This course surveys United States history from the end of the Civil War to the present. Since we cannot cover this broad subject comprehensively in a single term, we will focus on several key events and themes in the evolution of American institutions, culture, economy, politics, and values since 1865. These include: cultural pluralism and the definition of American identity; the organization of American society into hierarchical institutions; urbanization and rural-urban conflict; the expansion of state capacity; the rise and decline of the United States as a global economic and political power; and the development of major political-social reform movements such as Progressivism, the New Deal, Civil Rights, environmentalism, and neo-conservatism.

Goals: This course is designed to help students: 1) gain a basic factual knowledge of this historical period; 2) develop the ability to assess and think critically about historical issues and about how people interpret those issues; and 3) develop some skills in analyzing historical data, especially primary sources, and reaching informed conclusions about those data.

Requirements: We will investigate each topic through multimedia presentations, discussions, and required readings. All students are required to complete two papers, one midterm exam, and one final exam. The following books – available for purchase at the University Book Center and the Maryland Book Exchange, where they are bundled in a single packet – are required reading:

- Kevin J. Fernlund, Documents to Accompany America’s History, volume 2: since 1865 (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, sixth edition, 2008). [docs in the Schedule]
Class participation. Classroom discussions in weekly discussion sections are one of the most important components of the course. The best way to earn high marks for discussion is to complete each week's required reading before class meetings, and to bring to class specific questions and issues for discussion.

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>throughout semester</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make-up Exams and Late Papers. If for any family or medical reason you find it absolutely necessary to miss an in-class examination, you must contact your Teaching Assistant before the examination to obtain her or his consent to your absence if you wish to take a make-up exam. Papers are due in class on their due dates. Unless you make other arrangements with the instructor, late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day of tardiness.

Students with Disabilities. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you require any disability related special accommodations.

Religious Observances. The University System of Maryland policy provides that students not be penalized because of observances of religious beliefs, but rather shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you are going to miss any assignments due to religious observances by personally handing him or her written notification of the projected absence within two weeks of the start of the semester.

Academic Integrity. Essential to the fundamental purpose of the University is the commitment to principles of truth and academic honesty. The Code of Academic Integrity (see www.shc.umd.edu/code.html) prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. It is especially important in this course that you understand and avoid plagiarism, which the University defines as “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas [emphasis added] of another as one's own in any academic exercise.” You are required to read Appendix I: Avoiding Plagiarism in the course book Going to the Source by Brown and Shannon.

Disputing Grades. If you believe one of your assignments was graded unfairly, please follow these steps: 1) Do not try to speak with your Teaching Assistant about your grade at the end of the class period in which the assignment was handed back; take at least 24
hours to read and think about the comments and grade. But do not wait more than a few
days to follow steps 2-4; 2) Reread the assignment and your written work; 3) Write down
the reason or reasons why you think the grade is inappropriate; 4) Give these comments
to the instructor and arrange a time to meet with her or him.

**Course Orientation Podcast.** The professor has prepared a 24-minute podcast that
reviews the aims, requirements, policies, and structure of the course. You will find it at
[http://www.history.umd.edu/Faculty/DSicilia/courses/index.html](http://www.history.umd.edu/Faculty/DSicilia/courses/index.html). With a hard copy of
this syllabus in front of you, please listen to the podcast carefully before the first class
meeting and again at any time for review.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

Week 1 (Jan. 29 & 31): **Ironies of Reconstruction**
- Required readings: *text* ch. 15; *docs* 15-1, 15-3, 15-6, 15-9; *source* ch. 1 and
  Appendix I.

Week 2 (Feb. 5 & 7): **The American West**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* ch. 16; *docs* 16-1, 16-2, 16-3, 16-4, 16-9, 17-1;

Week 3 (Feb 12 & 14): **Big Business and Industrial Labor**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* ch. 17; *docs* 17-3, 17-4, 17-6, 17-7, 17-10;
  *source* ch. 3, turn in pp. 63-64.

Week 4 (Feb. 19 & 21): **Immigration, Ethnicity, and City Machines**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* pp. 551-595; *docs* 18-4, 18-6, 18-7, 18-8, 18-9,
  18-10; *source* ch. 4, turn in p. 87.

Week 5 (Feb. 26 & 28): **Populism, Progressivism, and Jim Crow**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* pp. 595-639; *docs* 19-3, 20-5, 20-6, 20-10,
  19-8, 19-9; *source* ch. 5, turn in p. 109.

Week 6 (March 4 & 6): **A Global Power**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* pp. 640-683; *docs* 21-4, 21-5, 22-2, 22-3, 22-4;
  *source* ch. 6, turn in p. 133.

Week 7 (March 11 & 13): **Modernism and Antimodernism**
- Required readings/assignment: *text* pp. 683-726; *docs* 22-9, 22-10, 23-3, 23-4,
  23-5, 23-6; *source* ch. 7, turn in page 158; **midterm March 13**.

Week 8 (March 25 & 27): **The Great Depression and the New Deal**
- Required reading: *text* pp. 727-765; *docs* 23-12, 23-16, 24-7, 24-10, 24-12;
  *source* ch. 8, turn in p. 181.
Week 9 (April 1 & 3): **World War II at Home and Abroad**
Required reading: *text* ch. 25; *docs* 25-1, 25-2, 25-3, 25-6, 25-7, 25-8, 25-9; *source* ch. 9, turn in p. 203.

Week 10 (April 8 & 10): **Cold War Diplomacy and Culture**
Required reading: *text* ch. 26; *docs* 26-1, 26-2, 26-6; *source* ch. 10, turn in pp. 226-227.

Week 11 (April 15 & 17): **Middle-Class Dreams and Realities**
Required Readings: *text* ch. 27; *docs* 27-3, 27-4, 26-8, 26-9, 27-9; *source* ch. 11, turn in pp. 249-250.

Week 12 (April 22 & 24): **Liberalism and the New Left**
Required Readings: *text* ch. 28; *docs* 28-5, 28-7, 28-3, 28-10; *source* chs. 12, turn in pp. 272-273.

Week 13 (April 29 & May 1): **Constraints and Crisis**
Required Readings: *text* ch. 29; *docs* 29-2, 29-4, 29-5, 29-6, 29-9; *source* ch. 13, turn in pp. 298-299.

Week 14 (May 6 & 8): **The Reagan Revolution**
Required Readings: *text* pp. 927-938; *docs* 29-10, 30-1; 30-3, 30-8.

Week 15 (May 13): **New World Order and Disorder**
Required readings: *text* pp. 938-946, 951-955, 996-1003, 1012-1017; *docs* 30-4, 30-6, 30-7; *source* ch. 14; no section meetings this week.

**Final exam:** Thursday, May 15, 8:00-10:00 a.m., ARM 0135

revised 3-26-08