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21H.102 The Emergence of Modern America 1865-Present  
Spring 2003

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**21H.102 America since 1865**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
**Spring 2009**  
Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30 – 4 P.M.

**Instructor: Jamie Pietruska**

**Teaching Assistant: Michael Rossi**

### **Course Description**

This course examines major changes in American politics, economy, and society from the end of the Civil War to the early twenty-first century. We will trace several main themes throughout the course, including the expansion of federal government, industrialization and the growth of a mass consumption economy, changing ideas about individual rights and equality, and the development of American economic and military power in a global context. This is a lecture/discussion course that relies on a combination of secondary historical analyses and primary sources as the basis for weekly discussions and writing assignments.

### **General Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all sessions and to be active participants in class discussion. More than two (2) unexcused absences (i.e., other than a documented illness, family emergency, etc.) will have an adverse effect on your grade. As this is a Communication-Intensive (CI) course, students will be assessed on both oral and written work: students will be required to make a brief oral presentation once during the semester, to participate actively in each class discussion and to pose opening questions for discussion once during the semester, to write occasional 1-2 page informal reading response papers, to write three (3) formal analytical papers, and to submit a formal revision of their original research papers. There will be no quizzes, midterm exam or final exam in this course.

### **Grading Policy**

Students are expected to adhere to principles of academic honesty in their work. All written work must be a student's own original work. (Collaboration on essay assignments is not permitted.) Any and all references to other sources within your own paper must be properly documented according to the guidelines in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which is available online through the MIT Libraries' website: <http://libraries.mit.edu/get/chicago>

If you have any questions about quoting, paraphrasing, or referring to the work of others, please ask! MIT's Academic Integrity handbook is a valuable resource that I urge you all to consult: <http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- 20% Paper #1 (5-7 pages): analytical essay on Reconstruction
- 45% Paper #2 (10-12 pages) and revision: original historical research paper
- 20% Paper #3 (5-7 pages): analytical essay on post-WWII America
- 15% Class participation (5% reading response papers, 5% oral presentations, and 5% general participation in weekly discussions)

**Please note that late papers will be penalized unless you have made prior arrangements with me for an extension.**

### Required Reading

The following books are required for the course and are available at the MIT Bookstore, as well as on course reserve at the Humanities Library. Additional articles, book excerpts, and primary source document collections will be available on electronic reserve on the course website:

Pauline Maier, et al., *Inventing America*, vol. 2 (ISBN: 0393168166)  
 Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction, 1863-1877* (ISBN: 0060964316)  
 Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward, 2000-1887* (ISBN: 0451527631)  
 William L. Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* (ISBN: 0451526201)  
 Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon, illus., *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation*  
 (ISBN: 0809057395)

Please note that the reading assignments should be completed before lecture during the week they are listed. Whenever possible, you should complete the textbook reading in *Inventing America* first, followed by whatever secondary and primary sources are assigned for a given week so that you will have a broad historical context in which to place the more specific readings. You should read the textbook assignments quickly and devote most of your time to the secondary and primary sources, annotating the readings in preparation for our weekly discussions. **You will need to bring your books and hard copies of the electronic reserve documents to section each week as we will often refer to specific passages during discussion.**

During some of the weeks when a primary source collection is assigned, you will be required to write short reading response papers that synthesize the individual sources and provide a starting point for that week's discussion. **In order to receive credit, all reading response papers must be posted to the "Homework" section of the class Stellar site before Wednesday's meeting so that you will have a chance to read each other's work.**

### Writing Assignments

There are three (3) major writing assignments in this class, as well as a revision of your original research paper. **Major paper assignments must be submitted in hard copy at the start of class on the day they are due.** I will distribute specific assignment descriptions for each paper as the course gets underway.

Today is not too early to start thinking about your original research paper, which can explore any aspect of American politics, economy, society, and culture from 1865 to the present. We will help you design your topics and identify primary and secondary sources, and we will provide more specific research guidelines as you proceed. **Please note on the course schedule several interim deadlines for different stages of the research project; you should submit these assignments to the "Homework" section of the Stellar site.**

### Contacting Us

Please don't hesitate to contact either of us with any questions you may have or problems you may encounter as the course progresses. We look forward to getting to know each of you!

## Course Schedule

### Week 1: Introduction

Reading: None  
 Wed 4 Feb Course introduction

### Week 2: Reconstruction

Reading: Eric Foner, *A Short History of Reconstruction, 1863-1877* (1990), pp. xi-xvi, 1-15, 55-81, 82-123, 168-191, 238-260.  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 9 Feb Lecture  
 Wed 11 Feb Discussion

### Week 3: The New Industrial Society

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 19 (pp. 540-568), chapter 20 (pp. 575-597)  
 Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward, 2000-1887* (1888).

Mon 16 Feb **Holiday**  
 Tue 17 Feb (Monday's schedule) Lecture **[PAPER #1 DUE]**  
 Wed 18 Feb Discussion

### Week 4: Frontiers at Home and Abroad

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 21 (pp. 598-623)  
 Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" (1893), brief version. [electronic reserve]  
 Alan Trachtenberg, "The Westward Route," in *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (1982), pp. 11-37. [electronic reserve]  
 Ronald Takaki, "The 'Indian Question': From Reservation to Reorganization," in *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* (1993), pp. 225-245. [electronic reserve]

Mon 23 Feb Lecture  
 Wed 25 Feb Discussion **[RESEARCH PAPER QUESTION DUE]**

### Week 5: Progressivism and the Urban Scene

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 20 (pp. 570-574), chapter 22 (pp. 627-656)  
 William L. Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* (1905).

Mon 2 Mar Lecture  
 Wed 4 Mar Discussion **[RESEARCH PROSPECTUS & WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE]**

**Week 6: WWI & the 1920s**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 23 (pp. 657-675), chapter 24 (pp. 676-699)  
 Warren Susman, "Culture Heroes: Ford, Barton, Ruth," in *Culture as History: The Transformation of American Society in the Twentieth Century* (1984), pp. 122-149. [electronic reserve]  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 9 Mar Lecture  
 Wed 11 Mar Discussion

**Week 7: Depression & the New Deal**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 25 (pp. 700-733)  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 16 Mar Lecture  
 Wed 18 Mar Discussion [**READING RESPONSE PAPER DUE**]

**SPRING VACATION****Week 8: WWII**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 27 (pp. 759-789)  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 30 Mar Lecture [**THESIS PARAGRAPH AND OUTLINE DUE**]  
 Wed 1 Apr Discussion [**READING RESPONSE PAPER DUE**]

**Week 9: Cold War Politics**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 28 (pp. 790-817)  
 James T. Patterson, "Red Scares Abroad and at Home," in *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974* (1996), pp. 165-205. [electronic reserve]  
 Henry L. Stimson, "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," *Harper's Magazine*, February 1947, pp. 97-107. [electronic reserve]  
 Dwight D. Eisenhower, "Farewell Address," in *Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Dwight D. Eisenhower* (1961), pp. 1035-1040. [electronic reserve]

Mon 6 Apr Lecture  
 Wed 8 Apr Discussion

**Week 10: An Age of Anxiety and Affluence**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 29 (pp. 818-843)  
 Elaine Tyler May, "Cold War—Warm Hearth: Politics and the Family in Postwar America," in Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980* (1989), pp. 153-181. [electronic reserve]  
 Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name," in *The Feminine Mystique* (1964), pp. 15-32. [electronic reserve]

Mon 13 Apr Lecture [**PAPER #2 DUE**]  
 Wed 15 Apr Discussion [**CONSUMER CULTURE PRESENTATIONS**]

**Week 11: Civil Rights**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 29 (pp. 843-851), chapter 30 (pp. 860-862)  
 Mary L. Dudziak, "Brown as a Cold War Case," *Journal of American History* 91  
 (June 2004): 32-42. [electronic reserve]  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 20 Apr **Holiday**

Wed 22 Apr Lecture

**Week 12: Vietnam**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 30 (pp. 852-887)  
 Chester J. Pach, Jr., "And That's the Way It Was: The Vietnam War on the Network  
 Nightly News," in David Farber, ed., *The Sixties: From Memory to History*  
 (1994), pp. 90-118. [electronic reserve]  
 Tim O'Brien, "On the Rainy River," in *The Things They Carried* (1990).  
 [electronic reserve]

Mon 27 Apr Lecture

Wed 29 Apr Film: *Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam* (1988)  
**[REVISION OF PAPER #2 DUE]**

**Week 13: Age of Limits & the Reagan Revolution**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 31 (pp. 891-920), chapter 32 (pp. 921-936)  
 Primary source collection [electronic reserve]

Mon 4 May Lecture

Wed 6 May Discussion **[READING RESPONSE PAPER DUE]**

**Week 14: New World Order**

Reading: *Inventing America*, chapter 32 (pp. 936-944), chapter 34 (pp. 981-993),  
 chapter 35 (pp. 994-1018)  
 Sid Jacobson and Ernie Colon, illus., *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation* (2006).

Mon 11 May Lecture

Wed 13 May Discussion **[PAPER #3 DUE]**