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

Dr. Francis Ryan  
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Office: Comenius 301  
Office Hours: Monday 10-12, Wednesday 10-12, and by appointment.  
Classroom: Comenius 309  
Class Meets Wednesdays 6:30-9:30  

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 impact of the World Wars and Cold War, and the emergence of mass consumer society and the modern Civil Rights movement.  

Required Texts:  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, “Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” from Tales of the Jazz Age, (to be distributed in class.)  
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. 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.

Mid-term exams: 15% each
Students will take two in-class examinations based on assigned readings, lectures, films and discussions, the first on February 14 and another on March 30.

Short analysis 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

Jan. 12: Introduction to the class.

Week 2: Reconstruction
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 16

Jan. 19: Reconstruction.
In class film: “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years”
Week 3: The Transformation of the Western United States  
Reading: *The American Story*, Chapter 17.

Jan. 26: The Western Myth in the American Imagination.

Week 4: Urban and Industrial Society  

Feb. 2: The New Urban Communities. Discussion on *Little House on the Prairie*.

Week 5: The 1890s  
Reading: Selections from Margaret A. Lowe, *Looking Good: College Women and Body Image, 1875-1930*, available on reserve in Reeves Library

Feb. 9: Of Bicycles and Skyscrapers: Why the 1890s matter.  
Visit to Moravian College Archives. Details to follow.

Week 6: Progressivism  
Feb. 16: **First mid-term exam.** Introduction to Progressivism.

Week 7: Progressivism Continued  

Feb. 23: Industrial Reform.  
In class film: “Triangle Shirtwaist Factory” from the documentary *New York*

Week 8: World War One and the New Empire  

March 2: The First World War and Social Impacts.

**1st short analysis paper due in class March 2.**
Spring Break: No classes, March 7-March 9

Week 9: The 1920s
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 25 and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short story “Bernice Bobs Her Hair,” to be distributed in class.

March 16: “The Jazz Age” and The New Modern Woman: Discussion on “Bernice Bobs Her Hair.”

Week 10: The Great Depression and the New Deal Reforms
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 26.

March 23: Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal.

Week 11: Midterm

March 30: Midterm # 2

Week 12: The United States and World War Two
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 27. J. Samuel Walker, Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs Against Japan

April 6: The War at Home.

Reading: The American Story, Chapter 28


2nd Short Analysis Paper Due in Class April 20.
Week 14: The 1960s
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 29, Chapter 30.

April 20: The Modern Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War.

Week 15: The 1970s and Beyond
Reading: The American Story, Chapter 31.

April 27: The 1970s and final class discussion

Final Exam time and location to be announced by Registrar.