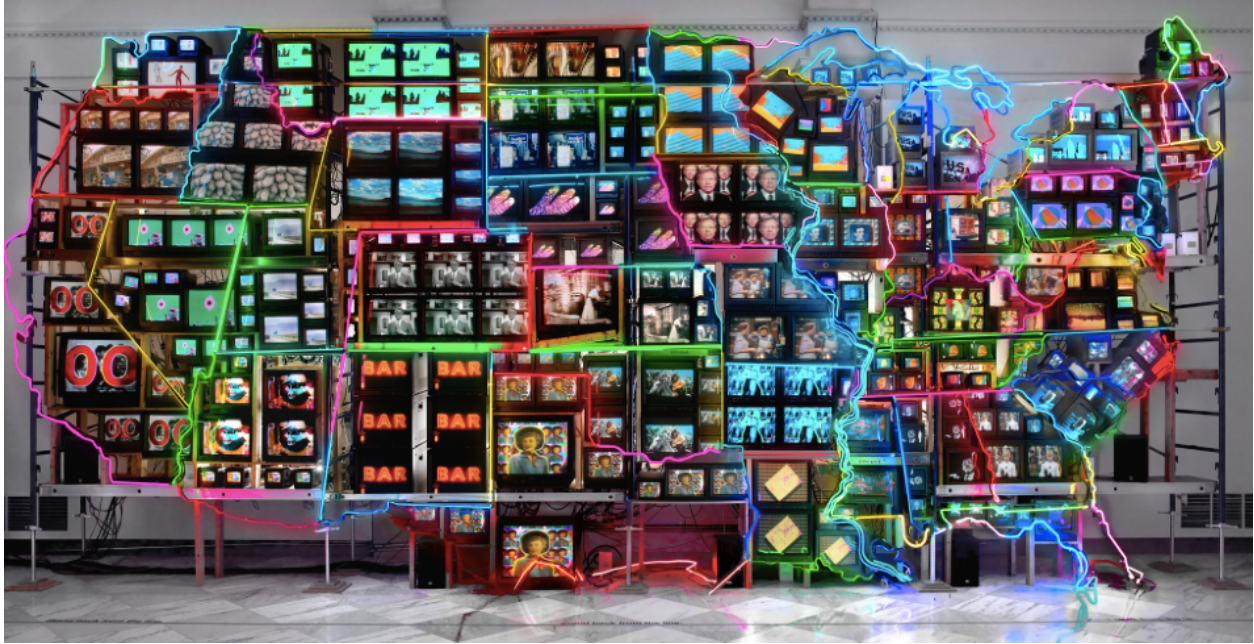


American History, 1877 to the Present



Above: *Nam June Paik, Electronic Superhighway (1995), Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Washington, DC. A fifty-two channel CRT video screen sculpture/installation with lighted neon tubes indicating the borders of the “Lower 48” states (plus Alaska and Hawaii, on a side wall of the gallery), this glowing, flickering and mesmerizing monster artwork seems a fitting monument to our contemporary, 300-plus-million inhabitant, YouTube- and Netflix-streaming America. The US of A has indeed been on a “superhighway,” and we are certainly moving fast. But where are we going? And where did we come from? How did we get here, and what does it all mean?*

For more information about this artwork, visit the website of the Smithsonian American Art Museum:
<https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/electronic-superhighway-continental-us-alaska-hawaii-71478>

Best contact: email tfarnold@bsu.edu at any time with any question or concern.

Office: Elliott basement 008F

Office hours: MWF 2-4 pm and TR 10-12 noon. Be aware that office hour days and times may change, sometimes at short notice. If Dr. Arnold is not in his office during office hours, check the door for a note regarding amended times, and you can always send an email. Students do not have to make an appointment for office hours – just drop by with any question or concern. If these times don’t work for your schedule, alternate times are available by appointment. Also, significant time during scheduled in-person class meetings will be available to go over and clarify general questions about readings, assignment instructions, evaluation criteria and policies, etc.

Course description:

This course surveys the American historical experience since 1876. Students will examine key events, ideas, personalities and movements from the Centennial to the twenty-first century.

This course is available for Dual Credit as BSU HIST 202.

Course goals:

To explore, with as much sophistication as possible, the American experience from 1877 through the present.

To practice thinking, writing, and speaking with clarity, force, and conviction in order to develop academic confidence and authentic skills of analysis, independent understanding, and communication.

Canvas: The course Canvas site is the essential organizing hub for this class. Almost all course readings and other discussion source materials will be posted to the course Canvas site, and there will be a continuously updated calendar with a full schedule of upcoming class activities and expectations. Audio recordings of class sessions will also be posted (and these may be particularly helpful for students who miss a given in-person class meeting). Students should regularly and routinely check the course Canvas site, at least for every scheduled class meeting.

Class policies:

The course Canvas site is the essential organizing hub for this class, including announcements and other instructions. Students should regularly and routinely check the course Canvas site.

Attendance will be taken for all in-person sessions according to the policies explained in the student handbook. Please promptly contact the instructor with any questions regarding the application of those policies.

Unless a specific exception is announced for a given class exercise, students are not expected to use a laptop, tablet, phone, or smart watch at any time. All such devices need to be stored away and kept out of sight for the duration of all class periods. Students are expected to put away any such electronic devices upon entering the classroom. Students who require such a device for accommodation or other valid reasons will of course be excused from this policy, but only after prior communication with the instructor.

For the most part, class discussion readings and other materials will be distributed in class as a hard copy document. Some of these assignments may also be available in pdf or similar format on the course Canvas site. Occasionally, some discussion materials may entirely online. In such cases, students are particularly encouraged to make careful notes and bring these to class – students should not expect to be able to refer to online material during class sessions.

Students are expected to bring their hard copies of any class discussion materials to class, but are not expected to bring their *America* textbook.

Students are expected to read and consider all readings carefully and thoughtfully. Students are also expected to take hand written notes on all readings, and during any class sessions, as they see fit. Students may bring and refer to these notes during relevant class discussion sessions. Students are encouraged to discuss readings with the instructor during office hours, both before and after a relevant scheduled class discussion.

Students who miss scheduled discussion sessions are expected to contact the instructor after any such absence to arrange for an appropriate makeup activity or exercise, as warranted. Students who miss a scheduled examination are expected to make up that test as soon as possible. Normally, all makeup work is expected to be completed within seven working days of the original due date or testing date. In exceptional circumstances, additional time may be available, including an incomplete grade at the end of the semester.

Students who do not make up missed discussions or examinations may receive a grade of 0%. That 0% grade will then be replaced by the makeup grade, except in cases of an unexcused absence or a violation of Academy or class policies.

Grades will be posted to PowerSchool following a reasonable time for evaluation. Discussion grades will normally be posted within a few days of the last class session pertaining to a given topic or week. Exams will normally be evaluated and the grades posted within ten working days of the testing date. Students will be informed in circumstances of delay. Students should regularly and routinely check their grades on PowerSchool, share those grades with parents or guardians, and promptly contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the student handbook for a full discussion of the relevant policies.

There may be provision for extra credit or additional or replacement assignments. Such opportunities, if any, will be announced during the semester.

If circumstances warrant, alternate assignments, extended due dates, and other exceptions to stated policies can be arranged on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the instructor. All reasonable accommodation will be made.

Any student with a disability will be accorded appropriate accommodation, as arranged in advance.

As the semester develops, course topics and readings may be amended as the instructor sees fit. Therefore, be alert to all announcements and any revisions to the below calendar of readings and threaded discussions.

This syllabus may be amended by the instructor at any time. In such cases, students will always receive timely prior notification of any changes.

Required statement regarding unexcused absences:

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator [Ms. Drumm] in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor. Four (4) or more unexcused absences will lead to academic and residential consequences beyond the scope of this class [as] determined by the Office of Academic Affairs (i.e., residential groundings, parent/principal conference, and/or detention).

Required syllabi statements:

1. Ball State inclusive excellence statement:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, Inclusive Excellence at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive. Unfortunately, there might be occasions when something occurs that disrupts our progress toward meeting these objectives. In this case, we encourage any member of the Academy community to file a Campus Climate Report (CCR) https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mbRbL5acAntUTI. All reports will be taken seriously, and appropriate responses will be carried out by Academy administration.

2. Indiana Academy wireless device policy:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all portable wireless devices, that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health, safety, and/or well-being. The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

3. Indiana Academy absence policy:

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor. Four or more unexcused absences in any particular class a student takes will lead to academic and residential consequences to be determined by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Residential Life that may include detention, residential groundings, parent/principal conference, among others.

4. Indiana Academy Humanities Division artificial intelligence (AI) statement:

The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI, and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course

5. Indiana Academy History Department content statement:

As with many history classes, the lectures, readings, and discussions [in this course] will include a range of topics that may be triggering, emotionally distressing, and difficult for some students. Engaging with topics such as slavery and human suffering is essential to this discipline. History seeks to understand the experiences and thought processes of former generations, whether for good or ill. Sometimes the language and word choices used by people in the past may be insensitive or politically incorrect today. Nevertheless, the goal of history is to understand the past within its own context and time. If a reading, image shown in class, or discussion is truly troubling to anyone, please do not hesitate to talk to your instructor. In some circumstances, an alternative reading can be assigned.

Evaluation overview:

8 bi-weekly discussion grades @ 50 points each	400
4 in-class tests @ 100 points each	400
total	800 points + any extra credit

Grading scale:

Percentage	Grade
.940-1000	A
.900-939	A-
.870-899	B+
.830-869	B
.800-829	B-
.770-799	C+
.730-769	C
.700-729	C-
Below 700	D*

Discussions:

Students will be expected to carefully prepare for a scheduled class discussion by conscientiously considering any and all of the assigned materials.

For biweekly discussion grades, students will be evaluated on the bases of preparation for class, attention and participation during class, as well as leadership of the class conversation.

Examinations:

There will be four in-class examinations over the course of the semester. The material covered and test format for each examination will be shared in advance.

Students should feel free to contact the instructor with any questions or concerns regarding examinations, including material covered, test format, policies, and evaluation.

Textbook and other readings:

Students need only acquire one book from the bookroom: James A. Henretta, et. al., *America* (3rd ed.). Students will never be expected to bring this textbook to any in-person class session. Background reading selections from this textbook will be indicated on the outlines provided for each lecture class. Students should be aware that some examination questions might directly relate to the textbook readings so indicated on the lecture outlines.

Discussion readings and other sources will be provided by the instructor, invariably as a hard copy document shared during class.

Course Calendar

Be alert for changes to this calendar, as announced in class and as posted to the course Canvas site.

Week 1

Mon Jan 6	Course introduction
Wed Jan 8	lecture: America at the Centennial
Fri Jan 10	discussion: Progress, by the Numbers

Week 2

Mon Jan 13	lecture: The Machine Age
Wed Jan 15	lecture: Big Business
Fri Jan 17	discussion: The Problem of Wealth

Week 3

Mon Jan 20	MLK day, no class
Wed Jan 22	lecture: Big Labor
Fri Jan 24	discussion: The Haymarket Affair – Industrial Revolution?

Week 4

Mon Jan 27	lecture: The Election of 1896
Wed Jan 29	discussion: McKinley vs Bryan
Fri Jan 31	examination, covering weeks 1-4

Week 5

Mon Feb 3	no class, extended weekend
Wed Feb 5	lecture: "Remember the Maine"
Fri Feb 7	discussion: The Imperial Itch

Week 6

Mon Feb 10	lecture: "Over There"
Wed Feb 12	lecture: Versailles
Fri Feb 14	discussion: Wilson's Vision for a 20 th c. World

Week 7

Mon Feb 17	lecture: "Return to Normalcy"
Wed Feb 19	discussion: The Great Migration
Fri Feb 21	discussion: The Jazz Age

Week 8

Mon Feb 24	lecture: The Big Smash
Wed Feb 26	discussion: "Modern Times"
Fri Feb 28	examination, covering weeks 5-8

Spring Break

Week 9

Mon Mar 10	lecture: The Election of 1932
Wed Mar 12	discussion: The New Deal
Fri Mar 14	discussion: Fireside Chats

Week 10

Mon Mar 17 lecture: A World in Flames
Wed Mar 19 discussion: "Why we Fight"
Fri Mar 21 lecture: Winning the War, Part 1

Week 11

Mon Mar 24 lecture: Winning the War, Part 2
Wed Mar 26 discussion: The Cost of Victory
Fri Mar 28 lecture: A World in Ashes

Week 12

Mon Mar 31 lecture: The Cold War Abroad
Wed Apr 2 lecture: The Cold War at Home
Fri Apr 4 discussion: Containment

Week 13

Mon Apr 7 examination, covering weeks 10-12
Wed Apr 9 lecture: The American Dream
Fri Apr 11 discussion: "See the USA in a Chevrolet"

Week 14

Mon Apr 14 lecture: Civil Rights
Wed Apr 16 discussion: Operation C
Fri Apr 18 lecture: 1968, the Great Unraveling

Week 15

Mon Apr 21 no class, extended weekend
Wed Apr 23 lecture: Era of Malaise
Fri Apr 25 discussion: "Morning in America"

Week 16

Mon Apr 28 lecture: American Empire?
Wed Apr 30 lecture: Globalization and its Discontents
Fri May 2 discussion: "Jihad vs. McWorld"

Last examination to be scheduled during finals period, covering weeks 14-16