512:103 Development of the US I
Instructor: Melanie Kiechle

Development of the U.S. I focuses on major events and themes in American history from European contact through Reconstruction. We will explore history through the eyes of those who made it happen, from ordinary people struggling to live their lives through the political leaders. We will examine contact between cultures, the creation of new societies, systems of oppression and freedom, and the place of the United States in the world. Readings will be drawn from a textbook as well as primary documents. We will alternate lectures with discussion, media analysis, and in-class group work. Above all, we will be trying to think as historians—seeking to understand the past the way people at the time saw it, through the sources they have left us.

512:104 Development of the US II, session 3
Instructor: Allison Miller

Development of the U.S. II focuses on major events and themes in American history from the end of the Civil War to the present. We will explore history through the eyes of those who made it happen, from presidents and legislators to ordinary people struggling for a better life. We will use primary documents to examine the currents of Reconstruction, segregation, imperialism, consumer culture, war, the Great Depression, the shifting dynamics between men and women, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the New Right, and globalization, among other topics. Readings will also include a textbook. Students must produce one five-page research paper, an original analysis of several primary sources. We will alternate lectures with discussion, film clips, and in-class writing assignments. Above all, we will be trying to think as historians—seeking to understand the past the way people at the time saw it, through the sources they have left us.

512:104 Development of the U.S. II, Saturday session
Instructor: Emily Westkaemper

This introductory-level course surveys the political, social, economic, and cultural history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to the present (2007). Lectures, class discussions, and paper assignments will incorporate a variety of documents created during the time periods studied, from newspaper articles to television sitcoms. Throughout the course, we will consider race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, region, and religion as factors shaping Americans’ experiences and actions. Class attendance and participation, a midterm and a final examination, and two brief (3-4 pages) papers will determine course grades.
512:305 U.S. History, 1914-1945
Instructor: Norman Markowitz

We will analyze the development of the U.S. as the most advanced industrial nation on earth, and the effects of that development on U.S. domestic and foreign policy, the great depression, and the two World Wars. Students will be required to take a take-home midterm and a takehome final examination. The course will consist of lecture discussions, readings, and films and videos to highlight course themes. Attendance will be taken and attendance and class participation will be factored into the final grade.

512:306 US History, 1945-present
Instructor: Norman Markowitz

We will analyze the major developmental trends in post 1945 U.S. history, focusing on the development of the international and domestic cold wars, the development of the domestic Civil Rights movement and the anti-cold war peace movement centered on the Vietnam War and the ensuing conflicts between the cold war and consumerist culture of conformity and the cultures of civil rights, civil liberties, and personal freedom which arose to challenge cold war political culture, and the ongoing effects of the conflict between the two in the post 1970 period of technological revolution and social economic crisis. Students will be required to take a take-home midterm and a take-home final examination. The course will consist of lecture-discussions, readings, and films and videos to highlight course themes. Attendance will be taken and attendance and class participation will be factored into the final grade.

512:314 City in American History
Instructor Chad Pearson

This course examines American cities historically, from the colonial period to the end of the twentieth century. We will investigate a broad range of topics, including commerce and industrialization, municipal politics, immigration, the emergence of neighborhoods, social movements, and deindustrialization. We will explore the nature of city life, the process of urban growth, and today’s “urban crisis.” Throughout the course, we will consider issues of class, gender, ethnicity, and race.

512:376 American Culture in the 1950s
Instructor: Sara Rzeszutek

This course explores the transformations in American culture, politics, and social movements during the 1950s. We will emphasize three major themes: the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the rise of the suburbs, using race, class, gender, and sexuality as key analytical categories. Giving explicit attention to how these distinct themes and experiences are inextricably connected to one another, we will work to understand how the 1950s fundamentally altered the course of American life for the half century that followed.
In this class, we will explore the flourishing field of women’s history by examining the lives of women in the past. We will examine how women’s status and roles changed American history from the early colonial period through Reconstruction (1607-1877). Topics will include work, family, religion, war, sexuality, organizations, and feminism. We will study women’s activism, their everyday lives, and the changing concepts of women’s proper “place” in society. We will consider how differences across race, class, ethnicity, and region have affected women’s status and women’s interactions with one another.