

# HISTORY 21: Dynamics of Power in the US

Fall 2018

Professor Victor Silverman

Tue-Thur: 2:45-4:00

Office: Mason Hall Room 123

Office Hrs: Tu. 4:15-5:30, Th. 10:30-12:00 or by appt

Web syllabus:

<https://research.pomona.edu/victor-silverman/classes/h21f18/>

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US history in the last 150 years has revolved around battles over equity in the economy, the control of government, the fighting of wars, and the possibilities for social justice. This course introduces students to the study of these conflicts through an examination of power in politics, society, and the economy. Students will learn key historical methods as they consider four crucial periods: The disappointing aftermath of the Civil War, the fight over corporate industrial capitalism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the triumph of the statist New Deal order in the 1930s, and the return of inequality in the neoliberalism of recent decades. Because historical questions are informed by contemporary issues and debates, the class will also address current events that emerge from the way Americans settled these older conflicts

## ***Assignments and grading percentages:***

Details will be given in class and on Sakai.

Attendance and class participation;	20%
Attendance at outside events	5%
In-Class Presentations	15%
1 short research paper (1300-1600 word @4-5 pp)	15%
Weekly discussion question about a quotation from readings	10%
1 Mid-sized Research Paper (2400-3000 words @8-10 pp.)	35%

## ***Class Policies:***

Email copies of the papers are due Fridays at 5:00pm (unless otherwise noted). You must have my permission to turn in a late paper. Other late papers will have one full grade deducted for each day they are late Do not plagiarize: You will fail the assignment. Please review the College policy on academic honesty. Attendance in class is required. You are allowed 1 unexcused absence without penalty. Please turn off cellular phones as well as other electronic devices, including laptop computers or recorders before entering class. They may be only used when discussing online class readings. If you need an accommodation for this policy, please contact me

**The Writing Center** provides students in Pomona courses a community of experienced readers and writers, offering free, one-on-one consultations at any stage of the writing process - from brainstorming ideas to fine-tuning a draft. Consultations are available by appointment, which students can make online at [writing.pomona.edu](http://writing.pomona.edu). The Writing Center also offers drop-in hours Sundays - Thursdays from 8-10pm.

**To request academic accommodations** due to a disability please contact

<http://www.pomona.edu/administration/dean-of-students/disability-accommodations/>. If you attend another Claremont College, please contact your home college's disability officer. If you need assistance with projects or accommodations, please contact me before the assignment is due.

**Required Readings:** The books are available at Huntley Bookstore, on-line, or at the reserve desk in the Library and in the History Department library. Additional or changed readings are/will be linked to the syllabus and Sakai during the semester.

**Double-check the on-line syllabus and Sakai for updated readings and assignments!**

- Walter LaFeber, Richard Polenberg, Nancy Woloch, *The American Century*, Seventh edition (ME Sharpe) (On-line through <http://www.sharpe-etext.com/> isbn 9780765634856)
- G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America* (7th ed.) (on-line through [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com) ISBN 9780077419349)

## Section 1: Reconstruction to Fordism:

**Week 1: 9/4, 9/6: Main Themes, Theory, and Methods: From Donald Trump to Reconstruction /**  
**Readings:** Domhoff, *Who Rules, intro-ch.1*; On Sakai: Freed People's letters

**Week 2: 9/11, 9/13: Economic and Social Upheaval**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch.1; Domhoff, Ch. 2-3; On Sakai: Herbert Gutman, "Work Culture & Society in Industrializing America;" David Nasaw, "Gilded Age Gospels"

**Week 3: 9/18, 9/20: Empire**

**Readings:** Domhoff, Ch. 4-5; [Populist Party Platform](#) (link); On Sakai: Dawes Act; Teddy Roosevelt, "The Strenuous Life;" Jackson Lears, "Managerial Revitalization of the Rich"

**TUESDAY: MEET AT HONNOLD LIBRARY KECK LEARNING CENTER**

**Week 4: 9/25, 9/27: Gender and Whiteness**

**Readings:** American Century, ch 2-3; On Sakai: Ida B. Wells, "Speech to National Negro Conference"; Anon., "A Negro Woman Speaks"; Ana Julia Cooper, "A Voice from the South"; Rachel Moran, "Anti-Miscegenation Laws and Racial Boundaries."

**THURSDAY: PRESENTATIONS ON RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Week 5 10/2, 10/4: Fordism and Resistance**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch.4; Domhoff, Ch. 6-7; [IWW, "Preamble & Constitution"](#) (link); On Sakai: David Montgomery, "Workers Control;" Harry Braverman, "Scientific Management;" Mike Davis, "The Stop Watch and the Wooden Shoe;" Melvyn Dubofsky, "To What Extent Was the United States Fordist?"

**Week 6: 10/9, 10/11: Contesting Whiteness and Racial Power**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch. 5-6; On Sakai, Guterl & Skwiot, "Atlantic and Pacific Crossings," "How to Read a SCOTUS Decision;" SCOTUS, "US v Thind;" James Grossman, "A Chance to Make Good;"

**RESEARCH PAPER 1 DUE FRIDAY 10/12 AT 5PM:**

## Section 2: Liberalism Triumphant

**Week 7: 10/16, 10/18: Crisis Liberalism**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch. 7-9; Alan Dawley, "Abortive rule of Big money"; Thomas Ferguson, "Industrial Conflict and the Coming of the New Deal," Cowie and Salvatore, "The Long Exception: Rethinking the Place of the New Deal in American History."

**Week 8: 10/25: The Pyrrhic Liberal Victory**

**Readings:** American Century: Ch. 10-12; On Sakai: Michael Rogin, "Countersubversive Tradition in American Politics;"

**Week 9: 10/30, 11/1: Vietnam**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch. 13-15; Domhoff, 8-9; Film: "The Fog of War," On Sakai: Robert Hanyok, "The Gulf of Tonkin Mystery."

**SIGN UP FOR MEETINGS ABOUT YOUR FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Week 10: 11/6, 11/8: Resistance and Identity**

**Readings:** On Sakai: Robin D. G. Kelley, from *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*; Jeremy Suri, "The Rise and Fall of an International Counterculture, 1960-1975;" Rory Dicker, "Second Wave Feminism"

## Section 3: The Era of Insecurity

**Week 11: 11/13, 11/15: The Era of Insecurity**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch. 16; On Sakai: Lind, "Conservative elites;" Harvey, From *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*

**Week 12: 11/20: Neoliberalism triumphant**

**Readings:** American Century, Ch. 17-18 ; On Sakai: Lichtenstein "Wal-Mart and the New World Order"

**Week 13: 11/27-11/29: The New Warfare State**

**Readings:** American Century ; On Sakai: Andrew Bacevich, "War For the Imperium;" Douglas Little, "Not Your Father's Persian Gulf War"

**Week 14: 12/4, 12/6: Obama's America/Final Presentations**

**Readings:** American Century Ch. 20

**Week 15: 12/11: Trumpland/Final Presentation in Class**

**Final Paper Due Friday 12/14 at 5pm via email**