

HIS 212: The United States Since 1865

HIS 212

Teaching Assistants:

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Office Hours: TH 3:00-4:00
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Meeting Times and Places:

Lectures:

Wed. and Fri. 1:00-1:50 NMORE 130

Prof. Elliott

Monday discussions:

1) Section 01—12:00-12:50 FERG 322

Mr. Moore

2) Section 02—12:00-12:50 BRYN 117

Ms. Gates

3) Section 03—1:00-1:50 PETT 227

Mr. Moore

4) Section 04—1:00-1:50 BRYN 117

Ms. Gates

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 reveal much about their times and address topics that have been of the greatest current interest to historians. Special attention will be paid to issues of ethnic and racial diversity, transformations of the rights citizenship, social inequalities and movements for social justice, and the development of the United States into a global superpower. The weekly readings have been chosen to demonstrate the variety of approaches to studying the past, and 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- Students will improve their ability to analyze and interpret historical documents.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 an “B” to become an “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. We do not except doctor’s notes or other excuses. 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:

You must be attentive and awake during class. Sleeping in class will cause you will be marked “absent”—so do not bother coming to class if you cannot remain conscious! Cell phones should be muted or turned off and stored away. No talking, texting, twittering, 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. 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.

Quizzes:

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.

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. Details about **Topic #1** and **#2** will be given in class. If you choose **Topic #1** your paper is due on **February 26**; if you choose **Topic #2** your paper is due on **April 26**. If you miss the deadline for the first topic, you must choose **Topic #2**. 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 Seagull Edition)

Argersinger, ed. *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents.*

Royster, Jacqueline J. ed, *Southern Horrors and Other Writings.*

Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial, A Brief History with Documents.*

Olsen and Roberts, *My Lai, A Brief History with Documents.*

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

Week 1. INTRODUCTION: AMERICA IN 1865

Jan. 20 Course introduction.

Jan. 22 Reconstructing the Nation after the Civil War

Week 2. POST CIVIL WAR AMERICA

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. 25 Discussion Section.

Jan. 27 The Second Industrial Revolution

Jan. 29 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. 1** Discussion Section
- Feb. 3** Westward expansion; Native Americans.
- Feb. 5** The Triumph of Jim Crow Segregation.

Week 4. ORGANIZED LABOR AND CLASS POLITICS

Reading: Royster, Jacqueline J. ed, *Southern Horrors and Other Writings*, 1-41, 73-212.

- Feb. 8** Discussion Section
- Feb. 10** Populism and Rural Reform
- Feb. 12** Spanish-Cuban-American War, and Overseas Expansion

Week 5. URBANIZATION AND REFORM

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 17-18.
Documents on Blackboard: Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* (1890); Lazurus, *The New Colossus* (1903)

- Feb. 15** Discussion Section
- Feb. 17** Immigration and Urban Life
- Feb. 19** The Rise of Progressive Reform. [Guest Lecture]

Week 6. PROGRESSIVISM

Reading: Argersinger, ed. *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents*

- Feb. 22** Discussion Section
- Feb. 24** New Nationalism versus the New Freedom
- Feb. 26** Wilson and Progressivism [Paper on topic #1 due]

Week 7. WORLD WAR I

Reading: Midterm exam review

- Mar. 1** Discussion Section.
- Mar. 3** The Great War and the Treaty of Versailles.
- Mar. 5** **Midterm Exam**

SPRING BREAK March 7-15

Week 8. MASS CULTURE: The 1920s and After

- Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 19-20
- Mar. 15** “Culture Wars” of the 1920s
Mar. 17 Mass Culture and Consumerism
Mar. 19 The Great Crash: Causes and Consequences

Week 9. THE GREAT CRASH AND THE NEW DEAL

- Reading: Jeffrey Moran, *The Scopes Trial*
- Mar. 22** Discussion Section
Mar. 24 The Great Depression
Mar. 26 The New Deal

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. 29** Discussion Section
Mar. 31 World War II
April 2 American Victory and a New World Order

Week 11. THE COLD WAR AT HOME AND ABROAD

- Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 22
 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. 5** Discussion Section
Apr. 7 The Politics of the Cold War
Apr. 9 **SPRING HOLIDAY (no class)**

Week 12. CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE

- Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 23-24
 Documents on Blackboard: King, “I Have a Dream” (1963); Greensboro Sit-Ins; King’s protest against Vietnam (1967); Video on MLK and Malcolm X
- Apr. 12** Discussion Section
Apr. 14 The Civil Rights Movement

Apr. 16 The Kennedy Administration

Week 13. VIETNAM AND THE COUNTERCULTURE

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 25
Olsen and Roberts, *My Lai, A Brief History with Documents*.

Apr. 19 Discussion Section
Apr. 21 The “Great Society”
Apr. 23 The War in Vietnam

Week 14. POST-VIETNAM AMERICA

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 26-27
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. 26 Discussion Section [Paper on topic #2 due]
Apr. 28 The Conservative counter-revolution
Apr. 30 From Nixon to Bush

Week 15. AMERICA AT THE END OF THE 20th CENTURY

Reading: *Give Me Liberty*, Chapter 28

May 3 Discussion section meeting. Final exam review.

Week 16. FINAL EXAM

May 10 3:30-6:30 in NMORE 130