

HIS 522 / CEG 522

Field Seminar: US History after 1877

Mondays, 6:30 pm - 9:20 pm

Professor Christopher Sellers

This course surveys American history from Reconstruction into the later twentieth century. It is designed to introduce graduate students to the range of questions and methods that define the field of American history today. I'll expect you to have a basic textbook knowledge of this era of American history upon entrance; that is, to know what standard definitions of progressivism are, etc. This course should round out students' background both for the M.A. orals and for survey courses in American history in tune with recent trends in the history field, whether in high school or undergraduate.

Through readings and discussions, we will touch upon what American historians have considered to be major events and developments from Reconstruction into the late 20th Century. In the process, we'll also survey different approaches that have been taken to this period by historians of various stripes: political, social, cultural, and environmental. Historiographic readings and references will supply a sense of how much literature is not covered by the required texts. My aim is for you to come away from this course conversant not only in the big narratives of American history over this period, but in the variety of ways that historians have analyzed and narrated these. This course should gear students to think about American history in more international and comparative veins. The seminar will center around the reading and discussion of an extensive list of required and supplemental texts. Requirements will include oral presentations, brief writing assignments, and a critical essay.