

HIS 212 (online): The United States Since 1865

Spring Session: January 10, 2011- May 1, 2011

Instructor: Ms. Paige Meszaros

Office: Moore Humanities Building (MHRA) Room 2323

Office Hours: by appointment only

Virtual Office Hours on SKYPE: By appointment only. Email me to set up time and date.

Email: epmeszar@uncg.edu

Availability: Email, Virtual Office Hours, Campus visits

- I check school email **Monday through Friday ONLY** and I always send a response. An online course is available to you 24/7 but please remember that I am not. Just as I do not expect you to spend all of your time on this course, at the expense of other aspects of your life, please grant me the same courtesy.
- If you have not heard from me within 48 hours, in reply to your email, then assume that I did not get the message or any information that was communicated and send it again. It is not necessary for you to send multiple messages in one day about the same topic.
- I share an office with other instructors at UNCG, but since I am a distance educator I am not on campus every day and I do not have an office phone.
- On SKYPE we can do an audio conference and you can ask questions. Instructions for using SKYPE are on our Blackboard page under the button labeled "SKYPE."

Course Description:

In this class we will study the American experience from 1865 to the present by exploring the social, economic, political, and cultural rights Americans have demanded of their government. Competing ideas about various rights have been crucial to both the peaceful and violent political confrontations between the government and citizens over the question of what it means to be an "American." **Different groups of Americans mean different things by the word "freedom" and those definitions change over time.** As such, they are key to understanding our nation's history. It is to your advantage to keep up with the readings and participate in the forum in a consistent and meaningful manner. We will maximize this course by achieving the goals listed below and by completing a series of strategic assignments listed on the syllabus.

The textbook will act as a **secondary source**, providing us with necessary background information, while the discussion board topics also include **primary sources**—documents, such as speeches, legislation, and literature, written at the time (or shortly after) the events they describe and **secondary sources** such as popular films.

Course Objectives:

1. Students and instructor will create a **tolerant environment** in which a diversity of opinions are shared and debated.
2. Students will learn to understand and evaluate a variety of **methods for using historical evidence**.
3. Students will learn how to **synthesize central arguments** of readings and evaluate major points of agreement or disagreement among historians and historical actors.
4. Students will **distinguish between primary and secondary** types of historical evidence.
5. Students will **develop critical thinking skills** from a variety writing exercises and key readings.

Required Textbook

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. (Vol. 2 Since 1865), **3rd edition**. (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2010). 978-0393935431.

**SAVE YOURSELF SOME MONEY AND MAKE SURE YOU ONLY BUY VOLUME 2 AND NOT THE COMBINED EDITION.
WE WILL NOT USE THE VOLUME 1 MATERIAL IN THIS COURSE.**

You can use older versions of the textbook if you wish to save money. The text is the same. However, the material you will need for the Discussion Board activities comes DIRECTLY from the new 3rd edition of the text. If you choose to use an older edition of the text, you will need to schedule time to use the library's reserve copy to complete Discussion Board assignments or you will need to borrow a 3rd edition copy from a classmate.

How to Get a Copy of the Course Textbook

1. There is a copy of the textbook *Give Me Liberty!* that has been placed on reserve for an in-house, 2 hour check out at Jackson Library on UNCG's campus.
2. The textbook is also available on campus at the UNCG bookstore.
3. The textbook is also available online at retailers like amazon.com.

Here is a link to the book on amazon.com:

http://www.amazon.com/Give-Me-Liberty-American-One/dp/0393934306/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1291737328&sr=1-1

4. The textbook is also available as an e-book which you can download to your computer's hard drive directly from the publisher or as an online text you can use online only.

Here is a link to the publisher's website where you can purchase the text:

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail-formats.aspx?ID=17163>

Learning Outcomes

Online classes require time management and discipline which is different from that of traditional courses. Students who spend at least 3 hours a day completing all reading and writing assignments, who actively engage in the material, and are *thinking* about and *reflecting* on what they are reading and writing will . . .

- have a firm grasp of key themes in post-1865 America
- improve their writing abilities
- be able to communicate ideas, thoughts, and interpretations more clearly and concisely
- become better independent thinkers, students, and historians

Grading Policies

Students who simply follow all the guidelines for assignments earn grades of C. A grade of C is equivalent to “Average.” Those whose work and contributions to the class community are clearly more advanced than the majority’s earn grades of B, “Above Average,” whereas those who contribute less than the majority earn grades of D, “Below Average.” Work that is truly exceptional earns a grade of A, “Excellent,” whereas work that is substandard and unacceptable earns a grade of F, “Unsatisfactory.” If you are looking to improve your grade at any point during the course then you must complete work above and beyond the minimum requirements for assignments. For example, you can post thoughtful responses to your classmates on the Discussion Board in addition to your original responses.

Grade Breakdown for the Course

• Discussion Board	35%
• Quizzes	25%
• Chapter Critique Project	20%
• Final Exam Essay Exam	<u>20%</u>
Total: 100%	

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale will be used to evaluate student performance:

98-100 A+	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+	59 and below F
93-97 A	83-87 B	73-77 C	63-67 D	
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-	

Rules & Procedures

Communication/Questions

Online classes require discipline and time management. Remember that without the normal interactions of a classroom setting, the only way I have to evaluate your participation in this class is through your performance on quizzes, thoughtful Discussion Board posts, the Chapter Critique Project, and your final exam. Therefore, you should take your readings and responses seriously.

Check the “Announcements” section of Blackboard DAILY, and make certain your UNCG email account works. These are the two primary modes of communication I use, and I want to keep you informed of what is going on throughout the course.

If you have questions about the course, i.e. syllabus, grading policies, or content, please go to the Discussion Board on UNCG Blackboard and click on the topic called, “Questions for the Professor.” More than likely you are not the only student with the same question, and I will not have to answer the same question multiple times if you post your question here. This means of communication is for PUBLIC discourse only. If you have a private concern regarding coursework, your grade, tutoring, etc. please address those to email. You may also email me to schedule an appointment on SKYPE.

If you have questions/complaints regarding how to use Blackboard or anything technological (web browser settings, downloading information, accessing web links, errors, etc.), please do NOT contact me. Instead, follow the instructions in the “Technical Support” forum in Blackboard. UNCG’s Tech Support staff are the appropriate people to help you with technology issues.

Late Work

No late work will be accepted, and there are no appeals. All the deadlines are listed on this syllabus. If you have special circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, then you must communicate that to me ASAP. Failure to turn in work on time will result in a grade of zero (0). It is unfair and disrespectful to the rest of class if I make exceptions for a small minority who are incapable of staying on track. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy.

Academic Integrity

On all graded assignments, students are expected to submit their own original work. Copying and pasting text without giving credit to the source is obviously plagiarism, but so is stealing someone else's idea or interpretation without giving that person credit. Even if you are paraphrasing from memory something you have read in the past, you need to be able to state the source from which you are paraphrasing this material. Please visit the following link: Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing WILL receive a grade of F for the assignment without the opportunity to make up the work. Violations will be reported to the University in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy. Students also risk receiving a final grade of F for the course.

Citation Methodology

If you need to cite the textbook or a primary source in the Discussion Board or in an exam please use parenthetical documentation at the end of the direct quotation or paraphrase. Discussion Board posts REQUIRE the use of documents and citations.

For example if citing from the textbook: (Foner, 755) in which Foner is the textbook author and you are citing something from page 755.

If citing from a primary source: (Joseph, *Nez Percé Speech*, 650) in which Chief Joseph is the author of the document, *Nez Percé Speech* is the abbreviation for the title of the primary source and page 650 is the page on which you found the cited information.

Discussion Board

Discussion Board topics are designed to test your completion and understanding of selected primary sources and some secondary sources. Once you have read the textbook chapter, you will be prepared to put these sources into historical context and answer a focused set of questions related to the evidence. Posts open at 8 a.m. on Mondays each week and close at 11 p.m. the following Sunday due date. Participating in these discussions is absolutely key to succeeding in this course. By practicing your writing abilities on a regular and rigorous basis, and sharing your writing with others, you will become better interpreters of the past. **Posts will be graded on quality, as well as quantity, of writing.** For the first few posts on the Discussion Board, I will provide individualized feedback. Once I am sure that everyone is comfortable with the assignment, I will offer generalized comments directed towards the entire class.

Many of the topics will require reading primary sources (materials written during the time period in question). These readings are located in the *Give Me Liberty!* textbook or in places identified on Blackboard. **You must reference the evidence (documents, films, photographs, etc.) in your responses.** This will require the use of direct quotations from documents or specific examples and/or descriptions from visual sources.

Posts should be between 150 and 250 words. Please type your posts in a word processor (such as Microsoft Word) before copying and pasting them to the appropriate discussion forum. This will help you avoid spelling errors, and it is always a good idea to have a backup file in case your work does not post correctly in Blackboard. You may always go above the minimum word requirements and in some cases you may feel the need to do so in order to fully answer all questions and fully exploit the evidence.

Students can post their initial response by clicking on "Thread," copying and pasting their work into the message box, and then clicking "Submit." To reply to another person's post, students should select that student's post, and then click "Reply." You are encouraged but NOT required to respond to posts of others. It is a good way to check on your understanding of the material to read what others have written about the readings and compare it to your own point of view.

Feel free either to agree or disagree with someone else's argument, but be certain to provide convincing reasons explaining why you either agree or disagree. **Always be polite and civil on the Discussion Board!** Before you post anything, ask yourself if you would actually say these things to a person in a face-to-face environment. Do not allow the anonymity aspect of the Internet to strip you of your common sense and good manners. This same policy of courtesy should apply to all email communication to the instructor and to your classmates. You are not required to submit responses to the original posts of classmates, but I encourage you to do so freely.

The Discussion Board is worth 35% of your total grade. **There are a total of 14 discussion forums on the Discussion Board. You are required to complete 10 of your choice.** Blackboard will automatically record a zero for the four forums you choose not to complete. However, at the end of the course, your final grade will not average in these four assignments. I will grade the first ten posts you record on the Discussion Board. You cannot complete extra posts for additional course credit.

Quizzes

There are fourteen reading quizzes, each one based on one of the chapters from the textbook. Each quiz is made up of 25 multiple-choice questions worth 4 points each for a total of 100 points per quiz. Students should only take a quiz after they have read the appropriate chapter thoroughly and taken notes on it. Each quiz will be available for the week during which the textbook chapter is assigned. Posts open at 8 a.m. on Mondays each week and close at 11 p.m. the following Sunday due date (Eastern Standard Time). You can only attempt a quiz one time so make sure you are certain of your answers before you submit and that you have allotted the appropriate time to finish the quiz. You must click the "Submit" button and not the "Save" button in order to turn in your quiz. The date listed on the syllabus is the date by which the quiz is due and on which the window closes. After the window has closed, the quiz will no longer be available, and any students who have not completed that quiz will receive a zero. Quizzes are open book and are not timed. Be sure to read maps, primary sources, and captions, in the chapters as quiz questions can come from these materials as well.

If you decide to complete a quiz on the due date and experience any kind of technical difficulties, you will NOT be allowed to make up these quizzes at a later date. Students requesting exceptions will be referred to this policy. I strongly encourage you not to wait until the last moment to complete these quizzes. You should have plenty of time to complete them if you stay on task. Quizzes are worth 25% of your grade for this course. I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the course. Blackboard will automatically record a zero if you choose not to complete one of the quizzes and then that grade will not be averaged into the final grade for the course. However, if you choose to take all fourteen quizzes, then Blackboard will drop the lowest grade you earned on a quiz.

Chapter Critique

The purpose of this assignment is for you to actively read the textbook, to reflect on the usefulness of our text to understanding American history, and to allow you to explore an area of interest in more depth.

Click on the button labeled “Critique” on our Blackboard homepage for instructions for this assignment. You will submit this assignment at the midpoint of the Spring Session on Blackboard via the Safe Assign system. Safe Assign will check your work for plagiarism before you submit it to me. This assignment will take the place of a midterm exam for this course and it is worth 20% of your final grade.

The Chapter Critique is due on Friday, February 18, 2011 by 5 p.m. The window for this assignment opens the first day of class and you may complete it at any time during the semester. I **STRONGLY** encourage you to complete this assignment early, before you get bogged down with the load of the semester.

Final Exam

You will need to complete a cumulative final exam at the end of the course. The exam will be completed online and contain one essay question. The question will be broad and thematic so that students should have no problems incorporating course material into their responses. The course question will be directly related to the course theme of freedom.

Student responses should be analytical rather than merely descriptive (i.e., students should explain why a particular historical topic is significant, rather than just saying what occurred), and they must be between 700 and 1,000 words. Essays must also have a thesis statement (original argument) and supporting evidence. This evidence should not come from any sources other than those that I have assigned. More detailed instructions will be available at the time of the exam.

Exams should be submitted on Blackboard via the SafeAssign link listed under the “Exams” tab on our course homepage. **The Final Exam is due Thursday, April 28, 2011 by NOON.**

Technical Problem Policy

You CANNOT participate in this course without a working computer and reliable (preferably high-speed) internet connection. **Due to the nature of online classes, NO special concessions will be made for technological difficulties.** Students are responsible for obtaining and maintaining reliable Internet access. Internet access is available at libraries, schools, hotels, and coffee shops worldwide. Therefore, no extensions will be granted due to lack of Internet access. If you have a technical problem, such as a crash or lockup, while taking a quiz, email me requesting a quiz reset. I will reset your quiz within 24 hours. **NOTE: If you wait until the day a quiz is due, you assume responsibility that a technical problem may preclude you from completing the quiz on time. Those who ask for an extension will be referred to this policy.**

Course Calendar (Note: All Quizzes and Discussion Prompts are to be completed on UNCG Blackboard. All times and dates are Eastern Standard Time for those of you taking the class outside of N.C.)

Week One: Monday, January 10, 2011- Sunday, January 16, 2011

Personal Biography on Blackboard's Discussion Board due Wednesday 1/12/11 at 5 p.m.

"What is Freedom?" Reconstruction, 1865-1877

- Read Foner Chapter 15 pp. 586-623
- Take Foner Quiz 15 on Blackboard by Sunday 1/16/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 1: Reconstruction, 1865-1877 due by Sunday 1/16/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Two: Monday, January 17, 2011-Sunday, January 23, 2011

America's Gilded Age, 1870-1890

- Read Foner Chapter 16 pp. 632-673
- Take Foner Quiz 16 on Blackboard by Sunday 1/23/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 2: Gilded Age, 1870-1890 due by Sunday 1/23/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Three: Monday, January 24, 2011-Sunday, January 30, 2011

Freedom's Boundaries, at Home and Abroad, 1890-1900

- Read Foner Chapter 17 pp. 678-719
- Take Foner Quiz 17 on Blackboard by Sunday 1/30/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 3: Gilded Age, 1870-1890 due by Sunday 1/30/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Four: Monday, January 31, 2011-Sunday, February 6, 2011

The Progressive Era, 1900-1916

- Read Foner Chapter 18 pp. 724-763
- Take Foner Quiz 18 on Blackboard by Sunday 2/6/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 4: Freedom's Boundaries, 1890-1900 due by Sunday 2/6/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Five: Monday, February 7, 2011-Sunday, February 13, 2011

Safe For Democracy: The United States and World War I, 1916-1920

- Read Foner Chapter 19 pp. 768-809
- Take Foner Quiz 19 on Blackboard by Sunday 2/13/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 5: Progressive Era, 1900-1916 due by Sunday 2/13/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Six: Monday, February 14, 2011-Sunday, February 20, 2011

From Business Culture to Great Depression: The Twenties, 1920-1932

- Read Foner Chapter 20 pp. 818-899
- Take Foner Quiz 20 on Blackboard by Sunday 2/20/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 6: World War I, 1916-1920 due by Sunday 2/20/11 at 11 p.m.

CHAPTER CRITIQUE PROJECT DUE on SafeAssign on FRIDAY 2/18/11 at 5 p.m.

Week Seven: Monday, February 21, 2011-Sunday, February 27, 2011

The New Deal, 1932-1940

- Read Foner Chapter 21 pp. 860-899
- Take Foner Quiz 21 on Blackboard by Sunday 2/27/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 7: 1920s & Great Depression, 1920-1932 due by Sunday 2/27/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Eight: Monday, February 28, 2011-Sunday, March 6, 2011

Fighting for the Four Freedoms: World War II, 1941-1945

- Read Foner Chapter 22 pp. 904-945
- Take Foner Quiz 22 on Blackboard by Sunday 3/6/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 8: New Deal, 1932-1940 due by Sunday 3/6/11 at 11 p.m.

SPRING BREAK WEEK: Monday, March 7, 2011-Sunday, March 13, 2011

Week Nine: Monday, March 14, 2011-Sunday, March 20, 2011

The United States and the Cold War, 1945-1953

- Read Foner Chapter 23 pp. 950-981
- Take Foner Quiz 23 on Blackboard by Sunday 3/20/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 9: New Deal, 1932-1940 due by Sunday 3/20/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Ten: Monday, March 21, 2011-Sunday, March 27, 2011

An Affluent Society, 1953-1960

- Read Foner Chapter 24 pp. 990-1031
- Take Foner Quiz 24 on Blackboard by Sunday 3/27/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 10: World War II, 1941-1945 due by Sunday 3/27/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Eleven: Monday, March 28, 2011- Sunday, April 3, 2011

The Sixties, 1960-1968

- Read Foner Chapter 25 pp. 1036-1077
- Take Foner Quiz 25 on Blackboard by Sunday 4/3/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 11: Cold War, 1945-1953 due by Sunday 4/3/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Twelve: Monday, April 4, 2011-Sunday, April 10, 2011

The Triumph of Conservatism, 1969-1988

- Read Foner Chapter 26 pp. 1082-1119
- Take Foner Quiz 26 on Blackboard by Sunday 4/10/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 12: Affluent Society & 1950s, 1953-1960 due by Sunday 4/10/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Thirteen: Monday, April 11, 2011- Sunday, April 17, 2011

Globalization and its Discontents, 1989-2000

- Read Foner Chapter 27 pp. 1124-1165
- Take Foner Quiz 27 on Blackboard by Sunday 4/17/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 13: The Sixties, 1960-1968 due by Sunday 4/17/11 at 11 p.m.

Week Fourteen: Monday, April 18, 2011-Sunday, April 24, 2011

September 11 and the Next American Century

- Read Foner Chapter 28 pp. 1170-1209
- Take Foner Quiz 28 on Blackboard by Sunday 4/24/11 at 11 p.m.
- Discussion Post 14: Conservatism, 1969-1988 due by Sunday 4/24/11 at 11 p.m.

Final Exam Question will become available on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 8:00 A.M.

Week Fifteen: Monday, April 25, 2011-Sunday, May 1, 2011

FINAL EXAM DUE on SafeAssign on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at NOON