

HIS 522
US History Since the Civil War
TH 3:30- 6:20pm
SBS N-318
Prof. Mark Chambers

This is a field seminar in U.S. history from 1865 to the present and surveys classic and new interpretations. A course that covers so much of U.S. history in a single semester can only offer a survey of some of the most influential titles for each significant historical transformation. As such, the course considers major titles of Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, Progressive and New Deal eras, the two World Wars, the Civil Rights and Environmental movements, and the Cold War. Emphasis in the course is a mix of social and cultural history. Students will read approximately a book a week (ca. 300pp). Our discussions of texts will build necessary skills in critical reading and understanding the elements of argument, interpretation, methodology, sources, and historiographical significance. This course will also require students to design innovative and practical ways of teaching American history in their own classrooms. Course assignments include weekly discussions, written critical reading responses, present on a set of readings as discussion leader, a book review, and a final historiographical essay on a topic of their choosing (or lesson plan for MAT students). HIS MA/PhD students register for HIS 522; MAT students register for CEG 522. Non-matriculated students must obtain permission from the instructor. **Prerequisite: Enrollment in MA/PhD program or permission of instructor.**