This course surveys American history from the end of Reconstruction in 1877 through the end of the Trump presidency. Topics covered include the rise of Jim Crow; varied 19th and 20th century immigration flows and legislation; economic booms and depressions; World Wars I and II and the Cold War era; civil rights, peace, labor, feminist, and LGBTQ movements; heightened border militarization and restrictions; and the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Crossing race, region, and class, this survey offers a multi-perspectival look at the nation’s layered past, defined by both enduring dreams and enveloping darkness. Readings will be drawn from a textbook and supplementary historical documents and essays, amounting to roughly 75 pages of reading per week. Participation and writing in recitation section discussions, along with a final examination, serve as the basis for evaluation and final grade.