

History 212: The United States Since 1865

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Fall 2015 MWF 9-9:50

Classroom: SOEB 204

Instructor: Ethan Moore

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Office Hours: MW 10-11 or by appointment

“One is astonished in the study of history at the recurrence of the idea that evil must be forgotten, distorted, skimmed over. We must not remember that Daniel Webster got drunk and only remember that he was a splendid constitutional lawyer. We must forget that George Washington was a slave owner... simply remember the things we regard as creditable and inspiring. The difficulty, of course, with this philosophy is that history loses its value as an incentive and example; it paints perfect men and noble nations, but it does not tell the truth.”

-W.E.B Du Bois, “The Propaganda of History”

The Course:

This course will provide you with a historical perspective on the major themes of United States history since the end of the Civil War. Further, the class will encourage you to think critically about important events, individuals, and topics. It does not offer a simple or comprehensive survey of the past 150 years but will focus on a variety of many important topics including: foreign policy, race relations, immigration, social policy, woman’s rights, as well as social movements. At the core of this class is the use and interpretation of a wide variety of primary sources to understand how history impacts and defines our daily lives.

Required Texts:

You are not required to purchase any textbooks for this class. Rather, all the reading will be provided to you via the Canvas website.

Weekly Structure of the Course:

The course depends on sustained and active participation by you and your classmates. The classroom will be an open and free setting for engagement with multiple voices- not just mine. I expect that you will read the assigned material and come to class prepared to share your personal opinion and assessment of the readings. Monday and Wednesdays classes will primarily involve lecture and discussion of the material. Fridays, we will either have guest lectures or exercises that explore our topics in a variety of ways including but not limited to: film review, small or large group work, and material culture assessment.

Attendance:

It is the opinion of this instructor that you are adults. You are expected to come to all classes and treat me, your classmates, and yourself with the respect that we are all due. As such, I will not enforce an attendance policy. Understand that this does not mean that you are free to come and go as you please. Class starts promptly at 9:00 and if you are more than 10 minutes late you will be asked to leave. Also, nearly everything related to your assignments (and some of the assignments themselves) is dependent on what is learned/communicated in class. It is in your best interest to attend.

Course Requirements:

Mid-Term (October 9th): 20%

Final Exam (December 7th): 20%

In Class Assignments: 20%

Archival Paper 1(TBA): 20%

Archival Paper 2(TBA): 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.

*Specific information related to the assignments will be provided at a later date.

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

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

I 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.

I will often 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/laptop, I will ask you to leave class.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, webpages, etc...) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation.

*PLEASE NOTE: Plagiarism includes copying and pasting any text from the internet into a document without using quotation marks and a citation.

Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized severely. For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Week 1

Monday, August 17th: Review the syllabus and answer any questions

Wednesday, August 19th: What is History? What do Historians do?

-Hollitz, John. "Introduction"

-Excerpt from James W. Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*

-Schlerth, Thomas J. "Collecting Ideas and Artifacts: Common Problems of History Museums and History Texts."

Friday, August 21st: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 2

Monday, August 24th: Reconstruction

- Hollitz, John. "Historians and Textbooks: The "Story" of Reconstruction"
- Mississippi Black Codes (1865)
- "North Carolina City Confronts its Past in Report on White Vigilantes" (2005)

Wednesday, August 26th: Industrial Capitalism

- Excerpt from Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2*.

Friday August 28th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 3

Monday, August 31st: Labor

- Hollitz, John. "Using Primary Sources: Industrialization and the Conditions of Labor."
- "The Decline of the Independent Craftsman" (1883)
- "Shall Married Women Work?" (1879)

Wednesday, September 2nd: Immigration

- Excerpt from Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2*.
- "On the "Evils" of Chinese Immigration" (1878)
- "Life of a Chinese Immigrant" (1903)
- "The Promised Land" (1912)
- "In Georgia, Immigrants Unsettle Old Sense of Place" (2006)

Friday, September 4th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 4

Monday, September 7th: Labor Day- No Class!

Wednesday, September 9th: American Indians and the West

-Hollitz, John. "Evaluating Primary Sources: "Saving" the Indians in the Late Nineteenth Century"

Friday, September 9th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 5

Monday, September 14th: American Imperialism

-Hollitz, John. "Evaluating a Historical Argument: American Manhood and the Philippine Annexation"

-“The March of the Flag” (1898)

Wednesday, September 16th: World War I

-Excerpt from Eric Foner’s *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2*.

-Cartoons on American Imperialism (1920s)

-German-American Loyalty (1917)

-Selected Letters: Paul Eliot Green (1917-1918)

Friday, September 18th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 6

Monday, September 21st:

-Hollitz, John. "The Problem of Historical Motivation: The Bungalow as the "Progressive" House"

-Changes in Housework (1929)

-Happiness in Marriage (1926)