

HISTORY 702B Colloquium in American History since 1865  
Spring 2008  
Bolton

Office: MHRA 2135  
Office Hours: 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. M, or by appointment.  
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This class will introduce students to some of the major interpretations and works about American history since 1865.

The major assignment for this class is to do the weekly reading and come prepared to discuss the material. A sizeable part of your grade will be determined by your class participation. Non-participation or weak participation will obviously result in a low grade. If you have to miss class, you need to let me know before class begins if at all possible. Also, you will need to prepare a written summary on the readings for any week you miss class (due the following class meeting).

Each student should write four essays (three of 4-5 pages and one of 7-8 pages) on four different topics listed in the syllabus. Essays are due at the class meeting in which the topic is covered (no exceptions!). The longer essay should be written for the week you are assigned an extra book to read. These essays should represent your analysis and commentary on the issues and/or arguments raised by the readings. You should neither merely summarize the readings nor ramble incoherently. For the longer essay, you will most certainly want to compare and contrast how the two books you read approach the particular historical question we are examining. Overall, you should address what you have read in some creative and brilliant way. You can address any subject, but your essays should obviously focus on the assigned readings and should not focus too narrowly on some trivial point. Of course, your essays should be well written and well organized. Essays should be typed, double-spaced; you are permitted to use a parenthetical notation style for this assignment.

A final exam will be given for this class, which will, of course, be comprehensive.

Readings Available at the UNCG Bookstore (and many other locations):

Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction  
Matthew Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues  
Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest  
William Cronon, Nature=s Metropolis  
Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings  
David Kennedy, Freedom from Fear  
Alan Brinkley, The End of Reform  
John Lewis Gaddis, We Now Know  
Thomas Borstelmann, The Cold War and the Color Line

Lizabeth Cohen, A Consumer=s Republic  
Michael Hunt, Lyndon Johnson=s War  
Kevin Kruse, White Flight

Other readings:

For other books or articles mentioned in the syllabus: most are available electronically on blackboard (noted in syllabus). One can be accessed through J-STOR (noted in syllabus).

## Schedule

January 28: Reconstruction

Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction; Edwards, AThe Disappearance of Henderson Cooper and Susan Daniel@ (blackboard); Moore, AOne Hundred Years of Reconstruction in the South,@ Journal of Southern History v. 9 (May 1943) [available at [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)]; Baker, ACelebrating the Red Shirts@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Steven Hahn, A Nation Under Our Feet

February 4: Western Settlement and the Frontier

Limerick, Legacy of Conquest; Turner, AThe Significance of the Frontier in American History@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Donald Worster, Rivers of Empire; Louis Warren, Buffalo Bill=s America

February 11: The Incorporation of America

Cronon, Nature=s Metropolis; Klein, AThe Marvel of Men and Machines@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Alan Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America

February 18: American Imperialism

Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues; Williams, AImperial Anticolonialism@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Gail Bederman, Manliness and Civilization

March 3: The Progressive Movement

Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings; Wiebe, AA New Middle Class@ and AA Revolution in Values@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Elizabeth Sanders, Roots of Reform

March 17: New Deal

Kennedy, Freedom from Fear, prologue-ch.12; Higgs, AThe Great Depression@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Lizabeth Cohen, Making a New Deal; Frank Freidel, Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Rendezvous with Destiny

March 24: World War II

Brinkley, The End of Reform; Gerstle, AThe Working Class Goes to War@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: C.C. Adams, The Best War Ever

March 31: The Cold War

Gaddis, We Now Know

Additional reading: John Fousek, To Lead the Free World

April 7: Civil Rights

Borstelmann, The Cold War and the Color Line; Payne, AThe Social Construction of History@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Carol Horton, Race and the Making of American Liberalism

April 14: Postwar America

Cohen, A Consumer=s Republic; Diggins, AThe Pursuit of Happiness@ (blackboard)

Additional reading: Rosalyn Baxandall Elizabeth Ewen, Picture Windows; Stephanie Coontz, The Way We Never Were

April 21: Vietnam

Hunt, Lyndon Johnson=s War; Buzzanco, “Containment, Liberalism, and Vietnam” and “Why (Not) Vietnam” (blackboard)

Additional reading: Lind, Vietnam, the Necessary War

April 28: The New Right

Kruse, White Flight; Brennan, “Seizing the Moment” (blackboard)

Additional reading: Matthew Lassiter, The Silent Majority; Dan Carter, The Politics of Rage

May 5: Final Exam

Grading:

Essays.....	45%
Class Participation.....	30%
Final Exam.....	25%