

**U.S. History 1865-Present  
History H106/Fall 2006  
6:00-8:40 R**

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**Course Description and Goals:**

H106 is a survey course in American History. It aims to look at the major themes, events, and personalities important in the development of the United States from the end of Reconstruction to the Present. In this class we will look at how people and ideas shaped the course of American history. The emphasis will be on these larger theoretical constructs, as opposed to memorizing dates and other “facts.” My hope is that you will come away from the class with a deeper understanding of not only American history but also of History in general, and how the past continues to shape the world we live in today.

To that end, one of the questions we will look at throughout this course is *what is America?* How did different people see America? What did America mean to the people who lived during the events of the past? How did their interpretations of America shape the country, and as a result, our view of America today? It is hoped that the course will provide you with a basis to better your communication, and critical thinking skills, as well as help you integrate knowledge from several areas into wider perspectives, and form a basis from which you can better appreciate both your own and other cultures.

**Required Books:**

Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*.

Stephen E. Ambrose, *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne From Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*.

Jules Tygiel, *Ronald Reagan and the Triumph of American Conservatism*.

You will note that you do not have a traditional textbook for this course. If you think you might need one, talk to me, and I will recommend several options.

**Attendance:**

It is expected that you will attend class. Punctual and consistent attendance is a key component to success in college, as it is in one's career, and it will be valued highly in this course. Should you ever need to miss a class for religious or health reasons, try and let me know ahead of time.

**Grades:**

There will be two exams in the class, each of which is worth one hundred (100) points and will be based on the assigned readings and lectures. The exams, which are non-cumulative, will be made up of essay and short answer questions.

Students will also be asked to write three papers, based on the books assigned for the course, each of which will also be worth 100 points. These papers will allow students to engage topics and issues raised by the books that they find of interest, as well as to wrestle with larger historical questions.

Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated

Your final grade is simply the average of your two exams and your papers. Grading is according to the standard A-F scale: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F.

**Class Schedule:**

8/24: Introduction  
8/31: New America I  
9/7: New America II  
9/14: New America III  
9/21: America As World Power I  
9/28: America As World Power II  
10/5: Greatest Generation I/**Progressive Paper Due**  
10/12: Greatest Generation II  
10/19: Greatest Generation III  
10/26: No Class **Midterm Due**  
11/2: Cold War America I/**World War II Paper Due**  
11/9: Cold War America II  
11/16: 1960s America  
11/23: No Class Thanksgiving  
11/30: Post Watergate America  
12/7: The Recent Past/**Reagan Paper Due**  
12/14: **Final Exam Due**