

History 340
Critical Periods in American History the 1890s
Roger Williams University
CAS 228
M, W, F, 12:00 - 12:50
Fall Semester, 2007

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Hours: T: 9:30 - 11:00
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Optional Take-home Examination.

Due Friday, Last day of the Final Exam Period.

Submit by Blackboard.

The rules: I will grade this exam as a regular final exam.

- Grades of b- or above will affect your semester's grade positively
- C+ or below will not affect your grade
- B- = raise grade 1/3 point
- B or B + raise grade 2/3 point
- A- or A raise the grade full letter.

The Problem: Since at least the days of de Tocqueville, scholars and historians have been fascinated with the idea of American Character. What are Americans *really* like? One supposes it is fair to say that the national character has its best side and its worst side: persons, publications, events, photographs works of art or caricature, deeds, etc., illustrate the best and worst in us in every decade, and the 1890s would be no exception. So...

If you were to choose three things which represent the best of American Character and three things which represent the worst of American Character in the 1890s, what would they be and why would you choose them?