

Course Title: Contemporary America

Course Number: History 162-4 & 162-8

Section Times & Days: T/R 10:50-12:05 & 1:35-2:50

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Pintar

Course Description:

This course uses a thematic approach to the study of Contemporary America. More specifically, we will examine the tremendous changes that Americans have experienced during the twentieth century by exploring the emergence and evolution of a mass society. Topics of focus will include the following: mass production and mass consumption; mass culture, with a special emphasis on movies and television; mass war and its social impact; mass government, especially the expansion of the welfare state; and mass politics, most notably the women's rights and civil rights movements.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course has the following goals: 1) provide students with a general history of the United States during the twentieth century; 2) introduce students to the methodology as well as the challenges integral to historical study; 3) train students to analyze specific pieces of historical information; 4) encourage students to think and write critically about the broad themes of twentieth century American History.

Prerequisites/Recommended Background

None

Required Texts:

Lichtenstein, *Who Built America? Volume II*

Hall, *Major Problems in American Constitutional History, Volume II*

Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Course Requirements:

Midterm Exam	100 points
Essay Assignment	100 points
Readings & Discussion	50 points
Final Exam	150 points