

Fall 2013 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Dr. Lisa Levenstein E-mail: levenstein@uncg.edu
Office: 2145 MHRA Office Hours: M W 1-2, and by appt

HISTORY 212: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865

This course provides a historical perspective on major themes in U.S. history since 1865. It does not offer a comprehensive survey but will provide historical background on many important topics: foreign policy, race relations, labor, immigration, social policy, women's rights, and social movements. Students will learn how to use and evaluate a wide range of primary historical sources including memoirs, novels, letters, speeches, and oral interviews. They will identify different methods of historical inquiry and gain an appreciation for how history structures our daily lives.

Course Objectives:

- Students will gain a strong understanding of major themes and events in U.S. history since 1865
- Students will learn how to historically contextualize and analyze a range of primary sources representing different points of view
- Students will use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument
- Students will improve their reading, writing, and verbal skills

Teaching Assistants:

James Hall: jwhall@uncg.edu
Justina Licata: j_licata@uncg.edu
Ethan Moore: eaimoore@gmail.com

Required Texts:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2*. Seagull edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2009.
Charles W. Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition*. Bedford Cultural Edition. Nancy Bentley and Sandra Gunning, eds. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002.
Yoshiko Uchida. *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1984.

Lecture and Discussion Sections:

On Monday and Wednesday, the class will meet as a large group in lecture. Each Friday, smaller discussion sections will meet in different rooms, facilitated by teaching assistants. Attendance is mandatory for both lectures and discussions. Absences will hurt your grade. Before each section, you must read all of the assigned primary sources for the week and highlight the important passages. Bring your course pack to section and come prepared to participate in the discussion. You will be graded on your preparation and on the quality and frequency of your contributions.

Textbook: The textbook for the course, *Give Me Liberty*, provides historical context for the lectures. It will also be useful as you prepare for your exams. You are not required to purchase or read the textbook.

Course Pack: A mandatory collection of primary source readings available for purchase at Copy King, 611 West Lee Street.

Course Requirements (all percentages are approximate):

Attendance, participation, and class citizenship in lecture and discussion: 25%

Essay: 20%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Book Quiz: 5%

Primary Source Assignments: 2 x 10% = 20%

We will use the following grading scale: 99 and above A+, 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

Technology: E-mail Policy, Blackboard, Power Point, Laptops, and Cell Phones

E-mail is the best way to reach us. We will always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response from us within 48 hours, you should assume that we did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that we did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

We will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

You must hand in hard copies of all papers and assignments. We will not accept e-mailed written work.

We will use power point in lecture. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will not provide a complete set of notes and will not be distributed after class. It is imperative that you take notes to supplement the power point in order to succeed in the course.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. Unless you have a documented special need, you may not use laptops in the classroom. Cell phones and other similar electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times. No texting or checking your phones during class. If I see your cellphone, I will ask you to leave class.

Note on e-mail etiquette: All e-mails sent to Dr. Levenstein and to the teaching assistants must begin with a salutation i.e. "Dear Dr. Levenstein," "Dear Professor Levenstein," "Hello Dr. L", or "Hi Lisa." The teaching assistants will tell you how they wished to be addressed. You must conclude your emails by signing your name.