

HIS 261
Change & Reform in the United States, 1877-1919

Satisfies: USA, SBS, DIV

Thematic Categories: “Arts, Ideas & Culture,”
“Law, Politics & Social Justice,” “Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities”

M/W, 3:30 – 4:50 PM

Professor Mark Chambers

This course examines the period when the United States became a Modern Nation during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and into the early years of the twentieth century. Railroad lines crisscrossed the nation, and large numbers of immigrants, from Eastern Europe and Mexico, arrived in the United States. Developments at home and abroad seemed to promise a new era of prosperity and progress. The mass manufacturing of automobiles and other products proved a boon to the economy and transformed patterns of travel, leisure, and consumption. In connection with these changes the subjects to be discussed include the uses of vast reserves of coal, timber, and water that helped fuel a growing industrial economy, and the rise of social reform movements to address these changing conditions. Requirements include attendance and participation as well as writing assignments. In addition, there will be a mid-term, a final, and a short paper.