

SYLLABUS

HISTORY 212: U.S. FROM 1865

Spring 2004	MWF 12:00-12:50 pm	Section 8
Instructor:	Susannah Link	McIver 028
E-mail:	history_212@yahoo.com (definitely the best way to reach me)	
Phone:	334-5992 (History Dept. main number)—(ask whoever answers to leave a note in my mailbox)	
Office hours:	Monday and Wednesday, 11-11:50 am or by appointment My office is in the far corner on the right side of McIver 223.	
Course information:	http://blackboard.uncg.edu (there will be a copy of the syllabus here, as well as announcements, reminders, assignments)	

Required materials:

- Norton, Mary Beth, *et al.*, *A People and a Nation* (Volume II)—(available at the UNCG Bookstore and probably at Addam's on Tate St.)
- Three bluebooks for midterms and final exam (available at the UNCG Bookstore and at Addam's for a small fee). Either size—large or small—is fine.

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of American history after 1865. The subject matter will be diverse and will focus chronologically on the various factors--including politics, race, economics, gender, and culture--that have combined to create the United States in which we live today. At the conclusion of the course, students should have a clear understanding of the following: the significant legal, technological, social, economic, and intellectual contributions to the development of the U.S. during the late 19th and 20th centuries; the major time periods/topics we will cover: Reconstruction, Industrialization, Progressive Era, World War I, Great Depression/New Deal, World War II, America during the Cold War Era (1950s-1980s), post-Cold War; and the origins of current conflicts involving the United States. In addition, students should gain a basic understanding of the historical process and a greater ability to communicate their own ideas both orally and in written form.

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussion, and a variety of writing assignments. In addition, there will be two midterms and one final exam, each of which will be based on one third of the course material and will include both short-answer identifications and longer formal essays. **The reading material is an important component in each of these assignments, so students will be expected to keep up with the reading.** You will be assigned an average of one or two chapters per week (approximately 30-60 pages), and you should plan to read each chapter carefully at least two times (taking notes as you read). We will spend time throughout the course discussing not only the chronological details of American history, but also how historians do research and analyze data to create their interpretations of particular events or periods.

Keep track of this syllabus; it includes reading assignments, important dates, and other pertinent information that you will need throughout the semester. In case you misplace it, you will find a copy of it linked to Blackboard (see address above).

Short-answer identification terms: The terms that will be on the midterms and final exam will be drawn from the textbook chapters. About two weeks before each test, I'll post a list of terms on Blackboard from which I'll take those that will appear on the test. You will need to answer, in your own words, the following questions about each term: Who? What? Where? When? Why is it significant?

Essays: The essay questions on the midterms and final exam will be broad questions that focus on a major event or time period. One way to prepare for these is that, as you read the textbook, try to formulate significant questions about the material in each chapter and then try to answer those questions in your own words.

Exam makeups and paper deadline extensions will be granted only in rare cases, and there will be no incompletes in the course. Students are responsible for **ALL** of the material in the lectures and readings. Please use bluebooks for the exams.

Plagiarism is a serious offense in an academic setting, as ideas are the intellectual property of writers. Be fully aware of the definition of this term as it refers to historical writing. You are responsible for turning in work which is **100% your own** or which is otherwise properly cited as a reference. I am getting pretty good at spotting work that is copied from other sources, and I will not hesitate to fail you if you turn in plagiarized work. This includes copying word-for-word from the textbook.

Reading journals: As a way to think about significant historical questions and to spur yourself to keep up with the reading, you will be required to **submit on Blackboard** a personal response to each of the **even-numbered chapters** in the textbook, from Chapters 16 through 32. These are not to be a summary of the material in the chapter. They can be informally written, and they must be **your own** response to some part of the chapter that affected you in some way, either negatively or positively. These will be due by Friday at midnight of the week on which the chapter was assigned.

Quizzes: There will be four quizzes throughout the semester based on Chapters 23, 27, 29, and 31. You will take them via Blackboard and will have a 48-hour window in which to take them (Thursday and Friday until midnight of the week on which the chapter was assigned) and a time limit of 30 minutes to take the quiz once you have started.

Evaluation:

- reading journals: on even-numbered chapters: 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 (20% total)
- two midterms (10% each) and one final exam (on the last day of class, **not** during the university exam period): 15% (35% total)
- four quizzes via Blackboard and based on the textbook reading (10%)

- class participation: this includes being prepared to discuss reading assignments from both the textbook and e-reserves and the *New York Times* online. Each person will be a discussion leader at least twice during the semester. (30%)
- daily attendance: this is required, and I don't want to hear about any grandmothers dying! (5%)

Grading is on a 10-point scale: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-; etc. A "C" is an average grade, so if a student does average work, expect a "C."

Dates to note:

- Monday, Jan. 19: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day—no classes
- Wednesday, Jan. 21: last day to drop classes for tuition & fees refund
- Wednesday, Feb. 11: **midterm #1** (covers chapters 16-21 in textbook)
- Monday, Mar. 8-Friday, Mar. 12: Spring Break—no classes
- Wednesday, Mar. 17: last day to drop classes without academic penalty
- Monday, Mar. 22: **midterm #2** (covers chapters 22-27 in textbook)
- Friday, Apr. 9: Spring holiday—no classes
- Monday, May 3: **last class and final exam** (covers chapters 28-33 in textbook)
- There will be **no class meetings** on the following dates:
 Wednesday, Jan. 21; Wednesday, Feb. 25; Friday, Feb. 27

Weekly topics and reading assignments

Jan. 12: Reconstruction (ch. 16)

Jan. 19: Westward Expansion (ch. 17)

Jan. 26: Industrialization and Urbanization (chs. 18 & 19)

Feb. 2: Politics in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era (chs. 20 & 21)

Feb. 9: Imperialism (ch. 22)

Feb. 16: World War I (ch. 23)

Feb. 23: 1920s (ch. 24)

Mar. 1: Great Depression and New Deal and the Road to War (chs. 25 & 26)

Mar. 15: World War II (ch. 27)

Mar. 22: Postwar Society (ch. 28)

Mar. 29: Cold War (ch. 29)

Apr. 5: Turbulent Era (ch. 30)

Apr. 12: Vietnam War (ch. 31)

Apr. 19: 1970s & 1980s (ch. 32)

Apr. 26: 1990s (ch. 33)

