Instructor: Doug Snyder
Email: douglas.snyder@colorado.edu
Office: Hellems 373
Office Hours: Tues 2-4, Thurs 2-3, and by appt.

**Course Description**
This course surveys the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. It explores the social, cultural, political, economic, diplomatic, and military developments that shaped the nation over the last 150 years. It aims to help students improve their critical thinking skills by analyzing multiple perspectives of historical events, by participating in discussion sessions, and through written assignments and exams designed to encourage clear, well-formulated arguments. In short, it seeks to provide students with the tools to become historically-informed citizens of the United States and the world.

**Required Books**

*The textbook and document reader are available at the CU Bookstore. A few copies of Caputo are being sold at the bookstore, but Caputo can also be easily found through online booksellers. All three books are on reserve at Norlin Library.*

**Grading**
- Exam One 20%
- Exam Two 20%
- Final Exam 30%
- Papers (10% each) 20%
- Part./Attendance 10%

**Exams**
This course will have two in-class exams, worth 20% each, and a final exam worth 30% of your final grade. Each test will consist of short identification questions and one longer essay. The final exam will cover the last third of the course and will also include one essay that more broadly examines the entire semester.
Papers
One of the goals of this course is to help students improve their writing. As such, it will include two five-page papers, each worth 10% of your final grade. The first paper will ask you to make an argument based on documents from the Reading the American Past collection. It will explore the major issues of late 1800s and early 1900s America. The second paper will require you to engage with Philip Caputo’s Vietnam War memoir, A Rumor of War. I will pass out more specific paper prompts approximately two weeks before the due date of each paper. **Papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late.**

Feel free to see me in office hours to discuss drafts of your essays or any other questions you have about writing. I am also willing to review electronic drafts if given enough notice. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of CU’s Writing Center in Norlin Library. In many ways, the people there can help you even more than I can. The Writing Center’s website (www.colorado.edu/pwr/writingcenter.html) offers more information about its services. Additionally, the History Department provides many useful suggestions for improving your writing under the “Paper Guidelines” section on its website (www.colorado.edu/history/guidelines/index.html). This site also has a helpful section on referencing guidelines. Please keep in mind, though, that it may not discuss every type of citation that you will need to use for your essays.

Attendance and Participation

Although I will not be taking attendance in each lecture, attendance is mandatory for our class discussions of documents from Reading the American Past, of A Rumor of War, and of other primary source material provided by me. **Your participation/attendance grade (10% of your overall grade) will drop one full letter grade for each scheduled discussion session you miss after your first unexcused absence.**

The current dates for class discussion are: 1/18, 1/25, 1/27, 2/8, 3/3, 4/12, 4/19

It is in your best interest, however, to attend every lecture session, as the exams will include a significant amount of material not discussed in the book or listed on the lecture PowerPoints. In such a small class, it will also be quite noticeable if you are regularly absent. If I feel this policy is being abused, I reserve the right to begin taking attendance. If this occurs, you will receive advance notice of such a change.

Active participation in these discussions is crucial to succeeding in this course. I will announce which documents from Reading the American Past to focus on each week and which ones to revisit for our discussion sessions approximately one week before each session. I will also occasionally interrupt my lectures to have shorter discussions about your thoughts on some of the topics we cover. Participation in these conversations can also help your final grade.

As you do each week’s readings, think about them critically and analytically, in order to assess how they relate to one another, the week’s topics, the course’s themes, and current events. Additionally, particularly for the readings from Reading the American Past, think about the main arguments/theses of each source, the strengths and weaknesses of the authors’ arguments, and whether you agree with their conclusions. Review the questions after each document and the comparative questions at the end of each chapter. These types of questions will form the basis of many of our discussions. During our conversations, I encourage you to share your ideas and views, even if you are uncertain about them or think your perspective may be unpopular. I will do my part to maintain a respectful, comfortable classroom environment, and it is necessary that you do so as well.

**Note:** It is not possible to earn an A in the course without participating in discussions.
Class Schedule

Week 1
Tues, 1/11  Introductions

Thurs, 1/13  Reconstruction

Reading: *The American Promise* (AP), Ch. 16  
*Reading the American Past* (RAP), Documents 16-2, 16-3, 16-4

Week 2
Tues, 1/18  The West; Reading Primary Documents

Thurs, 1/20  Gilded Age Business & Politics

Reading: AP, Ch. 17, Ch. 18  
RAP, selections from Ch. 17 and Ch. 18

Week 3
Tues, 1/25  Immigration and Urbanization; CLASS DISCUSSION

Thurs, 1/27  Labor Strife of the Late 1800s; CLASS DISCUSSION

Reading: AP, Ch. 19, pp. 613-30 in Ch. 20  
RAP, selections from Ch. 19, Ch. 20

Week 4
Tues, 2/1  Populism and Progressive Reform

Thurs, 2/3  National Progressivism; PAPER ONE DUE

Reading: AP, pp. 630-35 in Ch. 20, Ch. 21  
RAP, selections from Ch. 20 and Ch. 21

Week 5
Tues, 2/8  American Empire?; CLASS DISCUSSION

Thurs, 2/10  World War I and Wilsonianism

Reading: AP, pp. 635-45 in Ch. 20, pp. 684-704 in Ch. 22  
RAP, selections from Ch. 20 and Ch. 22

Week 6
Tues, 2/15  Consequences of the Peace; REVIEW

Thurs, 2/17  EXAM ONE on Ch. 16-21

Reading: AP, pp. 704-16 in Ch. 22  
RAP, selections from Ch. 22
Week 7
Tues, 2/22  The Roaring Twenties and Onset of the Great Depression
Thurs, 2/24  Life in the Great Depression
Reading: AP, Ch. 23
RAP, selections from Ch. 23

Week 8
Tues, 3/1  The New Deal
Thurs, 3/3  Challenges to the New Deal; CLASS DISCUSSION
Reading: AP, Ch. 24
RAP, selections from Ch. 24

Week 9
Tues, 3/8  The Second World War
Thurs, 3/10  WWII on the Home Front
Reading: AP, Ch. 25
RAP, selections from Ch. 25

Week 10
Tues, 3/15  The Early Cold War and Red Scare
Thurs, 3/17  The Fifties and the Rise of the Civil Rights Movement
Reading: AP, Ch. 26, Ch. 27
RAP, selections from Ch. 26 and Ch. 27

3/21 - 3/25  NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

Week 11
Tues, 3/29  Civil Rights; REVIEW
Thurs, 3/31  EXAM TWO on Ch. 22-26
Reading: AP, pp. 891-93, 904-11 in Ch. 28
RAP, selections from Ch. 28
Begin Caputo, A Rumor of War

Week 12
Tues, 4/5  Camelot, the Great Society, and the Origins of the Vietnam War
Thurs, 4/7  The American War in Vietnam
Reading: AP, pp. 893-904, 928-29 in Ch. 28, Ch. 29
RAP, selections from Ch. 28 and Ch. 29
Continue Caputo, A Rumor of War
Week 13
Tues, 4/12  Movements of the Sixties; CLASS DISCUSSION
Thurs, 4/14  Corruption and a Crisis of Confidence
Reading: AP, pp. 909-29 in Ch. 28, pp. 965-84 in Ch. 30
RAP, selections from Ch. 28 and Ch. 30
Finish Caputo, A Rumor of War

Week 14
Tues, 4/19  PAPER TWO ON CAPUTO DUE; DISCUSSION OF CAPUTO
Thurs, 4/21  Right Turn: The Age of Reagan and the End of the Cold War
Reading: AP, pp. 984-99 in Ch. 30, pp. 1001-10 in Ch. 31
RAP, selections from Ch. 30

Week 15
Tues, 4/26  The Nineties
Thurs, 4/28  2000 and Beyond; REVIEW
Reading: AP, pp. 1010-38 in Ch. 31
RAP, selections from Ch. 31

FINAL EXAM: Tues, 5/3, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Ketchum 234

Additional Information

*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 within three weeks of the start of classes. 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/