

**HIS 370**  
**US Social History, 1860-1940**

Satisfies: DIV, SBS+

Thematic Categories: "Law, Politics & Social Justice,"  
"Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

Lecture: Tu/Th, 2:00 – 3:20 PM

R01: F, 12:30 – 1:25 PM

R02: F, 9:30 – 10:25 AM

R03: Th, 9:30 – 10:25 AM

Professor Nancy Tomes

This course explores the history of the United States from Roosevelt (TR) to Roosevelt (FDR) to analyze how three big trends --the second industrial revolution, the rise of the city, and new kinds of immigration – turned the U.S. into a more modern, diverse, and divided nation. We will follow Americans on their journey to a different way of life between the 1890s and the 1940s with the following questions in mind: how did they adapt nineteenth century traditions of political democracy and social equality to a new twentieth century corporation-dominated economy? How did a traditionally white Anglo-Saxon Protestant nation respond to the massive influx of not-WASP immigrants from abroad and Black migrants from the South? How did the rise of a new kind of consumer-oriented culture, including new forms of mass media, advertising, and popular entertainment (vaudeville, movies, and radio) reshape American culture? How did the expected roles of men and women change because of all of the above? By exploring these themes, this course will help you understand the foundations of contemporary American politics and popular culture. Required books include Steven Diner, *A Very Different Age* and Lynn Dumenil, *The Modern Temper: American Culture & Society in the 1920s*. Other required readings will be available via electronic reserve on Brightspace. There will be a take-home midterm, a 7-10 page paper, and a final exam.