History 5b is designed to facilitate the study of American society, culture and politics from the Gilded Age to end of World War II. Students will use literature, film and historical monographs as tools to investigate and analyze the life experiences of Americans during the first half of what has been called the “American Century.” The two central themes of this course are “progress” and “freedom,” - indeed the much of our reading and discussion will focus upon the conflict between these two ideals. Prohibition and the jazz age, women’s suffrage and the growth of corporations, the great migration and the seizure of Hawaii are some of the issues and events which will be addressed in this study of a maturing America.

**Writing Assignments** – Students will be responsible for three papers (6-8 pages in length.)

**Exams** – Students will be required to take two exams – a midterm and a final exam. Exams will test the students’ ability to integrate information from the reading and classroom lectures. The format for both exams includes short answer and essay questions. Students must take exams when scheduled.

**Class participation and attendance** - The History Department policy reads as follows: *Students are required to attend all classes for successful completion of the course. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.* Repeated absences have a detrimental effect on learning therefore; regular classroom attendance is expected in this course. Students are urged to complete the reading in advance of class time to facilitate an informed discussion. All students are encouraged to participate in classroom discussions.

The following texts are required reading. These books are available for purchase in the bookstore and on reserve in McCabe library.

- Azbug, Robert H., *America views the Holocaust, 1933-1945*
- Barry, John M. *The Great Influenza*
- DuBois, Carol Ellen, *Harriot Stanton Blatch and the winning of woman suffrage*
- Fitzgerald, F. Scott, *Babylon Revisited and other stories*
- Foner, Eric *A Short History of Reconstruction*
- Guglielmo, Thomas A. *White on Arrival: Italians, Race, Color and Power in Chicago: 1890-1945*
- Hughes, Langston, *The ways of white folks*
- Kennedy, David, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society*
- Kasson, John *Amusing the Million*
- Monroy, Douglas, *Rebirth: Mexican Los Angeles from the Great Migration to the Great Depression*
- Roark, Johnson, et al, *The American Promise, Volume II*
Lecture and readings schedule

Week I
August 30    Reconstruction and Redemption
September 1  1877 - A Year of Violence
September 3  America Ascendant - Discussion
Reading:     A Short History of Reconstruction.

Week II -
September 6  Finding a fit – in the west
September 8  Finding a fit –in the city
September 10 Who are we? - Discussion
Reading:     The American Promise, Chapter 16-19
             The Ways of White Folks, 207-255

Week III
September 13 The Gilded Age
September 15 Haymarket and Homestead
September 17 The White City- Discussion
Reading:     Amusing the Million, The American Promise, Chapter 20 &21

Week IV
September 20 White Supremacy – at home and abroad
September 22 Validating Jim Crow
September 23 Global Reach
Reading:     The American Promise, Chapter 22

Week V
September 27 Growing Pains
September 29 MIDTERM
October 1    Plague in Philadelphia? - Discussion
Reading:     The Great Influenza, 1-227

Week VI
October 4    World War I
October 6    Workers of the World Unite!
October 8    The Jazz Age Begins
Reading:     Over Here
             Babylon Revisited, 25-113

FALL BREAK 10/ 8-17/ 2004 - Complete The Great Influenza, 228-546

Week VII
October 18   Inherit the Wind
October 20   The invisible Empire – Part II
October 22   Woman as Citizen-Discussion [FIRST PAPER DUE]
Reading:     Harriot Stanton Blanch & the winning of woman suffrage
             The Ways of White Folks, 33-49
Week VIII
October 25  Hard Times all around
October 27  Mayonnaise cake and mock apple pie
October 29  smiling through our tears - Discussion
Reading:  Rebirth: Mexican Los Angeles from the Great Migration to the Great Depression, The Ways of White Folks, 99-123

Week IX
November 1  Big Brother to the Rescue
November 3  New Deal
November 5  More New Deal-Discussion
Reading:  The American Promise, Chapter 23- 24

Week X
November 8  Prelude to disaster [SECOND PAPER DUE]
November 10  Home Grown Nazism
November 12  America First-Discussion
Reading:  White on Arrival, The Ways of White Folks, 1-18

Week XI
November 15  The Last Great War
November 17  Bullets bring Butter
November 19  Rosie the Riveter
Reading:  The American Promise, Chapter 25

Week XII
November 22  America's soldiers
November 24  “Red and Yellow, Black and White....”
Reading:  Articles


Week XIII
November 29  The enemy within?
December 1  “They took papa’s short wave”
December 3  Executive Order 9066 [THIRD PAPER DUE]
Reading  America Views the Holocaust

Week XIV
December 6  On this side of the Iron Curtain
Reading:  The American Promise, Chapter 26, Articles

A FINAL EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR THIS COURSE.

SUGGESTED READINGS
Sandra Gunning, Race, Rape & Lynching: The Red Record of American Literature 1890-1912
Nancy Sorel - The Women who wrote the war
David Kennedy – Freedom from Fear: The American people in Depression and War, 1929-1945
Barbara W. Tuchman – The Guns of August
Cassandra Tate – Cigarette Wars
Leisa Meyer – Creating G.I. Jane
David L. Lewis – When Harlem was in Vogue
Annelise Orleck – Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working Class Politics in the Unites States, 1900-1965
Roger Daniels – Prisoners without trial: Japanese Americans in World War II
Neil Foley – The White Scourge