

HIS 212-09: The United States Since 1865

Instructor: Sarah Gates

Office: MHRA 2112

Office Hours: TH 4:00-6:00PM or by appointment

Email: sjgates@uncg.edu

Class Schedule: TH 6:00-8:50PM

Classroom: MHRA 1215

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course offers an introduction to the political, economic, social and cultural history of the United States since the Civil War. We will focus on selected people, events, trends, and social issues that reveal the historical dynamics of a given period. We will also build an understanding of change over time, paying special attention to the rights of citizenship, ethnic and racial diversity, social inequality, movements for social justice and the growth of the United States into a global superpower. Because these developments are both internal and international in their origins and effects, we will consider both what is happening “at home” and “abroad.” The weekly readings will give you an overview of the period. You will also examine and evaluate historical documents that will form the basis of class discussion. In addition to the textbook and documents, we will also consider other forms of history and historical evidence including film, architecture, music, painting, and photography.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ You will build a strong foundation of knowledge in the major themes and events in American history since 1865.
- ❖ You will develop your ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.
- ❖ You will develop your ability to formulate your own historical arguments using historical documents.
- ❖ You will further develop your written and verbal skills. By the end of the semester, you will be better able to articulate and support an argument in writing and on your feet.
- ❖ You will leave this course better equipped to think about current history and with the skills and curiosity to continue your study of the past.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive on time.

Class Preparation & Participation:

Both encouraged and required: Encouraged so you can demonstrate your knowledge and develop your debating skills and required because the entire class needs to be prepared for a good class discussion. You are required to bring all documents assigned for class to class so that you can refer to them in class.

Written Work:

You will be assigned four papers that will draw from the historical documents assigned for this class. No outside sources are required. The first two papers will be 2-3 pages; the last two papers will be 3-4 pages. The purpose of these papers is to develop your ability to analyze historical documents and to ask and answer questions using those documents. The first two papers will walk you through this process; the second two papers will work on formulating a thesis and building an argument to support that thesis the available evidence. Take each paper to the University Writing Center.

Academic Integrity Policy:

All work submitted in your name must be your original work with proper credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using "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 the UNCG website for more details: <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu>

Quizzes:

There will be in-class quizzes on the readings most weeks to help you to keep up with the readings, to support class discussions and prepare you for exams. There will eleven quizzes given. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Exams:

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, that will include identifications and short answer questions. The final exam will also include 2-3 page take home essay handed in the day of the exam. A study sheet will be given one week before each exam.

Grading Formula:

20% Class Participation
20% Quiz average
20% Essay average
20% Mid-term
20% Final

Required Reading (available at UNCG's Bookstore)

Foner, Eric, *Give Me Liberty! An American History Vol 2* (Second Seagull Edition)

Royster, Jacqueline J. ed., *Southern Horrors and Other Writings*

Moran, Jeffrey P., *The Scopes Trial, A Brief History with Documents*

Olsen, James S. and Randy Roberts, *My Lai, A Brief History with Documents*

Additional short assignments on Blackboard

Week 1 – Aug 26 – Course Introduction – America in 1865

Week 2 – Sep 2 – Reconstructing the Nation after the Civil War, 1865-1877

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 15; *Southern Horrors*, p. 209-212; 1-41

On Blackboard: Civil Rights Act (1866), Johnson's Veto Message, Fifteenth Amendment (1870);

Susan B. Anthony "Is it a crime to vote?"

Sep 6 - Labor Day – No Classes

Week 3 – Sep 9 - The Second Industrial Revolution & the Transformation of the West, 1870-1890

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 16; *Southern Horrors*, p. 73-157

On Blackboard: Lloyd, *Story of a Monopoly* (1881), *Wealth versus Commonwealth* (1894); Crazy Horse (1877); Sitting Bull (1882); 1880s Orchestrion machine video

Week 4 – Sep 16 – Responses to Industrialization; Becoming a World Power, 1890-1900

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 17; *Southern Horrors*, p. 73-157

On Blackboard: Player piano music: "Sidewalks of New York"; Traditional: "Colored Aristocracy"

Due: Essay #1 on *Southern Horrors*

Week 5 – Sep 23 – The Progressive Era, 1900-1916

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 18; *The Scopes Trial*, p. 215-217; 1-36

On Blackboard: Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890); Scott Joplin, "Maple Leaf Rag" (1899)

Week 6 – Sep 30 – WWI, 1916-1920

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 19; *The Scopes Trial*, 73-214.

On Blackboard: Jacob Lawrence, *The Migration Series* (1941), "Over There"

Week 7 – Oct 7 – The 1920s to the Great Depression, 1920-1941

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 20; *The Scopes Trial*, 73-214

On Blackboard: Nineteenth Amendment (1920); Dyer Bill (1918-1922); Louis Armstrong, "Muskrat Ramble" (1926); John Hurt, "Stack O'Lee" (1928); Dorothy Lange, photographs (1936)

Due: Essay #2 on *The Scopes Trial*

Oct 9-12 – Fall Break – No Classes

Week 8 – Oct 14 – The New Deal and American Liberalism, 1933-1936

Midterm Exam: CH 15-20

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 21

On Blackboard: FDR's First Inaugural Address (1933); First Fireside Chat (1933); Marion Lynching (1930), Billy Holiday, "Strange Fruit" (1939)

Oct 15 – Last day to drop without academic penalty

Week 9 – Oct 21 – WWII, 1941-1945

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 22

On Blackboard: Roosevelt, "Four Freedoms" speech (1941); Andrew Sisters, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (1941); Philip Randolph, "Why Should We March?" (1941); Josh White, "Freedom Road" (1944)

Week 10 – Oct 28 – The Cold War, 1945-1952

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 23

On Blackboard: Kennan, "Long Telegram" (1947); NSC 68 (1950); J. Edgar Hoover (1947); William O. Douglas (1952)

Due: Paper #3: On U.S. Cold War policy or McCarthyism

Week 11 – Nov 4 – The Eisenhower Years, 1953-1960

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 24; *My Lai*, p. 200-212; 1-98

On Blackboard: Iran (1953); Little Rock (1957); Buddy Holly at the Apollo (1957)

Week 12 – Nov 11 – The Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 25; *My Lai*, p. 1-98, 98-199

On Blackboard: Greensboro Sit-Ins, MLK "I have a Dream" (1963); MLK and Malcolm X speeches (video); Mahalia Jackson, "Keep your hand on the plow," SNCC Freedom Singers, "Keep your eyes on the prize"

Week 13 – Nov 18 – Vietnam, 1965-1975

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 26; *My Lai*, p. 98-199

On Blackboard: MLK Protest against Vietnam (1967) Country Joe and the Fish, "I feel Like I'm Fixing To Die" (1965); CSNY, "Ohio"

Due: Essay #4 on My Lai

Nov 25 – Thanksgiving

Week 14 – Dec 2 – American Conservatism, 1965-1988

Reading: *Give Me Liberty!* Chapter 27

On Blackboard: Griswold v. Conn (1965); Roe v. Wade (1973); Bazelon, "The New Abortion Providers," July 18, 2010, *New York Times*

Dec 7 – Reading Day

Week 15 – Dec 14 – Final Exam:

CH 21-27; 7:00-10:00 PM MHRA 2112