

History 211-01 Fall 2020
United States History to 1865
Online

Instructor: Ms. Kaitlyn Williams

Office Hours: By appointment, video conferences or emails.

Email: kvwillia@uncg.edu

Course Description: This course will explore American history from a time before European contact through Reconstruction. After completing this course, students will be able to analyze significant political, social, economic, and cultural developments in American history. This course will explore the impact and contributions of many historical actors, not just traditional figures. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the impact of ordinary people on the world around them. Students will also learn how to understand historical context and gain analytical skills useful in the study of history and beyond.

General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) 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 Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of the United States.
2. Engage in historical thinking to contextualize, interpret, and analyze primary and secondary texts.
3. Identify the historical origins of significant debates in today's world.

Communication and Importance of Reading the Syllabus:

It is always important to read a course syllabus carefully, especially for an online course. Students are responsible for understanding the content of the syllabus and adhering to the policies, expectations, and guidelines listed for the course.

Before emailing the instructor, a student should read the syllabus carefully, check Canvas for updates (including announcements), and read the instructions/prompts for assignments. If a student's question is not answered in any of the three locations, email the instructor to ask questions. I am also happy to answer questions, and it is always a good practice to ask any questions you have so that the material can be clarified.

Students should check their emails and Canvas frequently, especially for an online course. This is how information and updates about the course will be communicated. It is vital to check emails regularly to ensure information is not missed. Please also make sure that you have Canvas set to automatically send any course announcements to your school email.

Required Texts:

The following required textbook is available to purchase at the university book store. All other reading and source material will be available in the Modules tab on the course Canvas page and/or linked to the syllabus.

Hewitt, Nancy A. and Steven F. Lawson. *Exploring American Histories: A Survey with Sources Volume 1*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/MacMillan, 2019.

Course Requirements:

Weekly Assessments (GHP 1; SLO 1, 2, 3):

Students will be required to answer questions relating to the content of each week. These quizzes will be based on the readings, PowerPoints, and videos for the week. They will ask students to think critically about the course material. The assessments allow students unlimited time and it is acceptable to use notes. However, students only have one attempt at the assessment. Additionally, while students are allowed to use course materials, plagiarism of any kind or severity will result in an automatic 0 for the assessment. The assessments will be due by Sunday nights at 12 midnight. The lowest assessment grade will be dropped.

Primary Source Discussion Forum (GHP 2; SLO 1, 2):

Students will be required to complete primary source discussion forums. **We will learn more about primary sources in week one of the course.**

For the discussion, students are required to write a substantive post that addresses the assigned reading questions on the primary source documents for the week. The primary sources will be divided among each student. While it would be great to read all of the sources, students are only expected to respond to the readings they are assigned.

The initial posts should be between 200-350 words, but can be more. A good discussion post should address the **context**, (ie. Who is the author? Where did the source come from? Etc.), demonstrate an **understanding** of the document (ie. What was its purpose?) and **analyze** the source (ie. Why was the source important and how does it deepen your understanding of the larger historical context?). **Initial discussion posts are due each Wednesday by 12 midnight.**

After completing the initial, substantive post, students will respond to a peer's post. Replies should **not** be on the same readings as your initial discussion post when more than one reading is given to the class for that week. Replies should be meaningful, contend with the primary source documents, and contribute to the discussion. In other words, replies should be meaningful and not say "I agree" or "Great post." Replies should be between 50-100 words. You will most likely need to read the document in order to provide an adequate reply. **Replies are due each Sunday night at 12 midnight.**

****All discussion posts and replies should be respectful.** Please practice online etiquette. You should **not** focus your responses on your peer's grammar, spelling, etc., but rather, on the content and material. Disrespect to other students will not be tolerated in this course.

****Late discussions cannot be made up.** This is a time sensitive assignment since it requires response to peers.

Writing Assignments (GHP 1, 2; SLO 1, 2):

Students will be required to complete three short writing assignments. The purpose of these papers is to analyze and contextualize primary documents and the course readings. Your response should convey 1) an understanding of the document's main argument and 2) an understanding of how that argument fits within the context of the era. Writing topics and instructions will be provided in advance. Since there are no exams in this online course, these papers will be used to measure a student's understanding of historical thinking, analyzing sources, and general historical knowledge.

Late Assignments:

Late assignments will be penalized by half a letter grade each calendar day they are late. An assignment that is not submitted after seven days will receive a zero. Discussion forum posts and replies **cannot** be submitted late. Any late discussion forum submissions will automatically receive a zero.

Grading:

Grades will be based on three different aspects of student performance: (1) writing assignments, (2) chapter assessments, and (3) primary source discussion board. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

Writing Assignments:	30% total
Writing Assignment #1	10%
Writing Assignment #2	10%
Writing Assignment #3	10%
Chapter Assessments (15 assessments x 3%):	45% total
Primary Source Discussion Forum (10 forums x 2.5%):	25% total

Grading Scale:

	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 93-100	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

Syllabus Modifications:

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to watch for any class announcements about alterations.

Academic Integrity:

All work must be your own. UNCG prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes academic integrity and to be familiar with UNCG policies which can be found here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in academic dishonesty (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating on an exam) will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion. Do not attempt it.

Useful Resources:

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for students that focus on writing, speaking, and researching. Check them out!

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>
 Jackson Library Website: <https://library.uncg.edu/>
 Writing Center Website: <https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>
 Speaking Center Website: <https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu>

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with any questions or needs related to academic accommodations for disabilities should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), located in the Elliot University Center, Suite 215. For more information, please see <https://ods.uncg.edu>.

Covid-19 Syllabus Information:

Required UNCG Syllabus Language

Approved by the Faculty Senate on July 1, 2020

As UNCG returns to face-to-face course offerings in fall 2020, the campus community must recognize and address concerns about physical and emotional safety. As such, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wearing a face covering that covers both nose and mouth
- Observing social distance in the classroom
- Engaging in proper hand washing hygiene when possible
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19
- Staying home if you are ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.

Instructors will have seating charts for their classes. These are important for maintaining appropriate social distance during class and facilitating contact tracing should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seat at every class meeting and must not move furniture. Students should not eat or drink during class time. A limited number of disposable masks will be available in classrooms for students who have forgotten theirs. Face coverings will also be available for purchase in the UNCG Campus Bookstore. Students who do not follow masking and social distancing requirements will be asked to put on a face covering or leave the classroom to retrieve one and only return when they follow these basic requirements to uphold standards of safety and care for the UNCG community. Once students have a face covering, they are permitted to re-enter a class already in progress. Repeated issues may result in conduct action. The course policies regarding attendance and academics remain in effect for partial or full absence from class due to lack of adherence with face covering and social distancing requirements.

For instances where the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) has granted accommodations regarding wearing face coverings, students should contact their instructors to develop appropriate alternatives to class participation and/or activities as needed. Instructors or the student may also contact OARS (336.334.5440) who, in consultation with Student Health Services, will review requests for accommodations.

Approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on July 30, 2020

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about

the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

COVID-19 Spartan Shield Video

UNCG Chancellor Frank Gilliam has challenged us to create a Culture of Care at UNCG where we

all wear face coverings and social distance, less to protect ourselves but rather more to protect everyone around us. It shows that you care about the well being of everyone around you. We have created this video featuring your student body presidents to better explain how and why this is so important.

Please watch this video before the first day of classes.

<https://youtu.be/Mb58551qxEk>