grades will be determined according to the following distribution:

Exam I:	20%
Exam II:	20%
Exam III:	20%
Exam IV:	20%
Paper:	20%

Total:	100 %

--Exams will consist of short answer questions (identifications of terms), multiple-choice, and essays. A study guide will be distributed prior to each exam, and these should greatly help students prepare for the exams.

--the paper will be a short (5-7 pages, double-spaced) essay on the assigned reading.

Class Policies and Procedures:

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected. If you should miss a class meeting for any reason, you are still responsible for any material and/or class announcements discussed in your absence. Excessive absences (over three) will hurt your class participation grade and effectively cancel any possibility of rounding up your final grade in borderline instances.

You are also expected to arrive at class on time and remain for the duration of the class.

Failure to do so will be considered the same as an absence. It is also simply rude. If you must leave early for a valid reason, I simply ask that you let me know ahead of time. Please be courteous.

Make-Up Exams: You should do everything possible to take the exam at the regularly scheduled time and place. If, however, you must miss an exam because of an illness or family emergency, you may be permitted to make up the exam. **All make-up exams will be given during the last week of the term before finals week.** The make-up exam will be based on the same study guide, but may or may not consist of the same questions. It will also have fewer choices than those available to students who take the exam in class at the regularly scheduled time. It is your responsibility to take the exams when they are scheduled.

Classroom Courtesy:

I ask you to respect the rights of your colleagues to learn in a productive, respectful, and disciplined classroom environment and to respect the job that I do to ensure such an environment as I teach. Behavior such as arriving late, leaving early, answering phones, text-messaging, listening to mp3 players, and carrying on personal conversations disrupts the class, interferes with my job as a teacher, and deprives your colleagues of their right to learn. **I ask students to remove phones from their desks during class.** Unless you receive special permission from me to do so, please do not use iPads or laptops in class—the temptation to “multi-task” with such technology is too great. Take notes using traditional paper notebooks. I do NOT give permission to record my class lectures.

Phone usage in class has become a major problem. It is extremely distracting for myself and for students. If I see a student using a phone in class, I will ask them to stop. If the behavior continues, I will ask them to leave. Please use common sense, take responsibility for your behavior, and respect the classroom environment needed for me to do my job and for students to learn. **Be courteous and considerate! Don't be rude!** That is all I ask.

Accommodation for Students:

I am happy to work with all students so that each can achieve his/her educational objectives. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify me and the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible (DSP&S), Health Sciences Bldg. 2100, 355-6312).

Dropping the Course:

If for any reason you decide not to complete the course, remember that it is your responsibility to drop the class. If you simply stop coming to class and do not log on to the WebSTAR and officially withdraw from the course, you will receive an "F" as a final grade.

Academic Honesty:

The college and I take the issues of student dishonesty, cheating, and/or plagiarism very seriously. There are severe penalties arising from acts of academic dishonesty and student misconduct, up to and including dismissal from the college. For a complete discussion of disciplinary procedures for academic dishonesty or other student misconduct, please refer to the current IVC General School Catalogue.

Cheating may include: looking on another student's paper during an exam, the use of additional materials beyond those allowed for an exam, or turning in a paper that was not written by the student, and other acts of plagiarism.

I trust my students to do their work honestly. Please do not betray the trust that I have placed in you.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Feb. 14: Introduction

Feb. 16: The Industrial Age

Boyer, Chapter 18

Feb. 21: Immigration and the American City

Boyer, Chapter 19

Feb. 23: Politics, Populism, and Progressivism

Boyer, Chapter 20-21

Feb. 28: The Transformation in U.S. Foreign Policy, 1890-1914

March 2: The U.S. and World War I, 1914-1919

Boyer, Chapter 22

March 7: The 1920s: A New Era

Boyer, Chapter 23

March 9: Exam I

March 14: The Great Depression

Boyer, Chapter 24

March 16: FDR and the New Deal

Wright, Chapter 1

March 21: From Isolation to War

Boyer, Chapter 25

March 23: The U.S. and World War II in Europe

Wright, Chapter 2

March 28: The U.S. and World War II in the Pacific

March 30: The Origins of the Cold War

Boyer, Chapter 26

Wright, Chapter 3-4

April 4: The Cold War and American Culture

April 6: Exam II

April 11: America in the Fifties: Affluence, Consensus, and Conformity
Boyer, Chapter 27
Wright, Chapter 5

April 17-21: SPRING BREAK!

April 25: The Other Fifties: Social and Cultural Change
Wright, Chapter 6

April 27: The Civil Rights Movement
Boyer, Chapter 28

May 2: The U.S. and Vietnam, 1945-1968

May 4: America's Vietnam War

May 9: The Sixties: Youth Culture, Music, and Protest
Wright, Chapter 8

May 11: Exam III

May 16: Liberation, Polarization, and the Revolution in Identity, 1968-74
Boyer, Chapter 29

May 18: The Age of Limits: The 1970s
Wright, Chapter 9

May 23: The Reagan Era and the End of the Cold War, 1980-89
Boyer, Chapter 30

May 25: The Only Superpower: Conflict in the Post-9/11 World
Boyer, Chapter 31

Paper Due

May 30: Recent America: Social Change, Technology, and the New Economy

June 1: Recent America: Democracy in Crisis?

June 6-10: Final Exam Week