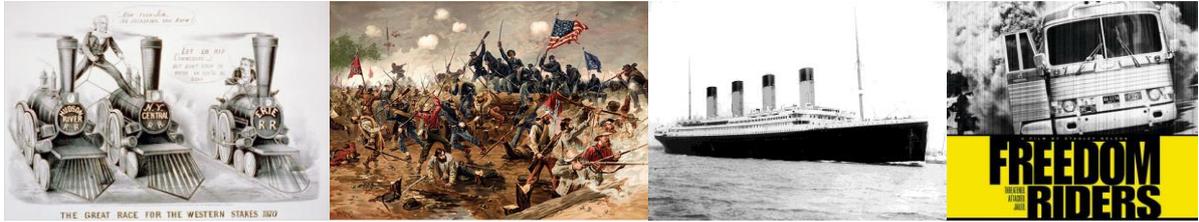


## Key Moments in American History, Part 2: From the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement



### **Course description**

The purpose of this seminar, which follows up on *Key Moments in American History, Part 1: From the Mayflower Pilgrims to the Civil War*, is to examine some key moments, movements and events in American history through a variety of documents (original texts, pictures and maps, cartoons, popular songs, TV shows and documentaries). We will study the time period between the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement and focus on certain important episodes which are crucial to the understanding of modern day America. Amongst other things, we shall examine the intense competition surrounding the building of the great transcontinental railroad as well as the challenges of the Reconstruction, consider the way the fortunes of *Titanic* passengers were acquired and what this reveals about the era known as the Gilded Age. As in *Key Moments 1*, all five CAE skills (aural comprehension, oral expression, oral interaction, written expression and written comprehension) will be practiced during this course.

### **Course pre-requisites (a) and assessment (b)**

- (a)** An interest in both factual and cultural history.  
The willingness to participate and share your thoughts and ideas.  
A good command (B2 min) of both written and spoken English.
- (b)** The evaluation will consist of 50% for the continuous assessment (participation in class, attendance, homework) and 50% for the final exam.

### **Provisional outline**

1. The Civil War and the Reconstruction
2. How the West was won – the building of the great American railroads
3. The *Titanic* envisaged as a time capsule for the Gilded Age
4. The Great Depression and its impact in popular culture
5. Freedom riders and feminists during the Civil Rights Movement