

# HISTORY 17C 57Z

## History of the United States 1900 to Present

De Anza College  
Spring 2025  
CRN 48665



Christopher R. Jackson, Ph.D., Instructor

Course Website:

<https://deanza.instructure.com/courses/40059>

Instructor e-mail:

[jacksonchristopherr@fhda.edu](mailto:jacksonchristopherr@fhda.edu)

\*\*PDF of syllabus

History 17C-57Z is an online class that does not have scheduled meetings. Students can log in any time to do the required week's course work. Students must have access to a computer, the internet, and an individual email address. We recommend a laptop or desktop computer to successfully complete the course; a tablet or phone may not be adequate for all assignments and tests. The class will use the Canvas course management system. See the [Student Resource hub](#) with extensive information and tips for online learning.

### Course Description:

The United States is a country that has always been striving to define itself. This course will begin to explore that process of self-definition during the critical 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the United States made the transition from an isolationist economic power to an international superpower.

This survey will examine the progressive era, the tentative emergence of the United States as a world political leader during and after World War I, and the role of the Great Depression in American politics. We will look in depth at World War II and the role of the Cold War in elevating the United States into the position of a superpower. We will look at domestic unrest and the civil rights movements of the 1960s, the "malaise" of the 70s, the revival of patriotism and aggressive foreign policy in the 80s, the collapse of Communism, and the rise of political divisiveness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will demonstrate and apply knowledge of the 20th century U.S. to construct defensible statements of meaning and evaluation about this period's developments. Assessment: quizzes, exams, and papers.

**Requisites:** Advisory: EWRT 1A or EWRT 1AH or ESL 5.

**Note:** History 17C partially fulfills Area 4 of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). For further information, go to <https://www.deanza.edu/articulation/documents/ge-igetc.pdf>

**Office Hours:** I will be happy to meet with you during the quarter. Simply e-mail me to set up a meeting on Pronto, Zoom, by phone, or other medium: [jacksonchristopherr@fhda.edu](mailto:jacksonchristopherr@fhda.edu)

**Textbook:** OpenStax College, *U.S. History*. OpenStax College. 23 December 2014. <<http://cnx.org/content/col11740/latest/>>. Please note this textbook is free on-line. In order to download a pdf of the book, go to

<http://cnx.org/content/col11740/latest/>

**Discussions.** In order to have regular and substantive interaction (and to get to know each other), we will be holding discussions on the subject matter on designated weeks. You will need to keep up with the material regularly, and not just leave it to the end of the week.

You are responsible for posting at least four (4) substantive posts during the discussion week over the course of three (3) separate days in the week. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL SUNDAY TO DO THE DISCUSSION.** See the [Discussion Instructions](#) for further details.

**Primary source analysis papers.** You will write **one** short primary source analysis paper for the course. You get to choose one of three topics, as listed below. It will be devoted to analyzing primary sources, available from within the paper assignment. Typed, double-spaced, approximately 900-1100 words, to be submitted to the Canvas website. (See video instructions below.) The paper must be submitted before 11:59 pm on the date due. Do not submit Pages files, links, or other formats that Turnitin does not accept. **If the file cannot be analyzed by Turnitin, you will receive no credit.**

**Instructions for turning in a paper for History 17C.** The video below explains how to submit a paper for the class.

\*\*[Link in Canvas]

You will choose which subject on which you will write your paper: **America Enters the War**, **The Origins of the Cold War**, or **The Civil Rights Movement**. Each has different due dates, as listed below. Click on the links within the modules for the assignments and links to the primary sources. The paper is worth 30 points. You may turn in **only** one paper for credit. For help on MLA formatting, consult the [Purdue Owl](#).

**Team Presentation.** Everyone will be part of a team and help to produce a presentation on the 1980s, focusing on a particular aspect of that era. The presentation is due at the end of Week 9. The team charter (1 point), progress report (1 point), presentation (19 points), team evaluation (3 points) and comments on another team’s presentation (1 point) add up to a total of 25 points for the Team Presentation project.

**History in the news.** To see the connections between the past and the present, you will be following the news over the course of the quarter and posting two articles and commenting on two articles other students have posted. Worth 4 points.

**Final exam.** The final will be held on **Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The final will consist of **one** essay question and **three** short identifications. A study guide will be provided one week ahead of the exam that will consist of four possible essay questions; the instructor will choose one of these for your final exam—you will not have a choice. You will have a choice on the short IDs, but these will only be available on the day of the exam. You will have 24 hours to complete and submit the exam to Turnitin via Canvas. Worth 20 points.

**Assignment policies.** Make-up discussion contributions and late papers will **not** be accepted. There is no “extra credit” in the course.

Note that it is your responsibility to drop the course in a timely manner if you choose to do so. The last day to drop the class is **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. The last day to withdraw is **May 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is cheating, caused by lazy or dishonest students who do not properly cite their sources or quotations. It is a serious academic violation and will not be tolerated in this class. Assignments that have been plagiarized will be given zero points and could lead to college disciplinary action. Please see the De Anza College website on [Academic Integrity](#).

For a brief explanation of what plagiarism is, the different kinds of plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/>

Please do not “borrow” material from the web without providing proper citations and enclosing direct quotations in quotation marks. Likewise do not use ChatGPT or any other AI program. Your paper should be your own writing. Otherwise, it will be considered plagiarism, and the penalties will be severe.

Say Hello!	1% of final grade
Discussions:	20% of final grade
Analysis paper:	30% of final grade
History in the News #1:	2% of final grade
History in the News #2:	2% of final grade
Team Presentation:	25% of final grade
Final examination:	20% of final grade

**Grade Points/Letter Grade Equivalents**

95+	90-94	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	73-76	67-72	64-66	60-63	<59
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D+	D	D-	F

(Please note that there is no “C-minus” grade at De Anza College.)

## Schedule

- Week 1: April 7-13 **Introduction, Progressivism**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chaps. 21, 22  
**Say Hello! Due April 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 2: April 14-20 **America and the Great War**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap.23  
**Discussion #1: Progressivism completed by April 20<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 3: April 21-27 **The Jazz Age**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap.24.  
**Team Charter due April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Paper option #1 (America Enters the War) due April 27<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 4: April 28-May 4 **The Great Depression**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 25.
- Week 5: May 5-11 **Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 26.  
**Discussion #2: The Depression and New Deal completed by May 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 6: May 12-18 **America and World War II**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 27.  
**History in the News #1 due May 18<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 7: May 19-25 **The Cold War**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 28.  
**Paper Option #2: The Cold War at Home and Abroad due May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Team Progress Report due May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Response to History in the News #1 due May 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 8: May 26-June 1 **The 60s**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 29.  
**Discussion #3: The Cold War and the 60s completed by June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**History in the News #2 due June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
(Note: May 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to withdraw from the course.)
- Week 9: June 2-8 **Wasting Energy in the Shining City**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 30  
**Paper Option #3 (Civil Rights) due June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Response to History in the News #2 due June 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Team Presentations due June 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 10: June 9-15 **The Rise of the New Right**  
Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 31.  
**Team Evaluation due June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Presentation Comments due June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Discussion #4: The 70s and 80s completed June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Week 11: June 16-22

**Collapse of Communism, a New World**

Reading: OpenStax, U.S. History, chap. 32.

Week 12: Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Final Examination**

**Need help?** Meet with tutors and attend workshops in the Student Success

Center: <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess>.