

## HY5207 Approaches to American History Semester 1 2006-07

Module Code	HY5207		
Module Title	APPROACHES TO AMERICAN HISTORY		
Semester	Semester 1, 2006/2007		
Modular Credit(s)	4		
Department	History		
Teaching Staff	ASSOC PROF IAN GORDON	hisilg@nus.edu.sg	Lecturer

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### AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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This graduate module examines the major themes in American History and historiography in recent years. The study of history has been influenced by new fields such as gender studies and environmental history, other disciplines, particularly anthropology, and cross disciplinary approaches such as American Studies. This module will critically evaluate selected approaches to American history. As an initial step students will undertake a bibliographical project to shape the module syllabus.

### TEACHING MODES

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Three hour seminar. Weekly readings

### TIME AND LOCATION

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Time: Friday 10am - 1pm  
Location: AS3/03-07

### SYLLABUS

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This year students in the module will read a selection of classic works in American History from mostly post the Civil War (1861-1865). Students will read a book a week. Every second week students will be required to write a 500 to 1,000 word book review on the work read that week. The works selected are all available through the ACLS History E-book Project to which NUS subscribes. Type in ACLS under title in the Library catalogue and follow the links.

### ASSESSMENT

[TOP](#)

#### 100% Continuous Assessment

Five Book reviews of 500 -1,000 words (5% each) 25%  
Bibliography/Syllabus Project 25% **Due November 10**  
Essay 5,000 words 35% **Due November 17**

Participation 15%

For the Bibliography/Syllabus Project students will provide an annotated bibliography giving one book and one journal or book chapter article to replace each book on the current syllabus. Students should provide a short annotation (2-3 sentences) for each piece describing its content. The syllabus should have some logical progression and have some clear connection to the current syllabus.

## TEXTS & READINGS

[TOP](#)

**One Book a week in the following order:**

Fredrickson, George M. *The Black image in the white mind: the debate on Afro-American character and destiny, 1817-1914*. New York: Harper & Row, 1971.

Jones, Howard Mumford. *The age of energy: varieties of American experience, 1865-1915*. New York : Viking Press, 1971.

Johns, Elizabeth. *Thomas Eakins, the heroism of modern life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.

Brown, Joshua. *Beyond the lines: pictorial reporting, everyday life, and the crisis of gilded-age America*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Jacobson, Matthew Frye. *Whiteness of a different color: European immigrants and the alchemy of race*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Hofstadter, Richard. *The age of reform: from Bryan to F.D.R.* New York: Vintage Books, 1955.

Daniel, Pete. *Breaking the land: the transformation of cotton, tobacco, and rice cultures since 1880*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1985.

Kennedy, David M. *Freedom from fear: the American people in depression and war, 1929-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Brinkley, Alan. *Liberalism and its discontents*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Flink, James J. *The automobile age*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1988.

Boyer, Paul S. *By the bomb's early light American thought and culture at the dawn of the atomic age*. Chapel Hill : University of North Carolina Press, 1994.

Schoenwald, Jonathan M., *A time for choosing: the rise of modern American conservatism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.