Course Description
In this course, we will explore political, social, and cultural aspects of life in the United States from the Reconstruction era through the present. We will move through the decades both chronologically and thematically; the course will focus on analysis of events and not on memorization of dates or other information. The purpose of this course is to broaden and, more significantly, to deepen your knowledge and understanding of our story. The central question that organizes this class is "Who are we as a people and a nation?" We will examine politics, wars, and diplomacy through a set of biographical lenses based on social, intellectual, and economic themes. The objective is to add to what you already know, but just as importantly, to get you to rethink some of what you know as well.

Two major themes run throughout the course: The changes in American society due to the mobility of populations, industrialization, and urbanization; and the changing definition of who counts as an “American” in a nation often divided by race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic class.

Required Texts
All assigned books are available at the CU-Boulder Bookstore. Be sure to do the readings by the dates listed in the tentative schedule.


Harry Crews, A Childhood: The Biography of a Place
Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi
Elva Treviño Hart, Barefoot Heart

Weblinks, as noted below, will be available on CULearn

Assignments & Exams
Students are responsible for completing the reading on assigned date in order to learn the basic information of “who/what/when”. My lectures will not be a repeat of the readings, they will complement the readings in such a way to facilitate discussion. Assignments include two short papers, a mid-term, and a final exam.

Two Papers: 50 points each
Students will be required to write two short papers. The first paper will require students to interpret and compare a set of primary documents. The second paper will require students to examine and evaluate an assigned biography. Detailed information on the assignments,
including required format, will be distributed in class well in advance of the due dates.

_Examinations:_ 100 points each

There is a mid-term exam and a final examination scheduled for the course. The exams will include short answer identification and essay questions. Because of the nature of the course and the breadth of materials and themes covered, some questions on exams will necessarily require responses that are based on a knowledge that is cumulative through the course.

Note 1: Students must take the tests on the dates listed in the syllabus and in accordance with university policy regarding the final exam.

Note 2: Make-up exams will not be given except in the event of an illness with the requirement that the student present the professor with a signed and dated physician’s statement verifying the illness. Format (which _may_ mean additional reading and a paper) and time of the make-up will be at the discretion of the professor.

Examination schedule:
- Mid-term: February 28, in class
- Final examination: May 7, 10:30am-1:00pm

Paper Assignments:
- I will assign primary documents and biography the second week of class. See CU Learn.

_CULearn_

Course information and materials will be posted on CULearn (accessible through CUConnect), including the syllabus, writing guidelines, and writing assignments.

**Grading and Evaluation: Expectations & Procedures**

You will have the opportunity to earn a total of 200 points. Final grades are awarded on a percentage basis:

- 100-94% = A  
- 94-90% = A-  
- 90-87% = B+  
- 87-83% = B  
- 83-80% = B -  
- 80-77% = C+  
- 77-73% = C  
- 76-73% = C-  
- 69-67% = D+  
- 66-63% = D  
- 62-60% = D-  
- <60 = F

If you meet the minimum requirements detailed in each assignment, you will receive a C. Students who achieve B's and A's in this course exceed the minimum requirements and guidelines provided by your instructor. Work that earns an A is particularly thoughtful, careful, concise, creative, and technically proficient.

**Other Course Policies and Information**

Plagiarism will be treated according to University policy. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the instructor or the citation tutorial from the University Libraries: [http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/pwr/public_tutorial/cite/cite01.htm](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/pwr/public_tutorial/cite/cite01.htm)
All assignments, except the final, are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus. Late papers will be penalized five points a day every weekday they are late, and will not be accepted after the week they are due. If you foresee problems turning an assignment in on time, please see me as soon as possible. Computer-related difficulties will not be accepted as an excuse for late papers.

**Tentative Daily Schedule**

**Week 1**
Jan 15  Introductions, Course Overview
Jan 17  Reading Primary Documents: Letters, Photos, & Government Docs
        Reading Biographies

**Week 2**
Jan 22  *CE 15. “In the Wake of War: Consolidating a Triumphant Union, 1865-1877.”*
Jan 24  *Interpreting History*
        Example: A Southern Labor Contract
        Additional weblinks available on CULearn

**Week 3**
        *Interpreting History:* Andrew Carnegie and the “Gospel of Wealth.”
Jan 31  *CE 17. “Challenges to Government and Corporate Power, 1877-1890.”*
        *Interpreting History:* Albert Parson’s Plea for Anarchy.

**Week 4**
Feb 5  *CE 18. “Political and Cultural Conflict in a Decade of Depression and War: The 1890s.”*
        *Interpreting History:* Proceedings of the Congressional Committee on the Philippines.

**Week 5**
Feb 12  *Interpreting History*
        Example: Defining Whiteness
        Additional weblinks available on CULearn
Feb 14  *CE 20. “War and Revolution, 1912-1920.”*
        *Interpreting History:* African American Women in the Great War.
**Week 6**
Feb 19  Film: Ken Burns, *Baseball* (Inning One)

**Week 7**
Feb 26  *Interpreting History*
   Example: Mario Puzo, *The Fortunate Pilgrim.*
   Additional weblinks available on CULearn
Feb 28  Mid-term Exam (in class)

**Week 8**
Mar 4  *CE* 22. “Hardship and Hope in the 1930s: The Great Depression.”
Mar 6  *Interpreting History*
   Example: Songs of the Great Depression.
   Additional weblinks available on CULearn

**Week 9**
Mar 11  *A Childhood: The Biography of Place*
Mar 13  *A Childhood: The Biography of Place*

**Week 10**
Mar 20  *Interpreting History*
   Example: Zelda Webb Anderson, “You Just Met One Who Does Not Know How to Cook.”
   Additional weblinks available on CULearn

**Week 11**  Spring Break

**Week 12**
Apr 1  *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
Apr 3  *Coming of Age in Mississippi*
   **Paper Two due for Group One**

**Week 13**
Apr 8  *CE* 24. “Cold War and Hot War, 1945-1953.”
Interpreting History: NSC-68.

Interpreting History: Rachel Carson, Silent Spring.

Week 14

Apr 17  Interpreting History
Martin Luther King Jr. and the Vietnam War.
Additional weblinks available on CULearn

Week 15
Apr 22  Barefoot Heart

Apr 24  Barefoot Heart
Paper Two due for Group Two

Week 16
Interpreting History: The Church Committee and CIA Covert Operations.

May 1  Wrap Up. Final Exam Review.

May 7  Final Exam, 10:30am - 1:00pm

This schedule is subject to change when necessary.
Changes will generally work to your advantage.

COURSE POLICIES:
University Messages

Disability Statement
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/

Decorum Statement
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding,
dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at http://www.Colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html

Honor Code
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.Colorado.edu/policies/honor.html

Religious Observance
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a potential class conflict because of religious observance, you must inform me of that conflict by January 31st. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Sexual Harassment
The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh/