

HIS 212: The United States Since 1865

HIS 212

Teaching Assistants:

Ms. Therese Strohmer
Ms. Debbie Russell

Professor Mark Elliott

Office: 2125 MHRA

Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30

Meeting Times and Places:

Mon and Wed Lectures:

Sections 1-4. 9:00-9:50am FERGUSON 100

Prof. Elliott

Friday discussions:

- 1) Section 01—9:00-9:50 BRYN 117
- 2) Section 02—9:00-9:50 GRAM 204
- 3) Section 03—10:00-10:50 GRAM 204
- 4) Section 04—10:00-10:50 FERGUSON 113

Ms. Russell
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the social, cultural, political and economic history of the United States since the end of the Civil War. Because of its broad historical sweep, the topics covered are not comprehensive. No single course can cover all of the important issues over one hundred and fifty years of American history. Therefore the course focuses upon selected events, trends, historical figures, and social issues that reveal much about their times and address topics that have been of the greatest current interest to historians. Special attention will be paid to issues of ethnic and racial diversity, transformations of the rights of citizenship, social inequalities and movements for social justice, and the development of the United States into a global superpower. The weekly readings have been chosen to demonstrate the variety of approaches to studying the past, and the range of interpretative problems that arise in the study of American history. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in American history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Students will establish a strong foundation of knowledge in the major themes and events in American history since 1865.
- Students will improve their ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.
- Students will improve their ability to make historical arguments, drawing upon primary source documents.
- Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

A student who is not present at the beginning of class will be marked “absent.” More than five absences will lower your *Final Grade* by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your seventh will make it a “C+,” your eighth will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. We do not accept doctor’s notes or other excuses. Please use your 5 absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

Participation:

You must be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you will be marked “absent”—so do not bother coming to class if you cannot remain conscious! Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, e-mailing or internet surfing during class.

Students must complete the reading assignments in time to participate in their weekly discussion sections with your assigned Teaching Assistant. Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive.

Quizzes:

There will be in-class quizzes on the readings to encourage you to keep up with the reading. Quizzes will take place at *the beginning of discussion sections* on Fridays. If you miss a quiz due to lateness or absence, you must do a short paper as a replacement or else receive a zero for the quiz.

Written Work:

There will be one term paper of 1500-1800 words in length (app. 5 pages). You may write your term paper on one of three assigned topics. Details about **Assignment #1, #2** and **#3** will be given in class. If you choose **Assignment #1** your paper is due on **October 1**; if you choose **Assignment #2** your paper is due on **October 29**; if you choose **Assignment #3** your paper is due **December 3**. If you miss the deadline for an Assignment, you must choose from the remaining Assignment(s). No late papers will be accepted. In order to pass this course you must hand in all written work on time and complete all assignments.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Safe Assignment” function on Blackboard which automatically scans your paper for plagiarism. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

Grading Formula:

- 20% Class participation
- 20% Quiz grade average
- 20% Term Paper
- 20% Midterm
- 20% Final Exam.

REQUIRED READING (available at UNCG’s Bookstore):

James Oakes, et al., eds, *Of the People: A History of the United States Vol. 2*
(Concise Edition)
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*. Edited with an Introduction by Christopher Phillips.
Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial, A Brief History with Documents*.
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Further short reading assignments will be available via the Class Blackboard site.

Week 1. POST CIVIL WAR AMERICA

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 16.
Documents on Blackboard: Civil Rights Bill (1866), Johnson’s Veto Message (1866); Albion W. Tourgée’s letter to Senator Abbott (1870).

- Aug. 23** Course introduction.
- Aug. 25** Reconstructing the Nation after the Civil War
- Aug. 27** **Discussion Section**

Week 2. THE COLLAPSE OF RECONSTRUCTION

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 17.
Documents on Blackboard: Sitting Bull (1882); President Arthur on Indian Reform (1881), Chief Joseph Speaks; The Ghost Dance Among the Lakota

- Aug. 30** The Fight for Equal Rights, and the End of Reconstruction.
- Sept. 1** Westward expansion; Native Americans
- Sept. 3** Discussion Section.

Week 3. THE TRIUMPH OF CORPORATE CAPITALISM

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 18-19.
Documents on Blackboard: Henry George, *The Paradox of Capitalist Growth*, Carnegie, *The Triumph of America*, Josiah Strong on *Anglo-Saxon Predominance*

Sept. 6 Labor Day [CLASS CANCELLED]
Sept. 8 Industrialization; Social Darwinism
Sept. 10 Discussion Section

Week 4. ORGANIZED LABOR AND CLASS POLITICS

Reading: Sinclair, Upton, *The Jungle*, 1-183 (including Introduction).

Sept. 13 The Labor Movement
Sept. 15 Populism and Rural Reform
Sept. 17 Discussion Section

Week 5. URBANIZATION AND REFORM

Reading: Sinclair, Upton, *The Jungle*, 183-380 (including Related Document).

Sept. 20 The Triumph of Jim Crow Segregation.
Sept. 22 Immigration and Urban Life; The Rise of Progressive Reform.
Sept. 24 Discussion Section

Week 6. PROGRESSIVISM AND EMPIRE

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 20-21.
Documents on Blackboard: Van Dyke, "The American Birthright."
Addams, "The Subjective Necessity of Social Settlements."

Sept. 27 Spanish-Cuban-Amer. War; Overseas Expansion [Guest Lecture]
Sept. 29 New Nationalism versus the New Freedom
Oct. 1 Discussion Section [Paper Assignment #1 due]

Week 7. WORLD WAR I

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 22.
Documents on Blackboard: Progressive Party Platform of 1912.

Oct. 4 Wilson and Progressivism

Oct. 6 The Great War and the Treaty of Versailles.
Oct. 8 **Midterm Exam**

Week 8. MASS CULTURE: The 1920s and After

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 23.
Documents on Blackboard: Palmer, “The Case against the Reds”

Oct. 11 **Fall Break (NO CLASS)**
Oct. 13 Mass Culture and Consumerism
Oct. 15 Discussion Section

Week 9. THE GREAT CRASH AND DEPRESSION

Reading: Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial*

Oct. 18 The Great Crash: Causes and Consequences
Oct. 20 The Great Depression
Oct. 22 Discussion Section

Week 10. THE NEW DEAL

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 24
Documents on Blackboard: Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address (1933); First Fireside Chat (1933); “Four Freedoms” (1941); “Why Should We March?” (1941); “Freedom Road” (1944)

Oct. 25 The New Deal
Oct. 27 The End of the New Deal
Oct. 29 Discussion Section [Paper Assignment #2 due]

Week 11. WORLD WAR II; BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 25-26
Documents on Blackboard: Kennan, “Long Telegram” (1947); Speech on Marshall Plan (1947); Speech on Truman Loyalty Program (1947); National Security Committee #68 (1950); Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Nov. 1 American Victory and a New World Order
Nov. 3 The Politics of the Cold War
Nov. 5 Discussion Section

Week 12. CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE 1950s

Reading: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 11-160.
Of the People, Chapter 27

Nov. 8 The Civil Rights Movement
Nov. 10 A Consumer-based Society
Nov. 12 Discussion Section

Week 13. THE POLITICS OF THE 1960s

Reading: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 160-384.
Documents on Blackboard: Greensboro Sit-Ins; Videos on MLK and Malcom X.

Nov. 15 The Kennedy Administration
Nov. 17 The “Great Society”
Nov. 19 Discussion Section

Week 14. VIETNAM AND THE COUNTERCULTURE

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 28.

Nov. 22 The Vietnam War
Nov. 24 **Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)**
Nov. 26 **Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)**

Week 15. THE 1970s and the RISE OF NEW CONSERVATISM

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 29-30
Documents on Blackboard: Articles of Impeachment against President Nixon (1973); *Griswold v. Conn* (1965); *Roe v. Wade* (1973);

Nov. 29 The Counterculture and its Legacies
Dec. 1 The New Right and its Agenda
Dec. 3 Discussion section. [Paper Assignment #3 due]

Week 16. AMERICA AT THE END OF THE 20th CENTURY

Reading: *Of the People*, Chapter 31.
Documents on Blackboard: Marshall on Affirmative Action (1987), Reagan in Germany (1987); Bush’s “New World Order” (1991).

Dec. 6 America in Our Time.

Week 17. FINAL EXAM

Dec. 13 **Final Exam, 8:00-11:00.**

