

Development of the United States, 1877
End of Southern Reconstruction to the Present (Obama, the War on Terror, and Trump)

512:104 Sections 01 and 03

Spring 2018

Paul G. E. Clemens

Academic Building 1170, Tuesday & Thursday, 6:10-7:30

Through lecture, discussion of primary sources (written documents, film clips and other visuals), and analysis of historical debates, we will the major themes in American history from the time of the end of "Reconstruction" of the South (1877) to the American war in Afghanistan and the presidencies of Barack Obama and Donald Trump. We will explore: (1) the emergence of the United States as an international power; (2) the expanding role of the federal government and the creation of the "welfare state;" and (3) the struggle for individual rights, especially those of women and black Americans.

'We Are in a Forest Fire of Ignorance' (Patrick Oliphant, Sept. 13, 2001 – two days after 9/11)



Patrick Oliphant (b. 1936) is an Australian-born, Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonists.

Topics in the *Development of the United States, 1877 to the Present* will include: the making of an industrial economy (Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller), the immigrant experience

(that brought the great grandparents of some students from Europe to America between 1880 and 1917; brought the parents of many other students here since World War II from Latin America and Asia; and which today includes the undocumented aliens who may be your classmates at Rutgers); the birth of a consumer culture (the movies, baseball, Atlantic City, flappers); the United States rise to world power (the Philippine War, Spanish American War, World War I); the Great Depression, the New Deal, and the creation of the modern welfare state; World War II; the 1950s (from Elvis to Kinsey, rock to sex); the civil rights movement; Vietnam; 1968 ("Coming Apart"); Nixon; women's and gay liberation; Watergate; Reagan, the Persian Gulf War; Clinton, Bush II, 9/11 and the war in the Middle East (Iraq and Afghanistan),; the Obama Presidency; and the election of Donald Trump. Every class will involve student participation. Students will have an opportunity to explore a little of the history of their university, comparing their impression of student life at the State University today with the way Rutgers students were in the 1950s and 1970s.

Books to Purchase:

Note: the Rutgers bookstore often has prices that are below those charged by online distributors, including Amazon. Some publishers also sell their books directly for lower than distributors prices.

Nancy Hewitt and Steven Lawson, *Exploring American Histories: A History with Sources*, Volume 2, 2nd edition (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017). ISBN: 978-1-4576-9471-4

Victoria Bissell Brown and Timothy J. Shannon, *Going to the Source, Volume 2: from 1877*, 4th edition (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015) ISBN: 978-1319027506.

Elaine Tyler May, *Great Expectations: Marriage and Divorce in Post-Victorian America* (University of Chicago Press, 1980, 1983). ISBN: 9780226511702. Amazon.com lists as \$21.37 for a new copy (used copy acceptable).

Kali Nicole Gross, *Hannah Mary Tabbs and the Disembodied Torso* (Oxford University Press, 2016). ISBN: 978-019086001. Kindle price \$9.99.

Michael Adas and Joseph Gilch, *Everyman in Vietnam: A Soldier's Journey into the Quagmire* (Oxford University Press, 2018), ISBN:978-0-19-945587-3.