

**History 407**  
**US Progressive Era**  
**Clinton Sandvick**  
**McKenzie 340T**  
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**Office Hours: Thursday 9:00-12:00**  
**Class Hours: Thursday 2:00-4:50**  
**Location: 471 MCK**

The primary goal of this seminar is to provide advanced undergraduate students an opportunity to create an in-depth 20-25 page research paper. Needless to say, this is a difficult task that will require a great deal of work. This course will give you the chance to both research and write about a topic in great detail.

Syllabus:

Required materials for the course:

Charles W. Calhoun, ed., *The Gilded Age: Essays on the Origins of Modern America*  
Mary Lynn Rampola, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*

Week 1      Please began reading *The Gilded Age* and *A Pocket Guide to Writing History* over the break, while we will not discuss it until week two you will want to start before our first class. We will discuss the ground of the class and expectations for this course. We will explore the varied resources available to us through the UO library system for research.

Assignments:      1. Finish *The Gilded Age* and be prepared to discuss it in class.  
2. Spend at least 6 hours reading newspapers, state governmental reports, magazines, medical journals or similar materials. Each of you will prepare a brief written summary (no more than two pages, double spaced) of what you found. You will need to be prepared to discuss what you found in class.

Week 2      We will discuss *The Gilded Age* in order to gain at least a broad outline of some of the major developments during this time period. Students will give their presentations about what they found out during their investigation. Students will also discuss potential research topics. Finally, John Russell will discuss the resources available to students at Knight Library.

Assignments:      1. Continue reading source material. You will want to start looking

at additional types of sources.

2. Prepare a written research proposal (2 pages, double spaced) for week three.

Week 3 Each student will present their research proposal to the class. This presentation will give students the chance to critique each other, provide hints and even help direct each other towards potential useful research material.

Assignment: 1. Continue researching your topic.  
2. Schedule a meeting with Clinton Sandvick discuss your progress.

Weeks 4-5 During these two we will not have class and you will continue working independently. You must have at least one (or more) meetings with Mr. Sandvick. If you fail to meet with me, your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade. You should start writing you paper.

Assignment: 1. Prepare an extensive and detailed outline.  
2. Prepare a working bibliography for your paper.  
3. Continue research.

Week 6 You will present progress reports for your paper to the class. Additionally, be prepared to describe research problems and challenges that you have faced. This will be a good opportunity to solicit help and advice from your fellow classmates.

Weeks 7-8 During these two weeks we will not have class. You will continue to work independently on your rough draft.

Assignment: 1. Continue writing your rough draft so you can bring it to class on next week.

Week 9 Bring your rough draft to class. We will break into small groups and you will review each other's drafts in detail.

Week 10 Your papers are due in class. This session will devoted to a general discussion of the research process and of what you wrote about.

## **Book List**

Brands, H.W., *American Colossus, The Triumph of Capitalism 1865-1900*

Cashman, Sean Dennis, *America In the Gilded Age: From the Death of Lincoln to The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*

Chace, James, *1912 – Wilson, Roosevelt, Taft & Debs – The Election that Changed the Country*

Cherny, Robert W., *American Politics in the Gilded Age: 1868-1900*

Dubofsky, Melvyn, *Industrialism and the American Worker: 1865-1920*

Hofstadter, Richard, *The Age of Reform*

Kraut, Alan, *The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921*

Lears, Jackson, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern American, 1877-1920*

Menard, Louis, *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*

Porter, Glenn, *The Rise of Big Business: 1860-1920*

Postel, Charles, *The Populist Vision*

Wiebe, Robert H., *The Search for Order: 1877-1920*