

Syllabus
HIS 212-05
The US Since 1865
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Spring Semester, 2008

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Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND THE SCOPE OF THIS COURSE

This is a United States survey course; it is designed to provide a general overview of historical events from 1865 to the present. The course will not only provide an overview of history's major events and the significant figures of historical importance, it will also provide background on historical concepts and scholarly interpretations that allow for an understanding of cultural, social, political and economic history.

The study of history requires more than memorization of dates, names and events, although such facts are important. Understanding history means peeling back the layers of time to expose cultural, social, political, and economic conflict among various groups of ordinary folk – people who represent a cross section of America. Appreciating history also requires examination of how historians perceive, interpret, and write about the past – not all scholars agree and their assertions present a mosaic that constructs a picture of the past in a context that allows for a better understanding of America's development.

COURSE GOALS

- Comprehend the major events in US History since the Civil War and identify their causes, outcomes and the participants
- Evaluate the processes of change in the development of American society and culture from 1865 to the present
- Compare and contrast the experiences of different groups of people based on factors such as race, class, gender, religion, ethnic origin, and regional variation
- Understand how to evaluate historical texts and documents in order to draw conclusions about the past

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Required Texts (available in the University Bookstore)**

The American Journey: A History of the United States, Vol. 2., 4rd edition.
David Goldfield...et al.

- **Readings, class preparation, and class participation**

This course will require you to read and understand the various themes of history covered in the required text. As such, you will be held to the assigned readings for each class meeting, which means you should make notes during your readings; you should formulate questions about the various arguments, facts and material covered, and you should consult outside sources if you have difficulty understanding some aspects of the texts. Outside sources are easily available from the Jackson Library and in many cases, the Internet.

Please, don't come to class unprepared or with a total lack of ideas, questions, or comments.

- **Class Participation**

It is imperative that you participate in class discussions each and every class meeting. I welcome dissenting views, comments, and I will expect you to discuss your ideas and interpretations of the assigned materials for each class. Believe me, class will go smoother, faster, and be far more enjoyable if everyone is prepared and can intelligently discuss the material – why not participate? The alternative: a lecture for a full period, a long drawn out class, and in all probability a lack of real understanding of the material.

As part of having a class that is interactive and promotes learning, discussion, and ideas, I will ask questions during the class. When I ask questions you are expected to be prepared to answer questions and participate in discussions that pertain to the topic, subject, and or, chapter we're studying. As a consequence, if no one answers and there is no participation, I will be forced to call upon you individually – it goes without saying – you must be prepared for each and every class.

Note: Class participation may be a graded component in this course.

- **Attendance**

If you find yourself unable to attend, then you need to e-mail me or better yet, give me a call and let me know you will be absent and the reason why. It is your responsibility to let me know if you are going to be absent. Since we have a broad range of time and material to cover, it is imperative that you attend class. Being late to class is also a bad practice, if you enter class late, please enter as quietly as possible and see me at the end of the class period. Additionally, leaving class early is inappropriate unless you have spoken to me prior to class and received consent. Excessive absenteeism, tardiness and or leaving classes early will be reason enough for me to impose a **grading penalty**; so please don't put you or me in that position.

- **Exams**

During the semester there will be three (3) Exams. The following class schedule will provide you with the Exam date and the chapters you are responsible for on each Exam. We will discuss Exams in detail as the semester progresses.

- **Research / Essay Paper**

During the semester I will provide you with a topic involving an aspect of US History since 1865. You will in turn conduct research on the topic and submit a paper. This assignment is relatively straightforward. You must utilize two (2) sources for this paper. They are as follows:

1. A scholarly book on the topic
 2. A scholarly journal or magazine article from a respected source.
- Absolutely **NO INTERNET SOURCES ARE PERMITTED**. Because of the number of unreliable Websites on the internet, and the fact that many sites lack historical credulity and scholarly integrity, the use of the internet is oftentimes suspect in terms of research. Therefore you are not to use the internet as a source for this assignment.

The paper is to be a minimum of 2 pages in length and a maximum of 3. Therefore, you will have to compose your work in a concise manner, i.e., essay style, and write within the confines of the allotted pages. This is sometimes more difficult than you imagine.

We will discuss the paper at length during the semester, and I will have a handout as well.

- **Make Up Work**

Unfortunately we meet only once a week. Subsequently, I have to maintain a relatively inflexible schedule that will allow us to cover the text, the subjects, materials, and other matters within the confines of a short period of time. Because of this, I simply cannot allow for any make up work.

COURSE GRADING

This class is graded based on the averages of your exams and research / essay paper. Grading may be negatively affected by consistently violating the attendance guidelines. Likewise, attendance grades may be positively affected by your participation in discussions, questions, and your overall class involvement.

Grading is based on a 10 point grading scale.

STUDY AIDS

The publisher of your textbook provides a Website that is very helpful. It is free and available to all students in class. The site provides helpful information that should enhance your overall understanding of each chapter; also, the site is very useful for studying – it provides practice tests, definitions, etc, that should prove helpful when studying for exams.

- Simply go to: **www.prehall.com/Goldfield** then click on the chapter you want to review.

CLASS SCHEDULE
US History since 1865
HIS – 121

Reading assignments are specified below, you are responsible for the reading prior to class; all reading assignments are from the required text: The American Journey: A History of the United States, Vol. 2. 4th edition. David Goldfield, et al.

TUESDAY: JAN 17, 2008:

Class Introduction

- Review of Syllabus
 - Introduction to US History since 1865
 - Read Chapter 16 – Reconstruction, for next class
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Jan 24:

Chapter 16 – Reconstruction

- The Ghosts of the Confederacy
 - Transformations of the Civil War: South & North
 - White Supremacy and the Ku Klux Klan
 - African American Organizations for Change
-

*** Note: 2 chapters due**

Chapter 17 – A New South

- Limits of Industrialism in the New South
 - Southern Agrarianism and the Culture of the New South
 - Race and Politics in a New South
-

Jan 31:

Chapter 19 – Transforming the West

- American Indians and Federal Indian Policy
 - Manifest Destiny
 - Homesteading, Mining, and The Cattle Kingdom
-

FEBRUARY 7, 2008:

Chapter 20 – Politics and Government

- The Changes in American Politics – 1877 – 1900
 - Federal Bureaucracy and the Spoils System
 - The Reforms of Politics
-

Feb 14:

Chapter 21 – The Progressive Era

- The Reform Movement
 - Government and Society
- Theodore Roosevelt – Progressive Presidency
- Woodrow Wilson
- Progressivism

CLASS SCHEDULE - CONTINUED
US History since 1865
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FEBRUARY 21: **EXAM # 1 – CHAPTERS 16, 17, 19, 20, 21**

Feb 28: **Chapter 23 – America and the Great War: 1914 – 1920**

- The Origins of Conflict
- America's War Effort
- Waging War – at home and abroad
- Peace and America's Place in the World

March 6, 2008: **Chapter 24 – Toward a Modern America**

- The Roaring 20's
- Cities and the Road to Suburbia
- Mass Culture and the Culture Wars
- Herbert Hoover

MARCH 13: **NO CLASS**
➤ ***SPRING BREAK***

Mar 20: **Chapter 25 – The Great Depression**

- Herbert Hoover and the Depression
- The 1932 Election & Franklin D. Roosevelt
- The New Deal

Mar 27: **Chapter 26 – World War II: 1939 – 1945**

- The Roots of World War II
- America's Mobilization
- War – Allies and Enemies
 - Europe
 - Japan
- The Peace and Harry Truman

April 3, 2008: **Chapter 27 – The Cold War: 1946 – 1952**

- The Great Boom and Economics in America
- Containment of Communism
- Senator Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism

APRIL 10: **EXAM # 2: CHAPTERS 23, 24, 25, 26, AND 27**

CLASS SCHEDULE - CONTINUED

US History since 1865

HIS – 121

Apr 17:

Chapter 28 – The Confident Years: Pages 889 through 900

- John F. Kennedy
 - Cuban Missile Crisis
 - Initiating the Civil Rights Movement
-

**Note: 2 chapters due:
only pages 889 – 900 for
Chapter 28**

Chapter 29 – Shaken to the Roots: 1965 – 1980

- Vietnam
 - The Tet Offensive
 - Hippies, Communes, and Cults
 - Discontent in America
 - Richard M. Nixon and Watergate
 - Jimmy Carter / Economic and Energy Crisis
-

Apr 24:

Chapter 30 – The Reagan Revolution and a Changing World

- New Conservatism
 - Confronting the Soviet Union in the Second Cold War
 - The Revolution of 1989
 - Activism and Culture Wars
-

**Note: 2 chapters due:
only pages 997 through
1010 for Chapter 31**

Chapter 31 – Complacency and Crisis: Pages 997 through 1010

- The 2000 Election
 - 9-11-01
 - The Iraq and Middle East Conflicts
 - Homeland Security
-

MAY 1, 2008:

CLASS WRAP UP

EXAM # 3: CHAPTERS 28, 29, 30, AND 31