

HIS 212-10	American History 1865 to Present	Fall 2010
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Instructor: John J. Kaiser

Office: MHRA 2323

Office Hours: By appointment only

Email: jjkaiser@uncg.edu

Availability: I check email daily and I always send a response. If you have not heard from me within 48 hours then assume that I did not get the message and resend the original email.

Course Description

In this class we will study the American experience from the close of the Civil War through today. An important aspect of that study will be the way in which Americans expressed competing interests and ideas in matters political, religious, cultural, etc. For example, the concept of “freedom” and “rights” will occur repeatedly throughout the course. Yet often those words will be contested by two or more groups proposing contradictory ideas regarding what constitutes freedom (the most obvious example that you will probably be familiar with before class begins is that of *Roe v. Wade*.)

It is in your best interest to complete reading assignments in a timely manner. Staying on top of readings will help you effectively participate in our online discussions and will have a positive impact on your final grade.

Lastly, your textbook is meant to be used as a secondary source which will provide the context you need to interpret the primary source materials assigned on the syllabus. Your online discussions (mentioned in greater detail below) will focus upon primary source materials found in *For the Record*.

Learning Outcomes

Online classes require time management and discipline which is different from that of traditional courses. Students who spend several hours a day completing all reading and writing assignments, who actively engage in the material, and are thinking about and reflecting on what they are reading and writing will . . .

- have a firm grasp of key themes in post-1865 America
- improve their writing and reasoning abilities
- be able to communicate ideas, thoughts, and interpretations more clearly and concisely
- become better independent thinkers, students, and historians

Required Textbooks

Of the People: A History of the United States, Volume II. James Oakes, et al. Oxford University Press, 2010.

For the Record: A Documentary History of America, Volume II. David Shi and Holly Mayer. W. W. Norton and Company, 2010.

At times we will also refer to primary sources available online. For those occasions, the website(s) is/are listed in the appropriate section of the class calendar on the last few pages of this syllabus.

Grading Policies and Grade Scale

Grade Breakdown for the Course

Discussion Board	30%
Quizzes	30%
Midterm Essay Exam	20%
Final Exam Essay Exam	<u>20%</u>
	Total: 100%

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate student performance:

93 and above A	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+	59 and below F
90-92 A-	83-87 B	73-77 C	63-67 D	
	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

Rules & Procedures

Communication/Questions

Online classes require discipline and time management. Remember that without the normal interactions of a classroom setting, the only way I have to evaluate your participation in this class is through your performance on quizzes and thoughtful Discussion Board posts. Therefore, you should take your readings and responses seriously.

Check the “Announcements” section of Blackboard DAILY, and make certain your UNCG email account works. These are the two primary modes of communication I use, and I want to keep you informed of what is going on throughout the course.

If you have questions about the course, i.e. syllabus, grading policies, or content, please go to the Discussion Board on UNCG Blackboard and click on the topic called, “Questions for the Professor.” More than likely you are not the only student with the same question, and I will not have to answer the same question multiple times if you

post your question here. This means of communication is for PUBLIC discourse only. If you have a private concern regarding coursework, your grade, tutoring, etc. please address those to email. You may also email me to schedule an appointment on campus.

If you have questions/complaints regarding how to use Blackboard or anything technological (web browser settings, downloading information, accessing web links, errors, etc.), please do **NOT** contact me. Instead, post your message under the "Technical Support" forum in Blackboard, or email onlinehelp@uncg.edu. UNCG's Tech Support staff are the appropriate people to help you with technology issues.

Academic Integrity & Late Work

No late work will be accepted, and there are no appeals. All the deadlines are listed on this syllabus. If you have special circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, then you must communicate that to me ASAP. Failure to turn in work on time will result in a grade of zero (0). It is unfair and disrespectful to the rest of class if I make exceptions for a small minority who are incapable of staying on track. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy.

Academic Integrity

On all graded assignments, students are expected to submit their own original work. Copying and pasting text without giving credit to the source is obviously plagiarism, but so is stealing someone else's idea or interpretation without giving that person credit. Even if you are paraphrasing from memory something you have read in the past, you need to be able to state the source from which you are paraphrasing this material.

Please visit the following link: Academic Integrity Policy:

<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive a grade of F for the assignment without the opportunity to make up the work. Violations will be reported to the University in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Students also risk receiving a final grade of F for the course.

If you need to cite the textbook or a primary source in the Discussion Board or in an exam please use parenthetical documentation at the end of the direct quotation or paraphrase.

For example if citing from the textbook: (Oakes, 755) in which Oakes is the textbook author and you are citing something from page 755.

If citing from a primary source: (Cash, *The Mind of the South* 168) in which W.J. Cash is the author of the document, *Mind of the South* is the abbreviation for the title of the primary source and page 168 is the page on which you found the cited information.

This course does not require you to use information from outside sources. In Discussion Board and the exams you SHOULD NOT quote from outside sources, but rather confine your comments to the materials from the class.

Discussion Board

Discussion Board topics are designed to test your completion and understanding of the primary sources. Participating in these discussions is absolutely key to succeeding in this course. By practicing your writing abilities on a regular and rigorous basis, and sharing your writing with others, you will become better interpreters of the past. **Posts will be graded on quality, as well as quantity, of writing.**

All of the topics require reading primary sources (materials written during the time period in question). These readings are located in the *For the Record* required reader for the course. **You should reference these readings in your responses.**

Posts should be between 250 and 350 words. **Please type your posts in a word processor (such as Microsoft Word) before copying and pasting them to the appropriate discussion forum. This will help you avoid spelling errors, and it is always a good idea to have a backup file in case your work does not post correctly in Blackboard.**

Students can post their initial response by clicking on "Thread," copying and pasting their work into the message box, and then clicking "Submit." To reply to another person's post, students should select that student's post, and then click "Reply." You are encouraged but NOT required to respond to posts of others. It is a good way to check on your understanding of the material to read what others have written about the readings and compare it to your own point of view.

Feel free either to agree or disagree with someone else's argument, but be certain to provide convincing reasons explaining why you either agree or disagree. **Always be polite and civil on the Discussion Board!** Before you post anything, ask yourself if you would actually say these things to a person in a face-to-face environment. Do not allow the anonymity aspect of the Internet to strip you of your common sense and good manners. This same policy of courtesy should apply to all email communication to the instructor and to your classmates.

Quizzes & Exams

Quizzes

The class will be divided into two units with 13 subsections (one covering from the end of the Civil War through the election of FDR; the second covering from FDR's presidency through today). Each unit will conclude with an exam (the mid-term and final), and each subsection will include a quiz. Dates and times for quizzes are shown in the calendar portion of your syllabus (it is the final section, so keep scrolling down).

Quizzes will be untimed and open book. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions (and occasionally short answer as well) which will be drawn from the assigned pages of your text book and primary source reader. **All quizzes must be completed by 11:59 p.m.** on the date listed on the syllabus (see the calendar section below). I would advise you NOT to wait until 11 p.m. to begin your quiz, since if you have technical problems and cannot turn in your quiz the quiz will NOT be counted and you will take a zero on the assignment. Your best policy is to take the quiz on the day before it is due.

Exams

You will need to complete a midterm and a final exam. Both exams are completed online and contain one essay question. The question will be broad and thematic so that students should have no problems incorporating course material into their responses.

Student responses should be analytical rather than merely descriptive (i.e., students should explain why a particular historical topic is significant, rather than just saying what occurred), and they must be between 500 and 1,000 words. Essays must also have a thesis statement and supporting evidence. This evidence should **not** come from any sources other than those that I have assigned. More detailed instructions will be available at the time of the exam. The final exam is not cumulative.

Exams should be submitted on Blackboard via the SafeAssign link listed under the "Exams" tab on our course homepage. Make sure to include your name, the date, an essay title, and citations for your essay. Also, please use the highlighter feature on Word, italicize, bold, and/or underline your thesis statement or argument for your essay before you submit it. I will be happy to review outlines or to discuss any questions you have about the exams before they are due. However, I will not review rough drafts of essays beforehand since this is an exam.

Computers and Computer Problems

You CANNOT participate in this course without a working computer and reliable internet connection. Due to the nature of online classes, NO special concessions will be made for technological difficulties. Students are responsible for obtaining and maintaining reliable Internet access. Internet access is available at libraries, schools, hotels, and coffee shops worldwide. Therefore, no extensions will be granted due to lack of Internet access. If you have a technical problem, such as a crash or lockup, while taking a quiz, email me requesting a quiz reset. I will reset your quiz within 24 hours. **NOTE: If you wait until the day a quiz is due, you assume responsibility that a technical problem may preclude you from completing the quiz on time. Those who ask for an extension will be referred to this policy.**

Calendar (Note: All discussions, exams, and quizzes are to be completed on UNC-Greensboro Blackboard. All times are Eastern Standard time- for those who might be taking the course somewhere outside of N.C.)

Week 1 (08/23 – 08/29): Chapter 16: After the War (Post-bellum America)/Reconstructing America(ns)

Assigned Readings: Oakes Text, Chapter 16: Reconstructing a Nation
Shi & Holly Text, pp. 3-18, (see discussion board for specific titles)

Blackboard Requirements

Ice Breaker: Due by 08/27

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 08/29 at 11 p.m.

Week 2 (08/30 - 09/05): Industry, Wealth, and Hardship

Assigned Readings: Chapter 17: The Triumph of Industrial Capitalism
Shi Text, pp. 35-43

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 09/05 at 11 p.m.

Week 3 (09/06 – 09/12): The Culture Wars?

Assigned Readings: Chapter 18: Cultural Struggles of Industrial America
Shi Text, pp. 63-77

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 09/12 at 11 p.m.

Week 4 (09/13 – 09/19): The Growth of Government & Populist Movements

Assigned Readings: Chapter 19: The Politics of Industrial America
Read and review the following website:
<http://www.chicagohistory.org/dramas/overview/over.htm>

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 09/19 at 11 p.m.

Week 5 (09/20 – 09/26): Industry and Empire

Assigned Readings: Chapter 20: Industry and Empire
Shi Text, pp. 19-33 OR 106-121

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 09/26 at 11 p.m.

Week 6 (09/27 – 10/3): Progressivism at the Turn of the Century

Assigned Readings: Chapter 21: A United Body of Action
Review the following Political Cartoons
Cartoons [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 10/3 at 11 p.m.

Week 7 (10/04 – 10/08): World War I

Assigned Readings: Chapter 22: A Global Power
Shi Text, pp. 164-178

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 10/8 at 11 p.m.

*****10/08 – 10/13 Fall Break*****

Week 8 (10/13 – 10/17): The Calm before the Storm (1920s and the Coming Depression)

Assigned Readings: Chapter 23: The Modern Nation
Shi Text, pp. 186-192 OR 204-212

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 10/17 at 11 p.m.

Week 9 (10/18 – 10/24): The Great Depression

Assigned Readings: Chapter 24: A Great Depression and a New Deal
Shi Text, pp. 212-216, 219-222, 225-231.

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 10/24 at 11 p.m.

Week 10 (10/25 – 10/31): World War II (at Home and Abroad)

Assigned Readings: Chapter 25: The Second World War
Shi Text, pp. 241- 246, 251-263

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 10/31 at 11 p.m.

Week 11 (11/01- 11/07): The Cold War

Assigned Readings: Chapter 26: The Cold War
Shi Text, pp. 272-283

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 11/7 at 11 p.m.

Week 12 (11/08 – 11/14): The Rise of Consumerism

Assigned Readings: Chapter 27: The Consumer Society
Review the following advertisements
Video Links: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#).

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 11/14 at 11 p.m.

Week 13 (11/15 – 11/21): New Liberalism

Assigned Readings: Chapter 28: The Rise and Fall of New Liberalism
Shi Text, pp. 323-346

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post & Quiz are due on Blackboard by 11/21 at 11 p.m.

*******Week 14 (11/23 – 11/29): THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!*******

Week 15 (11/30 – 12/05): The 70s & 80s

Assigned Readings: Chapter 29 & 30: Living with Less & The Triumph of
Conservatism
Shi Text, pp. 373-401

Blackboard Requirements

Discussion post is due on Blackboard by 12/05 at 11 p.m.

Final Exam is due on Blackboard by 12/08 at 11 p.m.