This course -- the second part of a two-semester series for first-year graduate students -- explores critical issues in U.S. history from 1877 to the present through some of the best historical work addressing those issues; and develops students' skills as readers and critics of historical literature.

Assignments:

**Reading and class participation:** Each student is expected to complete all the common readings and all or much of the review books for each week's class and to participate in class discussions. Class participation will comprise 40 percent of the course grade.

**Review essays:** Each student will be responsible for two 1,000-1,500-word review essays. The essays will analyze the common readings and review books from two weeks of the course. The essays should be organized thematically, not as a sequential review of the books and articles. Although you should discuss the central thesis, organization, and sources of each book and article, the essay should be constructed around and dominated by the themes that you have defined. Each presenter should submit her or his essay to members of the class over the class listserv – sicilia-grad@umd.edu – at least 24 hours before the class session in which she or he will present. You may use the short citation method for these essays – for example: (Lichtenstein, p. 77). Each review essay will comprise 15 percent of the course grade.

**Synthetic essays:** In addition, each student will write two 1,500-2,000-word take-home essays. These essays will respond to general exam-like questions chosen from a list of questions submitted by members of the class. The first take-home essay, due via email March 27, will pertain to the first half of the course readings; the second, due May 15, will pertain to the remainder. The questions will be distributed one week before the due date. Each synthetic essay will comprise 15 percent of the course grade.

**Books and articles:** Course books are on reserve in the McKeldin Library (the Reserve desk is next to the check-out station on the first floor). Articles are available online through JSTOR or Project Muse, as indicated.

**Policy on absences and late assignments:** If you need to miss or come late to class, please inform the instructor beforehand if possible. Written assignments turned in late will be penalized one full grade per 24 hour period unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.
Statement on Academic Integrity: The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Jan. 31: Organizing America

Common readings:

Review books:

Feb. 7: Immigration, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

Common readings:

Review books:

Feb. 14: Progressivism

Common readings:

Review books:

**Feb. 21: Consumer Culture**

Common readings:

Review books:

**Feb. 28: Gender and Sexuality**

Common readings:
- Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91 (December 1986): 1053-1075. JSTOR

Review books:

**March 6: Technology and Culture**

Common readings:

Review books:

March 13: New Deals

Common readings:

Review books:

March 27: Total War

Common readings:

Review books:
April 3: Cold War

Common Readings:

Review books:

April 10: Civil Rights and Race

Common readings:

Review books:

April 17: Old Left to New

Common readings:

Review books:
April 24: Second Wave Feminism

Common readings:

Review books:

May 1: Labor

Common readings:

Review books:

May 8: Postwar Conservatism

Common readings:

Review books: