

# HIS 212: The United States Since 1865

## Teaching Assistants:

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Professor Mark Elliott

**Office:** 2125 MHRA

**Office Hours:** W-F 10:15-11:30  
or by appointment

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## Meeting Times and Places:

### Lectures:

Wed- Fri 9:00-9:50 Ferguson 100

### Monday discussions:

1) Section 01—8:00-8:50 MHRA 1206

J. Kaiser

2) Section 02—9:00-9:50 MHRA 1207

J. Kaiser

3) Section 03—9:00-9:50 MHRA 1206

J. Spruill

4) Section 04—10:00-10:50 MHRA 1209

J. Spruill

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the social, cultural, political and economic history of the United States since the end of the Civil War. Because of its broad historical sweep, the topics covered are not comprehensive. No single course can cover all of the important issues over one hundred and fifty years of American history. Therefore the course focuses upon selected events, trends, historical figures, and social issues that are most revealing of their times and that address topics that have been of the greatest current interest to historians. Special attention will be paid to issues of ethnic and racial diversity and American citizenship, to social inequalities and movements for social justice, and to the development of the United States into a global superpower. The weekly readings have been especially chosen to familiarize students with challenge of interpreting primary source documents, and introduce them to the range of interpretative problems that arise in the study of American history. It is hoped that the material explored in this course will provide the student with a springboard to further study in American history.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

--Students will establish a strong foundation of knowledge in the major themes and events in American history since 1865.

--Students will improve their ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.

--Students will improve their ability to make historical arguments, drawing upon primary source documents.

--Students will improve their writing and verbal skills.

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Attendance:**

A student who is not present at the beginning of class will be marked “absent.” More than five absences will lower your *Final Grade* by one-third of a grade for each subsequent absence (that is, your sixth absence will cause a “B” to become a “B-,” your seventh will make it a “C+,” your eighth will make it a “C,” etc.). Missing a total of 14 or more classes for any reason (one-third of the semester) will result in an automatic “F” for the course. No exceptions. Please use your 5 absences wisely by saving them for emergencies or severe illness. Students are responsible to complete on time all work assigned or due on days in which they are absent.

### **Participation:**

Your participation grade will be based on the overall *quality* of your contributions in the discussion sections—not the quantity of contributions you make. Please make your contributions informed, intelligent, and constructive. You must be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you to be marked “absent”—so do not bother coming to class if you cannot remain conscious! Cell phones should be turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, e-mailing or internet surfing during class. Students must complete the reading assignments in time to participate in their weekly discussion sections with your assigned Teaching Assistant.

### **Quizzes:**

Every week, there will be in-class quizzes on the readings to encourage you to keep up with the reading. Quizzes will take place at *the beginning of discussion sections* on Mondays. If you miss a quiz due to lateness or absence, you must do a short paper as a replacement or else receive a zero for the quiz. No more than two quizzes can be made up.

### **Written Work:**

There will be one term paper of 1500-1800 words in length (app. 5 pages). You may write your term paper on one of two assigned topics. If you choose **Topic #1** your paper is due on **February 27**; if you choose **Topic #2** your paper is due on **April 24**. If you miss the deadline for the first topic, you must choose **Topic #2**. An assignment sheet with details about the term paper topics will be distributed in class. In order to pass this course you must hand in all written work on time and complete all assignments.

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

All work submitted in your name must be your own original work for this class with proper citation or credit given to all sources. All papers will be turned in using the “Safe Assignment” function on Blackboard which automatically scans your paper for

plagiarism. Each student should be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy, and the penalties for plagiarism. Refer to this address on the UNCG website for more details:

<http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>

**Grading Formula:**

- 20% Class participation
- 20% Quiz grade average
- 20% Term Paper
- 20% Midterm
- 20% Final Exam.

**REQUIRED READING (available at UNCG's Bookstore):**

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty! An American History Vol. 2* (Second Edition)  
Brook Thomas, ed. *Plessy v. Ferguson. A Brief History with Documents*  
Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*  
Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial, A Brief History with Documents*  
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

**Further short reading assignments will be distributed via the Class Blackboard site.**

**Week 1. INTRODUCTION: AMERICA IN 1865**

- Jan. 21** Course introduction.
- Jan. 23** Reconstructing the Nation after the Civil War

**Week 2. THE GILDED AGE**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 15  
Documents on Blackboard: Civil Rights Bill (1866), Johnson's Veto Message (1866); John Walter Stephens Biography; Albion Tourgée's letter to Senator Abbott (1870).

- Jan. 26** Discussion Section.
- Jan. 28** The Second Industrial Revolution
- Jan. 30** Darwinism; Laissez-faire and the "Labor" Problem

**Week 3. THE TRIUMPH OF CORPORATE CAPITALISM**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 16  
Documents on Blackboard: Crazy Horse (1877); Sitting Bull (1882); Lloyd, *Story of a Monopoly* (1881); *Wealth versus Commonwealth* (1894).

- Feb. 2** Discussion Section

- Feb. 4** Westward expansion; Native Americans
- Feb. 6** The Triumph of Jim Crow Segregation

**Week 4. ORGANIZED LABOR AND CLASS POLITICS**

Reading: Thomas, ed. *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1-76, 119-160, 169-192

- Feb. 9** Discussion Section
- Feb. 11** Populism and Rural Reform
- Feb. 13** Spanish-Cuban-American War, and Overseas Expansion

**Week 5. URBANIZATION AND AMERICAN CULTURE**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 17-18  
 Documents on Blackboard: Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890); Lazurus, *The New Colossus* (1903); Eugene Debs, "How I Became a Socialist" (1902).

- Feb. 16** Discussion Section
- Feb. 18** Immigration and Urban Life
- Feb. 20** The Rise of Progressive Reform

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**Week 6. PROGRESSIVISM**

Reading: Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*, 1-173, 196-206, 229-252.

- Feb. 23** Discussion Section
- Feb. 25** New Nationalism versus the New Freedom
- Feb. 27** The Great War and Progressive Politics [Paper on topic #1 due]

**Week 7. THE NEW IMPERIALISM TO WORLD WAR I**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 19  
 Documents on Blackboard: Woodrow Wilson, "Safe for Democracy" 1917, and Fourteen Points (1918); Eugene Debs on Espionage Act (1918).

- Mar. 2** Discussion Section: Midterm exam review
- Mar. 4** The Great War and the Treaty of Versailles
- Mar. 6** **Midterm Exam**

**SPRING BREAK March 7-15**

**Week 8. MASS CULTURE: The 1920s and After**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 20

**Mar. 16** Discussion Section  
**Mar. 18** Mass Culture and Consumerism  
**Mar. 20** “Culture Wars” of the 1920s

**Week 9. THE GREAT CRASH AND THE NEW DEAL**

Reading: Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial*, 1-72, 87-93, 139-214.

**Mar. 23** Discussion Section  
**Mar. 25** The Great Depression  
**Mar. 27** The New Deal [Jacqueline Spruill Lecture]

**Week 10. WORLD WAR II AND THE END OF THE NEW DEAL**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 21  
Documents on Blackboard: Roosevelt’s First Inaugural Address (1933); First Fireside Chat (1933); “Four Freedoms” (1941); “Why Should We March?” (1941); “Freedom Road” (1944)

**Mar. 30** Discussion Section  
**April 1** World War II  
**April 3** American Victory and a New World Order

**Week 11. THE COLD WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 22-23;  
Documents on Blackboard: Kennan, “Long Telegram” (1947);  
Speech on Marshall Plan (1947); Speech on Truman Loyalty  
Program (1947); National Security Committee #68 (1950);  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

**Apr. 6** Discussion Section  
**Apr. 8** The Politics of the Cold War  
**Apr. 10** **SPRING HOLIDAY (no class)**

**Week 12. THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 24  
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 11-160.  
Documents on Blackboard: King, “I Have a Dream” (1963).

**Apr. 13** Discussion Section  
**Apr. 15** The Civil Rights Movement  
**Apr. 17** The Kennedy Administration

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**Week 13. SOCIAL REFORM AND THE COUNTERCULTURE**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 25  
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 161-384.  
Documents on Blackboard: King's protest against Vietnam (1967)

**Apr. 20** Discussion Section  
**Apr. 22** The "Great Society"  
**Apr. 24** The War in Vietnam [Paper on topic #2 due]

**Week 14. POST-VIETNAM AMERICA**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 26-27  
Documents on Blackboard: Articles of Impeachment against President Nixon (1973); *Griswold v. Conn* (1965); *Roe v. Wade* (1973); Reagan in Germany (1987); Bush's "New World Order" (1991).

**Apr. 27** Discussion Section  
**Apr. 29** The Conservative counter-revolution  
**May 1.** From Nixon to Bush

**Week 15. AMERICA AT THE END OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 28  
Documents on Blackboard: Buchanan's Culture Wars (1993); Clinton's Millennium Speech (2000).

**May 4** Discussion section meeting: Final exam review

**Week 16. FINAL EXAM**

**May 11 8:00-11:00 am.**