

History 212: The United States Since 1865

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Fall 2017 MWF 8-8:50

Classroom: Moore 1215

Instructor: Ethan Moore

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Office Hours: MW 9-10 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, we will jointly decide on a policy during our first session. Class starts promptly at 8:00 and if you are more than 10 minutes late you will be asked to leave. Please remember that 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally, and/or in writing.

Course Requirements:

Mid-Term (October 6th): 20%

Final Exam (December 1st): 20%

In Class Assignments: 20%

Archival Paper 1(October 27th): 20%

Archival Paper 2(November 27th): 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. 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 any response to 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.

I will often use power point in lecture. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will be distributed after class via Canvas. However, 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

Wednesday, August 16th: Review the syllabus and answer any questions

Friday, August 18th: 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."

Week 2

Monday, August 21th: 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 23rd: Industrial Capitalism

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

Friday August 25th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 3

Monday, August 28th: 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, August 30th: 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 1st: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 4

Monday, September 4th: Labor Day- No Class!

Wednesday, September 6th: American Indians and the West

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

Friday, September 8th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 5

Monday, September 11th: American Imperialism

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

-"The March of the Flag" (1898)

Wednesday, September 13th: 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 15th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 6

Monday, September 18th:

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

-Changes in Housework (1929)

-Happiness in Marriage (1926)

Wednesday, September 20th: Women's Suffrage

- Alice Paul Inspires Her Fellow Suffragists (1917-1918)
- The Remonstrance (1909)
- Election Day! (1909)
- Todd, "Getting Out the Vote" (1911)

Friday, September 22nd: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 7

Monday, September 25th: The "Modern 1920s"

- Hollitz, John- "Ideology and History: Advertising in the 1920s"

Wednesday, September 27th: The Depression and the New Deal

- Hollitz, John "History from the Top Down: Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady"

Friday, September 29th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture (Mid-Term Exam IDs distributed)

Week 8

Monday, October 2nd: World War II

- Excerpts from Studs Terkels *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II*

Wednesday, October 4th: Mid-Term Review

Friday, October 6th: Mid-Term Exam

Week 9

Monday, October 9th: No Class- Fall Break

Wednesday, October 11th: The Cold War

- Hollitz, John "Popular Culture as History: The Cold War Comes Home"

Friday, October 13th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 10

Monday, October 16th: The Rise of the Suburb

-Hollitz, John "History From the Bottom Up: The Detroit Race Riot of 1943"

-A Real Estate Agent Explains the Fine Art of Blockbusting

Wednesday, October 18th: The Black Freedom Movement

-Hollitz, John "History and Popular Memory: The Civil Rights Movement"

Friday, October 20th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 11

Monday, October 23rd: Vietnam

-Hollitz, John "Causation and the Lessons of History: Explaining America's Longest War"

Wednesday, October 25th: The Growing Social Movements

-A Native American Protest (1969)

-The Reverend James Drake Recalls (1975)

-Dolores Huerta Recalls (1975)

-Chicago Gay Liberation Front, "A Leaflet for the American Medical Association" (1970)

-Asian American Political Alliance, "AAPA Perspectives" (1969)

Friday, October 27th: Feminist Politics **Paper 1 Due

-Hollitz, John "Gender, Ideology, and Historical Change: Explaining the Women's Movement"

-Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (excerpt) (1963)

-Chavez, "The Double Oppression of Mexican-American Women" (1972)

-The Politics of Housework (1970)

-Third World Women's Alliance Statement (1968)

Week 12

Monday, October 30th: In class exercise

Wednesday, November 1st: The New Left

-TBA

Friday, November 3rd: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 13

Monday, November 6th: The New Right

-Richard Nixon Accepts the Republican Nomination for President (1968)

-Falwell, "The Moral Majority" (1981)

-Robertson, "Action Plan for the 1980s" (1979)

-Morgan, "The Total Woman" (1973)

-Bryant, "When the Homosexuals Burn the Holy Bible in Public" (1977)

Wednesday, November 8th: The 1980s

- Reagan, "Farewell Address" (1989)

Friday, November 13th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 14

Monday, November 13th: The Post-Cold War 1990s and early 2000s

-TBA

Wednesday, November 15th: A Post-Racial and Post-Sexuality America?

-Hollitz, John "Why Historical Interpretation Matters: The Battle Over Immigration."

Friday, November 17th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 15

No class this week- Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 16

Monday, November 27th: Exam Review and Paper 2 Due

Wednesday, November 29th: Final Questions/Wrap-up

Friday, December 1st: Final Exam (8-11)

*Changes may occur to the syllabus at the discretion of the instructor