

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM
LEXINGTON, KY. 40506-0054

HIS 109	24 Assignments
History of the United States from 1865	3 Semester Hours

This is your study guide for HIS 109: History of the United States from 1865. HIS 109 is a continuation of HIS 108. The course provides a survey of the main themes of recent United States history, concentrating on a broad range of political, social, economic and cultural developments. There are four books for the course. The first is the textbook, *The American Promise*. It contains basic information and serves as a reference work. It will be your main source of information for the course. The second book is the textbook's companion reader, *Reading the American Past*. It will go into further detail on selected topics by providing primary source readings. The remaining two books, Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives* and W. E. B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*, are larger primary sources that allow you to delve even further into two areas of recent American history. These books work together to give you a good sense of the history of recent America.

Required Readings

Roark, James L., Michael P. Johnson, Patricia Cline Cohen, Sarah Stage, Alan Lawson and Susan M. Hartmann. *The American Promise: A History of the United States*. Volume II: From 1865. Boston: Bedford Books, 1998. ISBN: 0-312-11197-5.

Johnson, Michael P., ed. *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents*. Volume II: From 1865. Boston: Bedford Books, 1998. ISBN: 0-312-13909-8.

Riis, Jacob A. *How the Other Half Lives*. Edited by David Leviatin. Boston: Bedford Books, 1996. ISBN: 0-312-11700-0

Du Bois, W. E. B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Edited by David W. Blight and Robert Gooding-Williams. Boston: Bedford Books, 1997. ISBN: 0-312-09114-1.

Instructions

This course is divided into 24 assignments. Seventeen of these assignments are based on readings in the textbook and companion reader. Each of these seventeen assignments contains an overview, which briefly outlines the main issues in the assignment, followed by the required readings and a written lesson consisting of a few essay questions. Each of these essay questions should be answered in 1-2 typed, double-spaced pages (or the equivalent amount in clear handwriting). Each lesson should consist of about five pages when completed.

Four of the remaining assignments are double lessons. These are lessons on the longer primary sources which, because of the additional reading, count as two lessons. Other than their double value, these lessons are the same as the textbook lessons and should be completed as such. Submit each double lesson to the independent study program under a single cover sheet.

The remaining three lessons are review lessons. These contain no additional reading and are intended to help you draw links between the lessons you've already completed. Each review lesson consists of several essay questions, each of which should be answered in an essay of 5-7 medium paragraphs. Each review lesson consists of about five pages when completed.

You are expected to write thoughtful and coherent answers to all questions. A good essay exhibits your understanding and digestion of the material. It is not merely a restatement of the assigned readings. All answers must be written in your own words. Material copied or paraphrased from the readings or other sources is not your own work and will result in, at a minimum, failure of that lesson. Plagiarism of this sort will usually result in failure of the class and can lead to expulsion from the university.

Write any questions about course material on the assignment sheets. Questions about the administration of the course or anything but the assignments should be directed to the independent study office rather than the instructor.

Grading

Lessons (21)	40%
Review Lessons (3)	20%
Final Exam	40%

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of several essay questions of the sort you see on the regular and review lessons. You will have a choice of essays and be expected to answer three of the questions. You will be asked to draw connections between the different lessons. Careful review of your assignments, particularly the review lessons, should leave you well-prepared for the final. You will have up to two hours to complete the final examination.

Suggestions for Study

Think carefully about the readings for each assignment or, in the case of review lessons, about the earlier assignments, before answering the essay questions. It will probably be useful to take notes on the main themes of each lesson as you read it. Keep in mind that the emphasis of this course is on the development of broad historical themes, their causes and their effects, not on memorizing specific names and dates. Each assignment will be returned to you with notes and comments from the instructor; take the time to review these notes and take them into account on future assignments.

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