History 114: The United States Since the Civil War
Fall 2005, Moravian College

Dr. Francis Ryan
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Office: Comenius 301
Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12, Thursday 10-12, and by appointment.
Classroom: Comenius 305
Class Meets: Monday and Wednesday 2:20-3:30.

Course Overview:
This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the significant events that shaped United States history since the end of the Civil War to present times. Through readings, class discussions, lectures and films, the course will highlight such questions and themes as the period of Reconstruction, the settling of the Western states, the rise of cities and industry, Progressivism, the 1920s and the New Deal periods, the experience of the First and Second World Wars and the emergence of mass consumer society in the post-war period.

Required Texts:
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” from Tales of the Jazz Age, on reserve.
Selections from Margaret A. Lowe, Looking Good: College Women and Body Image, 1875-1930, on reserve in Reeves Library.

Course Requirements:
Participation/Preparation: 15%
Each student is expected to read all assigned materials closely and critically, and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings thoughtfully. Each week, students will be provided with “Focus Questions.” It is expected that students will be able to respond to these questions in depth; however, it is also hoped that you will be able to go beyond these questions and be able to discuss connections to course material and related reading and presentations. The class may have periodic unannounced quizzes to test student knowledge, and these will be included as part of the overall participation grade. It is imperative that each student be present and on time so that they may contribute to discussions. Excessive absences (more than two) and/or lateness will necessarily affect your final grade. If you anticipate that you will be late or absent, please inform me via email or telephone. While such notification will be appreciated and understood as
courtesy, it will not be viewed as excusing the absence or lateness. Cases of absence based on medical reasons will be excused, provided a doctor’s note is provided.

Please also observe common courtesy in class in regard to cell phones and eating in class.

*Mid-term exams: 15% each*
Students will take two in-class examinations based on assigned readings, lectures, films and discussions, the first on Oct. 3 and another on November 7.

*Short papers: 15% each*
Students will write two essays (4 pages each) analyzing specific themes from the assigned primary readings. Further details will follow. Out of justice to the other students in this class, all late papers will be downgraded one letter grade for each day of lateness. Please be familiar with the Moravian College Code of Academic Conduct provided in the Student Handbook covering issues of academic integrity.

*Final in-class Examination: 25%*
This final exam, to be scheduled by the Registrar during finals week, will focus primarily on topics raised in class since the previous mid-term exam. However, students can expect to address a final essay question that draws on the major cumulative themes raised in this class.

Note: All of the course requirements listed above must be successfully completed to pass the course.

Topics and Readings (tentative)

**Week 1: The Crisis of Reconstruction, 1865-1877**

August 29: Introduction to the class.
August 31: Reconstruction.

**Week 2: Reconstruction Continued**
Reading: *The American Story*, Chapter 16, p. 403-414; *Little House*.

Sept. 5: Labor Day.
Sept. 7: Reconstruction Continued.
Week 3: The Transformation of the Western United States
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 17; Little House.

Sept. 12: The Western Myth in the American Imagination.

Week 4: Urban and Industrial Society
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 18-19; Little House.

Sept. 19: New Urban Communities.
Sept. 21: Discussion on Little House on the Prairie.

Week 5: The 1890s and the Spanish-American War
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 21.
Begin reading Michael Gold, Jews Without Money.

Sept. 26: The War of 1898
Sept. 28: Social Changes of the 1890s

Week 6: Midterm Week

Oct. 3: First mid-term exam.
Oct. 5: Visit to Library Visit to Moravian College Archives. Details to follow.
Reading: Selections from Margaret A. Lowe, Looking Good: College Women and Body Image, 1875-1930, available on reserve in Reeves Library

Week 7: The Suffragette Movement in The United States

Oct. 10: Fall semester break
Oct. 12: Movie: Iron Jawed Angels

Week 8: Industrial Reform and Progressivism
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 22.

Oct. 17: Progressivism
Oct. 19: Industrial Reform
Week 9: World War One
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 24.

Oct. 24: The Origins of the “Great War”
Oct. 26: The First World War and Social Impacts.

1st short analysis paper due in class Oct 24.

Week 10: The 1920s
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 25 and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story “Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” to be distributed in class.

Oct. 31: Babe Ruth, Flappers and the New Consumer Society
Nov. 2: The New Modern Woman: Discussion on “Bernice Bobs Her Hair.”

Week 11: Midterm

Nov. 7: Midterm # 2
Nov. 9: The Origins of the Great Depression

Week 12: The Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal.
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 26.

Nov. 14: New Deal Reforms
Nov. 16: Reforms Continued

Week 13: American and the Origins of World War II
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 27.

Nov. 21: Background on the War
Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Recess

Week 14: World War Two
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 27.

Nov. 28: The Soldier’s Experience
Nov. 30: The War at Home
Week 15: The Post-War Experience
Dec. 5: The Rise of Consumer Society
Dec. 7: Challenges and Affirmations: The Contradictions of Post-War Society

2nd Short Analysis Paper Due in Class Dec 7.

Final Week: America since 1945
Dec 12: Final class discussion

Final Exam time and location to be announced by Registrar.