

HISTORY 702: Colloquium in American History since 1865
Spring 2009
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):

Edward Blum, Reforging the White Republic
Glenda Gilmore, Gender and Jim Crow
Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest
William Cronon, Nature's Metropolis
Matthew Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues
Lawrence Goodwyn, The Populist Moment
Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings
David Kennedy, Freedom from Fear
Alan Brinkley, The End of Reform

Melvyn Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind
 Lance Hill, The Deacons for Defense
 Alice Kessler-Harris, In Pursuit of Equity
 Kevin Kruse, White Flight

Other readings:

For other books or articles mentioned in the syllabus: they are available electronically, either on blackboard or J-STOR (noted in syllabus).

Schedule

February 2: Reconstruction Era

Blum, Reforging the White Republic; Foner, "The Challenge of Enforcement" (blackboard); Moore, "One Hundred Years of Reconstruction in the South," Journal of Southern History v. 9 (May 1943) [available at JSTOR]; Richardson, "North and West of Reconstruction" (blackboard)

February 9: The New South

Gilmore, Gender and Jim Crow; Cobb, "Beyond Planters and Industrialists," Journal of Southern History v. 54 (February 1988) [available at JSTOR]; MacLean, "The Leo Frank Case Reconsidered," Journal of American History v. 78 (December 1991) [available at JSTOR]

Additional reading: Grace Elizabeth Hale, Making Whiteness

February 16: Western Settlement and the Frontier

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

Additional reading: Louis Warren, Buffalo Bill's America

February 23: The Incorporation of America

Cronon, Nature's Metropolis; Trachtenberg, "Mechanization Takes Command," and "Capital and Labor" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Bruce Laurie, Artisans into Workers

March 2: American Imperialism

Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues; Williams, "Imperial Anticolonialism" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Gail Bederman, Manliness and Civilization

March 16: Populism

Goodwyn, The Populist Moment

Additional reading: Charles Postel, The Populist Vision

March 23: The Progressive Movement

Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings; Wiebe, "A New Middle Class" and "A Revolution in Values" (blackboard); Haskell, "Taking Exception to Exceptionalism," Reviews in American History v. 28 [available at JSTOR]

Additional reading: Elizabeth Sanders, Roots of Reform

March 30: New Deal

Kennedy, Freedom from Fear, prologue-ch.12; Higgs, "The Great Depression" (blackboard); Levine, "American Culture and the Great Depression" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Lizabeth Cohen, Making a New Deal; Patricia Sullivan, Days of Hope

April 6: World War II

Brinkley, The End of Reform; Adams, "Overseas" and "Homefront Change" (blackboard)

Additional reading: John W. Dower, War Without Mercy

April 6: The Cold War

Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind; Cohen, "Reconversion" (blackboard)

Additional reading: John Fousek, To Lead the Free World

April 13: Civil Rights

Hill, The Deacons for Defense; Hall, "The Long Civil Rights Movement," Journal of American History v. 91 (March 2005) [available at JSTOR]

Additional reading: John Dittmer, Local People

April 20: Twentieth-Century Women's History

Kessler-Harris, In Pursuit of Equity; Meyerowitz, "Beyond the Feminine Mystique," Journal of American History 79 (March 1993) [available at JSTOR]

Additional reading: Nancy F. Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism

April 27: The New Right

Kruse, White Flight; Butler, "Jack-in-the-Box Faith"
(<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/90.4/butler.html>)

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

May 4: Final Exam

Grading:

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