

HIS 212-02: U.S. Since 1865

Graham 308
Thursday, 6:00 pm to 8:50 pm

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Office Hours Th 5-6
and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This is a United States History survey course, designed to provide a general overview of major events and ideas from 1865 to the present. The emphasis is on social and cultural history, with a particular focus on the vision of a *democratic* society and concepts of freedom and rights. Generous time will be spent analyzing and learning to appreciate various historical materials, such as letters, speeches, cartoons, newspaper and magazine articles and advertisements, and photographs.

Through active participation in this course, students will

- Discuss major events in U.S. History since the Civil War and identify their causes, outcomes, and participants
- Analyze attitudes and policies which have roused debate about citizenship rights and democracy in the U.S.
- Interpret primary and secondary source documents to draw conclusions and support arguments about political, economic, and social changes in the U.S. since the Civil War
- Improve analytical thinking, writing, and speaking skills
- Apply understanding of the historical past to contemporary issues

Textbook, Documents, and Web-Based Materials

The textbook for this course is *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 7th edition (Volume II) by George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi, available in the campus bookstore. (Please note that an eBook is available for this course if you prefer that format. It is less expensive. Go to the textbook website for complete information and to make a purchase www.norton.com/college/history/america7/)

We will rely on the textbook website for both documents and assessment tools in this course. Register and familiarize yourself with this website right away: www.norton.com/college/history/america7/. You should also become familiar with Blackboard for this course and be prepared to use it routinely to find documents and other materials, check your grades, and read announcements pertaining to the course. Online tutorials are available if you need them, and the Teaching and Learning Center offers workshops.

Grading Scale

A 10-point grading scale is used in this course and numerical scores are assigned the following plus/minus letter grades: A+ = 98-100, A = 94-97, A- = 90-93; B+ = 88-89, B = 84-87, B- = 80-83; C+ = 78-79, C = 74-77, C- = 70-73; D+ = 68-69, D = 64-67, D- = 60-63; any score below 60 = F.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Since this class meets only once a week, attendance is an extremely important aspect of your performance. You may have only one excused absence without penalty. For an absence to be excused, you must notify me via email prior to your absence. In case of emergency, please notify me within 24 hours. I may request a doctor's note or some other form of documentation. For any additional absence(s), or for an unexcused absence, I will deduct five (5) points from your final average

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for the course. Please note that leaving class more than 30 minutes early or arriving more than 30 minutes late will also result in a penalty.

Communication

It is important that you email me in advance if you expect to miss a class or have some issue which impairs your ability to attend class or complete an assignment so we may work out a solution. The most efficient means of communicating with me outside of class is via email at aprobbin@uncg.edu. I will verify receipt of emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a confirmation email from me within 24 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your email, and it is your responsibility to follow up.

Changes to the class schedule or assignments will be posted as announcements on Blackboard and will be sent to you via your e-Spartan account, so check it regularly.

Assignments and Assessment

Short Response Papers = 15%
Participation = 10%
Quizzes = 10%
Long Response Papers/Leading Discussion = 20%
Exams = 45%

Every week, you will read the textbook chapter and documents (accessible under *Course Documents* on Blackboard) prior to our class meeting. You will also write a short response paper (2-3 paragraphs, double-spaced) on one of the documents. Bring the documents and your response paper to class with you to facilitate your contribution to discussion, the key component of your participation grade.

You will take nine quizzes (10 questions each) from the textbook website which will help you focus on the most important concepts in the textbook. Save your results to the textbook website's grade book where I will view them and record your scores on Blackboard.

Twice during the semester you will lead the class discussion with a small group of your classmates. The sources you will utilize are topical units which include the required reading for the week. You and your group members will participate in a discussion board to talk about the readings in depth and plan the class discussion. On the day you lead discussion, you will turn in a long response paper (6-10 paragraphs, double-spaced) in which you analyze at least three of the week's documents.

There are three take-home exams consisting of key terms and essay. These are not cumulative exams; rather, you are responsible for the content in the unit on which you are being tested. Exams will cover material from the lectures, documents, discussions, and textbook. You will use examples from the documents to support your ideas and you must cite the sources in your exam essays.

Laptops and Cell Phones

This is an interactive class, meaning that you play an essential role. While I acknowledge that technology has its advantages, you may not use a laptop computer in this class because it serves as a distraction and often causes students to disengage. I will utilize PowerPoint in lectures, but the slides provide highlights rather than complete notes, so you will need to continue to listen and take notes throughout the lecture as we consider the week's themes and concepts. As stated above, you are expected

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to contribute to class discussion and you will want to take notes during discussion, as well. Finally, turn off your cell phone/BlackBerry/iPhone/iPod, etc. before coming to class, and leave it off.

Weekly Schedule

- Week 1/Aug 23: Introduction, Discussion of Syllabus
Reconstruction
Read textbook chapter 18 – Reconstruction: North and South
Doc: *Eric Foner Contends That Reconstruction Did Not Go Far Enough*
No quiz this week
- Week 2/Aug 30: New Frontiers: The South, 1865-1900
Textbook chapter 19 – pages 526-540
Docs: *Lynching from a Negro's View*; *A Red Record*, Ida B Wells; *Still Livin' Under the Bonds of Slavery*

Reminder: Each week, read the documents listed under Course Documents in Blackboard for the week, complete a document worksheet or short response paper prior to our class meeting, and complete the online quiz for the textbook chapter when assigned (see Assignments in Blackboard for details)
- Week 3/Sep 6: New Frontiers: The West, 1860-1900
Textbook chapter 19 – pages 540-556
Docs: *An Indian's Perspective*, Chief Joseph; *I Have Spoken*, Crazy Horse; *Luther Standing Bear (Lakota) Recalls His Experiences at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, 1879*; *Sitting Bull*
- Week 4/Sep 13: Big Business and Organized Labor, 1865-1900
Textbook chapter 20
Docs: *The Gospel of Wealth*; *Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: Workers Protest Carnegie Library*; *A Trustworthy Beast*; *The Musical Saga of Homestead*
- Week 5/Sep 20: The Emergence of Urban America,
Gilded-Age Politics, and Agrarian Revolt, 1877-1900
Textbook chapter 21 pages 585-606 and chapter 22 pages 629-635
Docs: *Our Country*, Josiah Strong; *The Growth of Cities in Nineteenth Century America*, Adna Ferrin Weber; *The Farmer's Situation*
- Week 6/Sep 27: American Empire, 1870-1900
Textbook chapter 23
Docs: "The War Must Be Ended," *New York World*; *Declaration of War*, President William McKinley; *Platform of the American Anti-Imperialist League*
No quiz this week
- EXAM: Unit One Exam Due (weeks 1 to 5)**
- Week 7/Oct 4: The Progressive Era, 1900-1917
Textbook chapter 24

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Docs: excerpt from *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair; *No Rest for the Weary: Children in the Coal Mines*; *Why Women Should Vote*, Jane Addams; cartoon, *Alphabet of Trusts: B is for Beef*; cartoon, *No Lack of Big Game*

- Week 8/Oct 11: World War I, 1914-1920
Textbook chapter 25
Docs: "Sir I Will Thank You with All My Heart": *Seven Letters from the Great Migration*; "Times Is Gettin Harder": *Blues of the Great Migration*; *Intolerance and Civil Liberties in World War I*
- Week 9/Oct 18: The Twenties, 1920-1929
Textbook chapter 26
Docs: *The Klan's Fight for Americanism*, Hiram W. Evans; "Shut the Door": *A Senator Speaks for Immigration Restriction*; An "Un-American Bill": *A Congressman Denounces Immigration Quotas*; *Who Was Shut Out?: Immigration Quotas, 1925-1927*
- Week 10/Oct 25: The Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1940
Textbook chapter 28
Docs: Excerpts from the Federal Writers' Project Interviews with Depression Victims; *Share Our Wealth*, Huey Long; *Mass Exodus from the Plains*; "Waitin' on Roosevelt": Langston Hughes's "Ballad of Roosevelt"
- Week 11/Nov 1: World War II, 1941-1945
Textbook chapter 29 and chapter 30
Docs: WWII Posters; *Women in War Industries*; video, *Japanese-American Internment*
No quiz this week
- EXAM: Unit Two Exam Due (weeks 6 to 10)**
- Week 12/Nov 8: The Cold War Begins, 1945-1953
Textbook chapter 31
Docs: *The Truman Doctrine*; *The Marshall Plan*; Civil Defense film, *Duck and Cover*
- Week 13/Nov 15: An Affluent Society, 1945-1960
Textbook chapter 32 and chapter 33 pages 923-927, 933-939
Docs: *The Situation in Little Rock*, President Eisenhower; "The Ordeal of Bobby Cain": *Racial Confrontation at a Newly Integrated Southern High School*; *Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan
- Week 14: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Week 15/Nov 29: New Frontiers: Politics and Social Change In The 1960s
Textbook chapter 34
Docs: *The Vietnam Conflict at Home*; "More than Martin": *The Civil Rights Movement*; *The Women's Movement*

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Week 16/Dec 6: Rebellion and Reaction in the '60s and '70s
and Conservative Insurgency in the '80s
Textbook chapter 35 and chapter 36
Docs: *Conflicting Visions for America*
No quiz this week

FINAL EXAM: **Unit Three Exam Due (weeks 11 to 16) December 10, 6 p.m.**