

Syllabus, Fall 2009  
Barbara Slanec  
Fridays: 6:10p.m.-8:50p.m.

847-302-9840  
MissSlanec@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Weekly after class

## HISTORY 215 SB--U.S. HISTORY 1877 to the PRESENT

The purpose of this course is to provide a better understanding of the economic, political, geographical, social and cultural forces that shape United States history. A weekly discussion of current events will show how and why these forces continue to shape America today, and into the future. My goal in this class is to not simply give you facts, but to encourage you to think critically about the themes to be discussed. Though there are objective facts of history (i.e., 'Dropping of atom bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945'), we will also discuss whether the bomb 'needed' to be dropped to end World War II. Historians disagree.

I have assigned books that give both facts yet also require your analyzation of arguments based on facts.

The required texts for this course are:

**Gienapp Davidson, Nation of Nations Since 1865 (volume 2)**

**Frank Rich, The Greatest Story Ever Sold**

**Jonathan Alter, The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days**

Grading for this course will be based on the following:

Class Participation:	100 points
Map Quiz 1:	25 points
Map Quiz 2:	25 points
Book Review #1:	125 points
Book Review #2:	200 points
Final Exam:	200 points

675-600 points: A 599-550: B 549-500: C 499-450: D 449 or less: F

The Final will be cumulative, with questions, true-false, essay, et al. There will be a Study Guide (to be handed out the week before the final).

Book Review #1 will be based on *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*. Book Review #2 will be based on *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days*.

Review #1 will be 2-3 pages in length, Review # 2 will be 5-6 pages in length. Further specifics will be handed out in class.

Regular attendance is **MANDATORY**. Since I will be covering large chunks of material in my lectures, absences will result in a dramatic lack of

continuity and a lowered grade. Class participation is encouraged, and will be graded. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to see me before or after class.

Dishonesty in the form of plagiarism and/or cheating on assignments or the exams will not be tolerated. Any student guilty of such action will suffer the consequences as per the university.

Tentative Schedule of lectures, readings in *Davidson* book, et al:

- September 4: Civil War & Reconstruction (Chapter 17-*Davidson*)  
How the West Was Won (Ch. 18)
- September 11: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Industrial Revolution (Ch. 19)  
Immigration, Urbanization, Unionization (Ch. 20)
- September 18: Culture War: The 1890's (Ch. 21)  
Creating an American Empire (Ch. 22)  
Progressivism (Ch. 23)
- September 25: Wilson and World War I (Ch. 24)  
October 2: Roaring into the 1920's (Ch. 25)  
Map Quiz 1
- October 9: A New Deal for United States? (Ch. 26)  
Book Review #1 (*Greatest Story Ever Sold*) due
- October 16: The Good War: World War II (Ch. 27)  
Map Quiz 2
- October 23: The Good War: World War II (Ch. 28)  
October 30: Stalin in the Suburbs (Ch. 29)  
The Cold War (Ch. 30)
- November 6: Vietnam Contains the United States (Ch. 31)  
November 13: A Not-So-Great Society (Ch. 32)  
November 20: Watergate to Zipper gate (Ch. 33)
- November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend-No Class  
Happy Thanksgiving!
- December 4: America in 2006: Foreverwar? (*Davidson*, Epilog)  
Book Review #2 due (*Defining Moment: FDR's 100 Days*)
- December 11: 2006 to today (No reading)
- December 18: Final Exam