

## History 315L

### The History of the United States since the Civil War

Professor Jeremi Suri  
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Spring 2020  
Lectures: T TH 9:30 – 11:00 AM  
Online and Mezes Studio (MEZ 2.200)

#### Professor Suri's office hours:

Tues., 1:15PM-2:30pm, GAR 2.122

Wed., 1:15PM-2:30PM, SRH 3.378

#### Teaching Assistants:

Clay Katsky – ckatsky@utexas.edu

John Gleb – johngleb@utexas.edu

Anuj Kaushal – TBA

Lera Toropin – [toropin@utexas.edu](mailto:toropin@utexas.edu)

#### TA office hours:

Dates/times can be found on the Canvas homepage.

### Course Aims

This course is designed to provide students with a grounding in some of the most controversial, enduring, and relevant topics in the history of the United States, broadly defined. Students will read a wide range of monographs and primary source materials. Lectures and discussions will encourage students to compare and contrast various points of view, and interrogate broad historical transformations since the Civil War. The course will emphasize **intensive reading, analytical writing, and critical thinking**. The instructor and teaching assistants will, at all times, encourage students to articulate different points of view. Our central purpose is to stimulate informed, thoughtful, and intelligent perspectives on the American experience. This includes close attention to politics, society, culture, economy, diplomacy, and military affairs. It also includes an international and transnational understanding of how Americans have interacted historically with those defined as non-Americans. Instead of comprehensiveness and textbook detail, this will be a course about big ideas, big transformations, and big debates – that continue into the twenty-first century. We will not strive for consensus or agreement in this course; we will nurture learned discussion and collective engagement with the complexities of our society's history.

### Academic Accommodations and Academic Integrity

Upon request, the University of Texas at Austin provides appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 512-471-6259 or 512-410-6644(video phone).

Academic integrity is central to the mission of the university. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on the Internet, or created by another student. For more information about the

university's expectations for academic integrity, see:  
[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).

### **Core Curriculum Student Competencies**

As required by the Undergraduate Studies Advisory Committee, with the guidance of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this course fulfills the Coordinating Board's Exemplary Educational Objectives and Core Objectives, Core Component 60 for U.S. History. Following the Core Objectives, this course examines past events and ideas relative to the United States. This course analyzes the interaction among individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role. Lectures, readings, written assignments, and discussions in this course will address four Core Objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

### **Flag CD**

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience.

### **Description of Online Format**

This is the Synchronous Massive Online Course (SMOC) version of the HIS 315L course. Unlike almost all other courses offered at the University of Texas, you will be viewing this class online (from the comfort of your own home, library, or coffee joint) rather than in-person (except as required.) Though delivered as a live stream through Canvas, this course takes place at the official times described in the course schedule: 9:30 am – 10:45 am Tuesdays and Thursdays. You are required to attend class by logging into the course site before 9:30 am on Tuesday and Thursday to watch the live, real-time video stream of our lectures and participate in class activities. It is *very important* that you treat logging into the course website the way you would treat attending a traditional course held in a classroom; attendance is required. You will have the opportunity to pose questions online in real-time just as if you were raising your hand in class. The lectures will have a small (18-20 person) studio audience. Requirements to attend the class in-person as well as your assigned days will be provided in Canvas.

Specific information about the online course format follows.

**Canvas class website:** To get to everything associated with the class, go to:

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1276322>. You can enter directly at this URL or through Canvas (<https://utexas.instructure.com/>). To log into Canvas and the class website, you will need your UTEID and password. Once you reach the class website, you can navigate your way to other areas.

Some of the most important features include:

1. **Homepage** – The homepage will have links to the Course Syllabus, the technical requirements and test stream webpage, the live video stream of the lectures, information regarding technical questions and other important information. On the left-hand side of each page of the Canvas course site are navigation tabs to all parts of the website, including the Syllabus.
2. **Video Stream** – The Video Stream is the page on which you will find the live lecture for the course. The Video Stream will also display the outline for the current lecture and links to other participation activities.
3. **Modules** – The Modules page includes links to the Assignments, Readings, Lecture video archives and other course documents.

Most of your activity on Canvas will take place in the **Video Stream** and **Modules** tabs.

**Required internet-enabled device:** All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Your computer should have enough battery life to last an entire class period and meet the following requirements:

- Computer laptop or desktop
- RAM: at least 2GB
- Modern and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Browsers: Safari, Firefox, or Chrome (highly recommended)
- 5Mbps internet connection speed (check here: <http://beta.speedtest.net/>)

You should confirm that your computer is able to stream the video lectures by visiting the test stream page at <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tower/tech.html>.

There are multiple computer labs on campus for your use if you do not have a personal computer or laptop. (You can find a listing of these labs here: <https://it.utexas.edu/services/teaching-classroom-technology-labs>). If you do not have an internet-enabled device, some inexpensive ones are available at local stores or on the internet, some for as little as \$100.

**Bandwidth limitations:** Because the streaming video is bandwidth-intensive, you should not access YouTube, Skype, Gmail video chat or other online video system, or any other program that is bandwidth-demanding during class. During the class session, you should be watching the lecture, taking written notes, and nothing else!

**Course communication:** Most of the communication in the course will happen through the course Canvas website.

## During Class

*Class Chat feature*, which is monitored by a teaching assistant. It will be used for group responses to discussion questions from the professor posed during class.

*Ask the Professor a Question* feature on the Video Stream. This is the forum where students should ask questions for clarification or further elaboration.

We expect that you will treat online discussions as though you are having a civil, respectful discussion with your fellow classmates in the same classroom. Please refrain from using profanity or any euphemisms for profanity. Please do not bait other commenters or personally attack them. Please do not use sarcasm in a way that can be misinterpreted negatively. And please do not make the same point over and over again. In short, please just respect the right of your colleagues to ask questions and discuss their opinions about the subject matter of our course on the discussion board. Violators of these discussion rules will simply be shut out of the online discussion board and will be asked to see the professor in person.

Outside of Class: The TAs and professor will often post Announcements in Canvas. Click on the “Settings” link in the upper-right corner of your Canvas page, to adjust your email address and notification preferences. This will allow you to receive email updates whenever course Announcements are made, or when assignments and grades are posted.

If you have a specific, personal or grade-related question, please email your TA.

*Please do not use the Inbox feature within Canvas for course-related email.*

Even though this is an online course, you are encouraged to communicate with the professors and TAs. Come to our posted online office hours, or send an email to set up an appointment if none of the weekly office hours fit your schedule.

**Honor system for quizzes and writing assignments:** By taking this class, you agree to abide by the University of Texas regulations concerning cheating. During the quizzes you cannot receive help from others or discuss your writing assignments with other students. If you observe others cheating, you are honor bound to contact the TAs or instructors.

**Information and data security:** All quizzes and online interactions in Canvas will be saved and stored. All information will be kept for educational and general academic research. Any research or data sharing with other researchers will involve de-identifying the data, including the removal of names, UTEIDs, email addresses, or other information. To further ensure that your information is secure, please do not include identifying information in your online interactions with others. Remember that in online interactions, the instructors and TAs will have access to all information. Please communicate in a respectful manner.

**Reporting technical problems.** If you experience a technical problem during class, your first course of action should always be to immediately report the issue to tech support via the tech chat accessible through the Home Page or the Video Stream. Please note that you must report any technical issue before the end of the lecture during which the problem occurs. The professor and teaching assistants will not address the ramifications that your technical problems might have on your grade if tech support does not have a record of your problem. If you experience a technical problem outside of class, please follow the link to contact tech support in Canvas.

### **Lecture Attendance – We Will Take Attendance!!**

The course will meet two times per week for lectures by the professor. These lectures will complement the readings, but they will also present empirical material and interpretive perspectives not available elsewhere. **Students are required to attend all lectures online. We will take your attendance at least three times during each lecture!!!** If students must miss lecture due to sickness or other unchangeable obligations, they must inform Professor Suri as soon as possible. **You are required to send explanations for absences to Professor Suri's email (suri@austin.utexas.edu) and your teaching assistant's email in advance when possible, and no later than 24 hours after lecture.** If a satisfactory explanation does not arrive at Professor's Suri's email within 24 hours of lecture, the student will be graded down for an unexcused absence. You must attend lectures!

### **Required In-Person Studio Attendance**

Although this is an online class, you will be required to attend class in person in the studio classroom on assigned dates. We will select groups of students to attend each day. Although the actual class broadcast starts at 9:30 a.m., please be at the building by 9:00 a.m. The doors will close shortly after 9:20 a.m. so we can talk to you about studio rules. You will also get a chance to talk with the instructors, TAs, and the other students who will be part of this.

Please note that food and drinks are not allowed in the studio. Make sure to go to the restroom before you enter. When the live broadcast is in session you will only be able to leave in the case of an emergency.

The studio classroom is in Mezes (MEZ) 2.206. Enter the building from the west main entrance and walk up the stairs. Walk straight through the hallway and there will be an area for you to wait near the end of the hallway. A TA will be there to greet you and let you in to the classroom. Be sure to bring a laptop with you

### **TA Online and In-Person Office Hours**

Your assigned TA will have three office hours per week, during which you are encouraged to contact them with questions about class content or structure. These office hours will be held online, through Adobe Connect, or in-person. These formats allow the TAs to adjust hours to maximize student availability, and students will be able to connect to TAs from anywhere that is convenient for them. Up-to-date TA office hour times can be found on the homepage of the Canvas course. You are encouraged to make outside appointments should those times not fit in with your schedule.

### **Weekly Response Essays**

Each week, by **8:00 PM on Thursday**, all students must post a short response essay on the course website (available through UT's Canvas course management system): <http://canvas.utexas.edu/> or <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1276322>.

This response essay should include 3 basic paragraphs. The first paragraph should summarize the key arguments in each week's assigned readings. The second paragraph should analyze how the week's readings relate to the materials presented by Professor Suri in lecture. The third paragraph should offer the student's critical assessment of the week's readings: What was most persuasive? What was least persuasive? Which are the issues and questions that need more attention and explanation?

There is a model weekly response essay posted on the Canvas course website.

The teaching assistants will read and grade the weekly response essays. Students are expected to write clear and well-informed essays each week, based on a close reading of assigned books and careful listening to all lectures. Students are also expected to write in a professional manner, with topic sentences, appropriate evidence, persuasive language, and coherent arguments. Avoid passive voice and split infinitives. Proof-read your essays for correct grammar, syntax, and spelling. We will grade the essays based on content and writing style!

### **Citations**

For all written assignments – weekly response essays, the document analysis, and examinations – students are expected to indicate when they take information from a written, digital, or oral source. When in doubt, cite your source! This applies to quotations, paraphrases, and specific information in a source. For citations, students should follow the Chicago Manual of Style: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

### **Weekly Podcast Question**

Students are required to listen to recorded episodes of the podcast, "This is Democracy," and new episodes posted each week: <https://podcasts.la.utexas.edu/this-is-democracy/episodes/>.

The professor will announce each Thursday the topic for the next week's recording of "This is Democracy." Each student should record a question in his/her own voice and submit a typed version of the question through Canvas, under "Weekly Podcast Question." Please also include a short autobiographical sentence. The Weekly Podcast Questions are due **each Sunday by 8pm**.

### **Document Analysis**

All students will write a 3-page analysis of a document from the primary materials included with each lecture. (See the Canvas course site for each lecture.) Students should choose a document assigned for the lectures before February 20. Students will write an analytical essay that follows this format:

Page 1: Describe the argument of the document and the purpose of its writer(s). Quote the most compelling phrases in the document, and explain their importance.

Page 2: Contextualize the document. Explain what the document tells us about the time during which it was written. What do we learn about American society, politics, and culture from the chosen document? What do we learn about the hopes, fears, visions, and frustrations of the era during which the document appeared?

Page 3: Critique the document. Describe inaccuracies, prejudices, exaggerations, and misleading statements in the document. Analyze how the document could have offered a more compelling account of the historical period. How could it tell us more about society, politics, and culture in the United States at that time?

Document analysis essays are due at **9:30 am on Thursday, February 20.**

### **Video Assignment**

Based on their document analysis papers, and the comments they receive from the teaching assistants, each student will video record a formal 2-minute presentation (120 seconds) on his/her chosen document. The presentation should have the following format:

First 30 seconds: Introduce the document – title, author(s), when was it written, who read it.

Second 30 seconds: Summarize the document – what are the key arguments and purposes of the document.

Third 30 seconds: Contextualize the document – explain what the document tells us about its time, place, and the larger history of the period.

Fourth 30 seconds: Critique the document – assess the accuracy, prejudices, exaggerations, and impact of the document. Tell us what made the document effective or ineffective in achieving its purpose.

The goal of this assignment is to give students experience with delivering a formal presentation. The TAs will grade the presentations based on:

1. Organization;
2. Clarity of presentation;
3. Fulfillment of all four substantive components described above;
4. Fluency of presentation.

Guidelines for recording the video include:

- If you record your video using a phone, please turn the phone sideways to record in landscape mode.

- Review the video for sound and picture quality before submitting.
- Submit only one 120-second video per student
- Construct the file name: “UTEID\_Video” (without quotation marks)
- .mp4 and .mov formats are strongly suggested

Detailed instructions for submitting the video through Canvas will be provided.

The video presentations are due at **9:30am on Thursday, April 9.**

### **Map Videos and Quizzes**

Approximately once every two weeks we will post a short (5-7 minute) video which includes a discussion of key maps related to that part of the course. The goal of these map videos is to help students understand the relevant geography better. Each map video will close with 3 multiple choice questions that students must answer. If you watch the video, the questions are easy to answer. You must watch each map video and answer the questions by the due date listed in the course schedule below.

#### **Examination #1**

**On Tuesday, March 10** the professor will distribute one mid-term essay question at the end of class. Students should write a 1200 word (4-5 double-spaced pages, 12-point font) answer to this question. The essay should make use of material from assigned readings, class lectures, and discussions. Students may consult books and discuss their answers with one another. Each essay, however, should reflect **the original writing of each student**. Students should proofread their essays for clarity, substance, and style (grammatical mistakes, passive voice, and sloppy writing will incur grade deductions.) **The mid-term examination essay is due at 9:30am on Thursday, March 12. We will not accept late submissions.**

#### **Examination #2**

The course will conclude with a second take-home examination. It will cover material from the entire semester. The professor will distribute two examination questions at the end of class on May 7. Students should write a 1000 word (4 double-spaced pages, 12-point font) answer to each of the two questions. Each essay should make use of material from assigned readings, class lectures, and weekly discussions. Students may consult books and discuss their answers with one another. Each essay, however, should reflect the **original writing of each student**. Students should proofread their essays for clarity, substance, and style (grammatical mistakes, passive voice, and sloppy writing will incur grade deductions.) **Students must submit their final examination answers by Noon on Wednesday, May 13.** We will not accept late submissions.



### Grades

Weekly Response Essays	15%
Document Analysis	15%
Video Assignment	10%
Examination #1	15%
Examination #2	20%
Lecture Attendance (answering pings during lectures and attending in-person studio sessions)	15%
Online Chat Participation in lectures	5%
Map Quizzes	5%

Final grades will be based on +/- letter grade system.

A = 94-100

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D+ = 67-69

D = 64-66

F = 0-63

### Required Readings

Each lecture, listed below, has specific required readings in the assigned books and primary documents. The assigned books must be purchased or borrowed from the library (see below). The primary documents are available online, linked to each lecture through Canvas. **You are required to complete the assigned readings before each lecture. You must do all of the reading.**

### Assigned Books

Available in new and used editions at the **University Co-op**  
2246 Guadalupe Street  
Tel. (512) 476-7211

All of the books are also on reserve at the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL).

- Brinkley, Alan. *Franklin Delano Roosevelt* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).
- Hahn, Steven. *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005).
- May, Elaine Tyler. *Fortress America: How We Embraced Fear and Abandoned Democracy* (New York: Basic Books, 2017).
- McGerr, Michael. *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).
- McPherson, James M. *Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).
- Ngai, Mae. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014).
- Suri, Jeremi. *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2005).

Week 1:

1/21 Introduction

1/23 The Civil War and the Second American Revolution

McPherson, 3-64;

Hahn, 62-115;

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 1.

Week 2:

1/28 Reconstruction and its Achievements

McPherson, 131-52;

Hahn, 163-215;

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 68.

1/30 Politics and Society in the Shadow of Reconstruction

Hahn, 265-313;

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 6.

**Map Quiz: Civil War, Due at 5pm on Friday, January 31.**

Week 3:

2/4 The New South

Hahn, 317-411;

Primary Documents on Canvas.

2/6 Gilded Age Society and Global Capitalism

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 42.

Week 4:

2/11 Imperialism

Hahn, 412-64;

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 8.

2/13 Populism

Hahn, 465-76;

Primary Documents on Canvas;

“This is Democracy,” Episode 9.

**Map Quiz: Gilded Age, Due at 5pm on Friday, February 14.**

Week 5:

- 2/18 Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the Progressives  
 McGerr, xiii-xvi, 3-74 ;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 15.
- 2/20 The Great War and the Progressives  
 McGerr, 77-218;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.  
**Document analysis essay due at the start of lecture (9:30am).**

**Map Quiz: The Great War, due at 5pm on Friday, February 21.**

Week 6:

- 2/25 Herbert Hoover and the Associative State  
 McGerr, 221-319;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.
- 2/27 The Great Depression  
 Ngai, 17-90.  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 65.

Week 7:

- 3/3 Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal  
 Brinkley, first half of the short biography;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 3.
- 3/5 The New Deal and the Coming of World War II  
 Brinkley, second half of the short biography;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.

**Map Quiz: WWII, due at 5pm on Friday, March 6.**

Week 8:

- 3/10 Fighting World War II  
 Ngai, 127-166, 175-201;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 38.  
**Examination #1 question distributed at the end of lecture.**
- 3/12 Legacies of World War II  
**Examination #1 essay due at the start of lecture (9:30am).**

Week 9:

3/17 Spring Break

3/19 Spring Break

Week 10:

3/24 The Origins of the Cold War  
 Ngai, 202-24.  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 16.

3/26 Cold War Society and Culture  
 May, 13-56;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.

Week 11:

3/31 Nuclear Stalemate and the American Economic Miracle  
 Suri, 7-43;  
 Suri, 88-130;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.

4/2 The Second Reconstruction  
 Ngai, 227-64  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 10.

Week 12:

4/7 The Vietnam War  
 Suri, 131-63;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas;  
 “This is Democracy,” Episode 39.

4/9 The Global Disruption of 1968  
 Suri, 164-259;  
 Primary Documents on Canvas.

**Video presentations due at the start of lecture (9:30am).**

**Map Quiz: Vietnam, due at 5pm on Friday, April 10.**

Week 13:

- 4/14 The New South – Again  
May, 57-96;  
Primary Documents on Canvas;  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 40.
- 4/16 The Reagan Revolution and the End of the Cold War  
May, 97-123;  
Primary Documents on Canvas.

Week 14:

- 4/21 The End of the Cold War  
May, 125-59;  
Primary Documents on Canvas;  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 64.
- 4/23 Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide After the Cold War  
Primary Documents on Canvas;  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 59.

**Map Quiz: End of the Cold War, due at 5pm on Friday, April 24.**

Week 15:

- 4/28 The Rise of Global Terrorism  
Suri, 260-65;  
Ngai, xxi-xxviii;  
Primary Documents on Canvas.
- 4/30 The Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001 and their Aftermath  
Primary Documents on Canvas;  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 56.

**Map Quiz: Contemporary Maps, due at 5pm on Friday, May 1.**

Week 16:

- 5/5 Free and Unfree Labor  
May, 161-94;  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 37.
- 5/7 The Election of 2016 and the Future of American History  
“This is Democracy,” Episode 54.  
**Examination #2 questions distributed at the end of lecture.**

**Take-home Examinations are due on Canvas by 12:00pm on Wednesday, May 13. We will not accept late exams, no exceptions!**