

University of Cincinnati 1974-1984 [and updated to 2020]

FALL QUARTER:

1. The initial peopling of North America, from Siberia across the Bering Land Bridge 20,000 years ago (ya)
2. Hunter-gatherer bands spread across North America, and down to Central and South America, by 12,000 ya. Subarctic hunters, Plateau and Great Basin gatherers. The Aleut and Inuit Expansion across the northern edge of North America, 5,000 ya.
3. Origins of horticulture in Central and Southern Mexico. Rise of Mayan city states.
4. Spread of horticulture into Eastern North America. Woodland and Mississippian cultures.
5. Viking contacts into Greenland and Newfoundland. European background from the Bubonic Plague to the age of exploration by sailing ships. Columbus in context.
6. The Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire, and development of Nueva Espana up to California. The Pueblo Revolt. European rivalry in the Caribbean. Massive deaths of Indigenous Americans.
7. Portugal, Spain, Nederland, France, England ravage the coast of West Africa for slaves. Background of interior West African kingdoms and rivalry with coastal Africans.
8. French Quebec. English Roanoke and Virginia. Establishment of slavery in Virginia. English colony of New England. Destruction of Indigenous Americans of the east coast. Russian expansion from Siberia to Alaska, based on the fur trade. Northwest Coast Natives play off Russian and English fur traders. Fur trade in Eastern North America: Huron, Iroquois, Cherokee, Creek. The Stono slave rebellion in South Carolina.
9. The Quaker Model of peaceful trade with Indigenous peoples of Pennsylvania. French and English and Spanish rivalry from Quebec to Florida and the Caribbean. French defeat in the Seven Years War. Life in the English colonies before and after 1763.
10. The British Empire tightens control over Eastern North America. The Proclamation of 1763 and increased taxation to pay for government debts from the warfare. Colonial resentments built to 1775.

WINTER QUARTER

11. The American War for Independence. France allies with the rebels. Escaping slaves, urban elites, and Indigenous Americans ally with the British, but the British abandon them in the Treaty of Paris, 1783. The new United States gains recognition of control over all land south of the Great Lakes and to the Mississippi River. The weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation lead to a new government under the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
12. The decline of slavery in the Northern states, and in the British Empire (from Canada to the Caribbean). The growth of slavery in the South and in Brazil. The Haitian

Revolution, resulting in France selling Louisiana to the United States in 1803. The War of 1812, the rise and fall of the Tecumseh Confederacy, the failure of the U.S. invasion of Canada, the rise of Andrew Jackson, and the conquest of Florida. The 1830s removal of Southern Indians, and the spread of the cotton kingdom and the sugar industry in Louisiana and Cuba in the 1830s and 1840s.

13. Latin American independence movements and the end of slavery in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, 1825-1835. Canadian revolt and British reform. The Texas independence movement.
14. The Mexican-American War, 1846-1848, the expansion of slavery, and the Compromise of 1850. California Gold Rush and destruction of Indigenous Californians. Immigration into the Northern states and Canada, but few immigrants go to the South. Anti-immigrant sentiment in the Know-Nothing and Republican Parties. Republicans reject anti-immigrant and focus on opposition to the spread of slavery into the West.
15. Western settlement takes more land from Indigenous peoples, and they resist with Indian Wars. The Kansas-Nebraska Act, Bloody Kansas, the Dred Scott decision, the Lincoln-Douglas debates and John Brown's attempt to start a slave revolt. Lincoln's election and the Lower Southern states secede.
16. Formation of the Confederate States of America, Fort Sumter crisis, Lincoln's call for an army to invade prompts the Upper South to secede. General Winfield Scott's Anaconda Plan, and the Union blockade. Lincoln's mistakes 1861-62, Union capture of Tennessee, New Orleans, Memphis but failure in Virginia. Confederate invasion of Maryland ends in defeat at Antietam, ending their hopes for British and French intervention to aid the Confederacy. The Dakota revolt in 1862, and removal of Midwest Indigenous peoples in 1863. Other wars through the West. Colonization of African Americans, the Emancipation Proclamation and black troops. Union Vicksburg-Gettysburg victories but Virginia losses. Union victories at Atlanta, Shenandoah Valley, and Mobile Bay get Lincoln reelected. France attempts to establish a monarchy in Mexico, but Mexican resistance is successful. The Navajo forced Long Walk and concentration camps in 1864. Confederate collapse 1865.
17. The U.S. and Britain settle the "Alabama Claims," and the Unification of Canada. The promise of land for the freedmen, but Lincoln is killed and the new President Andrew Johnson pardons ex-Confederates and restores their lands, leaving African Americans landless and impoverished. The loss of native lands in Indian Territory 1865. The Homestead Act leads to western settlement, which leads to more Indian Wars. Congress tightens colonial controls over Indian reservations. The rise and fall of Reconstruction in the South. White Southerners regain power and establish racial segregation system. The South stagnates, while a huge economic expansion and increased immigration occurs in the North's industrialization. Business domination of Gilded Age politics lead to vast income inequality.

18. Labor Unions and farmers Populist Party revolts are defeated by corporate power in the Republican Party. Republicans build a large navy, and push for US expansion abroad. The Spanish-American War begins with Cuba and ends with US imperialism over Puerto Rico and the Philippines. The US Marines also invade and take over the independent Kingdom of Hawai'i. The Filipino Insurrection and expansion of US Indian policy toward colonial subjects abroad. Construction of the Panama Canal. US economic domination over Cuba and Central America.
19. Progressive reformers react against business domination of the US government, and make substantial changes in labor. Mexico under dictatorship and revolution. Canadian western expansion, oppression of First Nations peoples, and economic growth. US-British rivalry over Venezuela is settled, and US-British trade increases. British-French rivalry in Africa is settled, as all these nations unite against the rising power of Germany.
20. As the World War breaks out in 1914, the US economy expands to supply Europe with food and war materials. Northern industry is desperate for laborers as the supply of new immigrants is cut off. For the first time, industrial companies begin hiring African Americans, and the Great Migration of black Americans out of the South begins. Due to German submarine attacks on US ships carrying arms to Britain, President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war on Germany. This is a new departure as the US intervenes in a European war for the first time. This is a huge mistake, since the US could have avoided war by selling US goods to Canada, and then letting British ships transport them to England. Since US ships were sending massive war supplies to Britain, Germany started torpedoing these ships, and that involvement drew the US into the war. The two sides likely would have reached a stalemate soon, since the armies of France, Britain, and Germany were all on the verge of collapse by late 1917, but the arrival of US troops turned the tide of the war, and Germany accepted defeat. Wilson forced the Allies to establish an international League of Nations, but he could not persuade isolationists in Congress to join it.

SPRING QUARTER

21. The 1920s: After a long campaign, the women suffrage movement is successful and women get to vote. Many changes in American society as automobiles and airplanes revolutionize transportation, and over half of Americans live in cities for the first time. The national prohibition of alcohol prompts more alcohol being sold from Canada and Mexico, and transported by illegal gangster gangs to bars across the nation. Gang warfare plagues big cities, and corruption rises as Americans ignore the law and enjoy new African American music in the "Roaring 20s" Jazz Age. Corruption rises, and big business dominates government policies in the 1920s. All this frenzy comes to a sudden halt in 1929, with the stock market crash.
22. The inaction of Republican President Herbert Hoover leads to the election of Democrat Franklin Roosevelt. His "New Deal" brings more socialist programs like the Civilian

Conservation Corps to hire the unemployed, and Social Security to give money to the elderly. Though Southern segregationists prevent Roosevelt from including farmworkers and domestic workers from receiving Social Security (which are 70% of jobs held by African Americans), black voters recognize that Roosevelt's New Deal helps them and they make a massive switch from the Republican to the Democratic Party. Though segregation laws prevent black voters in the South, black neighborhoods in Northern cities elect black officials to local and Congressional posts.

23. After the Japanese Empire invades China in 1937, in retaliation Roosevelt cuts off American oil and steel imports to Japan. The Japanese must have these resources, so they plan to attack the Dutch East Indies and Malaya to get them. The Japanese military leaders want to expand over the US colony in the Philippines, and they expect that if they attack the US naval fleet at Pearl Harbor, in the US territory of Hawaii, they can consolidate their empire in Southeast Asia and then reach a settlement with the US later on. This is a massive miscalculation, since the attack on Pearl Harbor rouses Americans as never before, to defeat Japan. German leader Adolph Hitler compounds this mistake, by declaring war on the United States, in retaliation for US aid to Britain.
24. While the economic depression was lingering through the 1930s, a massive infusion of government money into building naval ships, air force planes, and army tanks and trucks, led to full employment and the rise of a strong middle class. While Eurasia was engulfed in mass destruction from Britain to China, North America was spared from this destruction. With enemies on all sides, but especially with the advance of the Soviet Red Army to capture Berlin, Hitler's Nazi dictatorship surrendered in May 1945, though not before murdering over six million Jews, along with many other "subhumans" in foul concentration camps and extermination chambers. In Asia, after the Japanese army killed millions of Chinese and other Asians, Japan was left alone without any ally in the world. By early August 1945, the Russian army's massacre of the last remaining major Japanese army, combined with American massive air raids that destroyed Japanese cities as American submarines torpedoed Japanese naval and commercial shipping, Japan was seeking a settlement. President Harry Truman made a controversial decision to drop atomic bombs on two Japanese cities. Historians argue about how long Japan would have gone before surrendering if the atomic bombs had not been used, but Truman's justification that a full invasion of Japan would have been necessary seems farfetched.
25. By the fall of 1945, the US military was in control of Japan, while Korea was divided between American and Russian occupation. Europe was also divided, with the Soviets in control of eastern Europe, including East Germany, while the Americans, French, and British were in control of the majority of Germany. Soviet leader Josef Stalin wanted to divide the world into Soviet and American spheres of influence, but US President Truman insisted on US control of Greece and Turkey. This was the biggest issue on which the former Allies clashed in 1947, but after Russia suffered so much under Nazi occupation Stalin wanted to keep Germany disarmed and divided into small countries.

Stalin reacted strongly against the US, British and French decision to reunite their three spheres together into a united Germany. A new conflict began, a “Cold War” that was to last for almost fifty years.

26. The United States poured money into the Marshal Plan, to rebuild western Europe. This infusion of government money into American corporations’ contracts to sell supplies for European revitalization produced more prosperity, and the American middle class grew much more prosperous. Strong labor unions produced higher wages for workers, and during the 1950s American business dominated the world. Faced with increasing prosperity for others, African Americans intensified their longstanding campaign for equal rights. Their influence in the Democratic Party led President Truman to order the desegregation of the armed forces, and in the North they gained more influence. It was in the South, however, where their efforts produced more challenges to the segregation system. The civil rights movement had its triumphs, especially in the 1964 civil rights act, and the 1965 voting rights act. The 1965 Immigration Reform Act drastically changed the pattern of immigration, which after this point became dominated by immigration from Latin America and Asia.
27. The Vietnam War, tensions and division at home, social reform movements challenge the power structure: Black Power, American Indian Movement (AIM), Latino Farmworkers, Womens Liberation, Gay Liberation, Environmental movements. Conservative reaction with the election of Richard Nixon, the War on Drugs, Vietnam resolution, corruption, Watergate, and Nixon’s resignation.
28. The Ford and Carter presidencies, the Iranian revolution, Ronald Reagan constructs a strong conservative coalition, opposition to abortion and Gay Rights, the AIDS epidemic, nuclear buildup, negotiations with Gorbachev, unification of Germany, US militarism in the Caribbean and Central America,
29. George H.W. Bush handles the economic and political collapse of the Soviet Union, the first Iraq War, Americans with Disabilities Act, Bill Clinton presidency, Yugoslavia civil war, expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe. Failure of healthcare reform, Clinton impeachment, economic progress. Al Qeda opposition to US involvement in Mideast.
30. US Supreme Court decrees 2000 election to George W. Bush. Al Qeda attack on World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC. Conservative politics, progress on AIDS research, Bush’s War on Terror: the Second Iraq War, Afghanistan, North Koreaa. Dismissal of climate change, by corporate lobbying. Housing market collapse. Election of Barack Obama. Moderate response to Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya.
31. The election of Donald Trump, with a reordering of conservative US politics. Russia and Ukraine. Election of Joe Biden, and the January 6, 2021 insurrection. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the reordering of NATO. Prosperity in Europe and taxing big corporate wealth. Income disparity, healthcare reform.
32. The present in perspective: Canada, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, United States.