

**HIS 212-04: The United States Since 1865  
Fall 2015**

T, Th  
2:00-3:15  
MHRA 1215

Christopher Graham  
Office: MHRA room  
Hours: Th. 12-1:30  
or by appointment  
[cagraham@uncg.edu](mailto:cagraham@uncg.edu)  
GA: Amanda Holland  
[ajhollan@uncg.edu](mailto:ajhollan@uncg.edu)

**ABOUT THIS CLASS**

In this class you will become familiarized with the major themes, people, and events of United States history between 1865 and the rise of the New Right. In doing so, you will exercise your critical thinking skills by handling and historicizing primary documents, by perceiving multiple points of view, by creating sound arguments, and by communicating using coherent writing.

This class will consist of lectures that you will actively engage, and discussions in which you will critically read primary and secondary material, discern main points and alternate points of view, and construct sound arguments with your peers.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Understand and explain the major themes and events in United States history between 1865 and the present time.
- Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources using divergent perspectives
- Use evidence to interpret the past coherently in writing.

**READINGS**

Hoffman, et. al. *Major Problems in American History*, Vol. II, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Additional reading materials will be made available via the class Canvas site.

Optional: Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015)

## EVALUATION

Participation (%15):

Writing assignments (%40):

Mid-term exam (%20):

Final exam (%25):

*Participation:* This consists of attendance, reading *all* assigned material, and regular participation in classroom discussions.

Grade scale: A 93-100 / A- 90-92 / B+ 87-89 / B 83-86 / B- 80-82 / C+ 77-79 / C 73-76 / F 72 and below.

## ASSIGNMENTS

To complete these assignments, you will first need to read the assigned chapters in *Major Problems* carefully. You will receive instruction in the historical skills you will need to complete these assignments successfully.

All writing assignments should be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, with 12-point font. Essays will be graded for both content (*what* you write) and writing style (*how* you write). Some discussion about how to write well will be conducted during lectures, but if you need additional help, you may consult Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015). Extra consideration will be given to papers that you have taken to the University Writing Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of MHRA.

*Assignment #1:* Analyze, contextualize, compare, and contrast two or three of the documents in chapter 2 of *Major Problems*. (2 pages)

*Assignment #2:* Analyze, contextualize, compare, and contrast two or three of the documents in chapter 4 of *Major Problems*. (2 pages)

*Assignment #3:* Explain how the primary documents in chapter 6 or 7 (choose one) support or refute one or both of the essays at the end of the chapter. (2 pages)

*Assignment #4:* Explain how the primary documents in chapter 10 or 11 (choose one) support or refute one or both of the essays at the end of the chapter. (2 pages)

*Assignment #5:* Using primary documents and secondary essays in chapter 13 as your evidence, answer the following question: How and why did both the Left and Right become radical by the end of the decade? (4-5 pages) [This assignment will be submitted on Tuesday for peer review, revised, and resubmitted on Thursday.]

*Assignment #6:* Using the primary documents and secondary essays in chapter 15 as your evidence, answer the following question: What factors led to the rise of the New Right? (4-5 pages)

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily. It is essential to your class participation grade. There will be a 3-point reduction of the student's final grade for each absence after the first two. Regular absences will result in failure of this course. Excuses may be granted on a case-by-case basis, but documentation for illness, family emergency, or school related absences must be provided.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments will not be accepted.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES:** Incomplete grade requests must be made through the Dean of Students.

**LAPTOP COMPUTERS:** Laptop computers are permitted for use in the class to take notes, check references, or look up a class-related item. However, any non-class related uses (email, social media) will result in you being asked to leave the class and the day recorded as an absence. Even if I do not ask you to leave, I will take notes on non-class use and it will be reflected on your participation grade.

**CELL PHONES:** Strictly prohibited for any reason. Cell phones must remain in your pocket, purse, bookbag or backpack. Any student observed handling or using a cell phone during class hours will be asked to leave and the day recorded as an absence. More than one offence will result in you failing the class. Even if I do not say anything, I am observing and recording cell phone use, and it will be reflected on your participation grade.

**PROFESSIONALISM:** You will be expected to conduct yourself as a professional in this class. This means you will dress appropriately, arrive on time and stay until completion, treat your peers and their opinions with respect, complete all readings and assignments, and communicate with your professor in an appropriate manner.

Further, you will be expected to rehearse "real-life" behavior in this class. That means you will do the work even if you don't want to, you will be interested even if you are not interested, you will pay attention even when you are bored, you will write and communicate in a professional manner, and you will engage respectfully with your colleagues and with ideas that you may find irrelevant or even offensive. Mastering these skills will be essential to successful navigation of a professional workplace.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please read the UNC-G Student Policy Handbook on Academic Integrity found at <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

**CLASS SCHEDULE**  
(Subject to change)

*Read the corresponding chapters in Major Problems.*

**August 18, 20:** Introduction to class and primary document exercises

**August 25, 27:** Reconstruction

**September 1, 3:** Western Settlement and the Frontier

*Due: Assignment #1*

**September 8, 10:** Industrialization, Workers, and the New Immigration

**September 15, 17:** Imperialism and World Power

*Due: Assignment #2*

**September 22, 24:** The Progressive Movement

**September 29, October 1:** America in World War I; Crossing a Cultural Divide: The Twenties

*Due: Assignment #3*

**October 6, 8:** The Depression, The New Deal, and Franklin D. Roosevelt

*Mid-term exam*

**October 15:** Fall break; World War II

**October 20, 22:** The Cold War and the Nuclear Age; The Postwar “Boom” Affluence and Anxiety

*Due: Assignment #4*

**October 27, 29:** The Civil Rights Revolution

**November 3, 5:** The Sixties: Left, Right, and the Culture Wars

*Due: Assignment #5*

**November 10, 12:** Vietnam and the Downfall of Presidents

**November 17, 19:** The Rise of the New Right

*Due: Assignment #6*

**November 24, 26: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**December 5:** Final exam (Heads up: this is a Saturday.)