

History 212-07/Spring 2011

United States History Since 1865

Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45, MHRA 1214

Instructor: Susan W. Thomas

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Office Hours: Tues 11-1:00, or by appt., MHRA 2102

Course Materials

Required Textbook: Henretta, James A., et al, *America, A Concise History, Vol. Two: Since 1865*, 4th Ed.

Additional readings: Available on Blackboard, as noted on the syllabus.

Course Overview

Through a combination of lecture, class discussion, film, and selected readings, this course will examine many of the social, political, and economic changes that have shaped America since the end of the Civil War. Using both a chronological and thematic approach, we will pay close attention to how major changes affected marginalized peoples, including immigrants, people of color, the poor, and women. We will look at ways in which these seemingly powerless groups sometimes seized opportunities and became catalysts for change in America. By consistently focusing on the historical significance of race, region, ethnicity, class, and gender, we will endeavor to enrich our understanding of the past and learn to think more critically about the world in which we live.

Course Objectives

We will not simply memorize dates and facts! While you will be required to remember important people, places, and events, we will use those facts to understand how “ordinary” people experienced extraordinary events. We will uncover the ways in which such people resisted changes imposed from above and sometimes forced change from below. We will not only focus on what happened and when, but we will also think about why events unfolded as they did and what the consequences were.

Our goals will be:

- To acquire critical thinking skills
- To learn how to analyze primary source documents
- To learn how to formulate an argument and support it with evidence
- To recognize connections between the past and our current social, political, and economic debates in order to make informed decisions about our future

Grade distribution:

Participation (includes attendance): 10%

Homework and quizzes: 10%

Two 3-5 pg. essays, 10% each = 20%

Three Document Analysis Papers, 5% each = 15%

Three Exams: 15% + 15% + 15% each = 45%

Grading Range:

A+ (97 and above), A (93-96), A- (90-92); B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82); C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72); D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62); F (less than 60, unacceptable work)

Technology in the Classroom

Turn off and put away your cellphones and iPods when class begins. Laptops are permitted but not required.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is required and counts as part of the participation grade. More than four absences will be considered excessive and will adversely affect your grade (unless there are documented circumstances).

For each absence in excess of four, I will deduct one point from your final grade. The remaining portion of your participation grade will be drawn from class discussion.

Homework and Quizzes:

I will occasionally have you do writings in class in response to documents or class discussion. You will also have a few homework assignments that will be included in this category.

Document Analysis Papers:

You will select one document from each section of the course (between exams) and do an analysis of it. This will include completing a worksheet (which I provide) and writing a two page paper. Each document analysis paper will be due on or before exam dates (EXCEPTION FOR FINAL ANALYSIS). For example, your first analysis will be due on or before Exam I, the second will be due on or before Exam II. Your third and final analysis will be due on or before the last regular class period, Apr. 21.

Essays:

You will complete two brief papers (at least 3 but no more than 5 pages in length) on a topic I will assign. These papers will offer you the opportunity to use the skills you are developing to analyze materials, to choose a position on a specific question, and then defend your position with evidence. Unless otherwise noted in the instructions, you will be drawing only from materials used in lectures, the readings/websites on Blackboard, and the specific sources designated on the assignment.

Unless you have a **documented** excuse, late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each class day until I receive the paper in hand. Unless otherwise specified, you may **not email** your papers to me.

Exams:

There will be a total of three in-class exams, each of which will consist of short answer and identification questions. Exams will test your ability to synthesize information from the lectures, the readings, the discussions, and the audio/visual components of the course into a succinct and coherent response. If you attend class regularly, do the readings, and take notes, you should not have any difficulty completing the exams successfully. The final exam **will not** be cumulative. **I require blue books for all exams.**

As with the essays, I require a documented excuse before scheduling a make-up exam you might have missed.

Student Responsibilities:

Each student bears the responsibility to attend class regularly and complete all assignments on time. Students will work together to create an open and respectful class environment in which each person's contribution is equally important. When students disagree either with one another or with the readings, we will all remain civil to one another and express our views without intent to disparage or harm others.

Check your [i-Spartan](#) email regularly. This is the system I will be using to contact you, should the need arise. My email address is listed at the top of the syllabus for your reference.

Learning Disabilities and Other Concerns:

If you have a diagnosed learning disability or special needs that will affect how you perform in class or will require consideration in writing assignments or on tests, it is your responsibility to ensure that I receive the proper documentation as soon as possible.

*****Academic Integrity and Plagiarism*****

In all assignments, students are expected to do their own work and abide by the University's Honor Code.

You must provide references for materials consulted and/or quoted in your writing assignments. Plagiarism is a serious offense that could result not only in failure for the particular assignment, but also in failure for the entire course. We will discuss plagiarism further before the first essay assignment. To view

the University's Plagiarism Policy, follow this link: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>.

A final note...

While I intend the syllabus to guide our study, I may occasionally determine that I need to make changes based on our progress and the needs of the class. If that is the case, I will never increase the workload but will merely delete or substitute readings or assignments for a select few of those listed here.

Lectures and Assignments

Remember to:

- Check [Blackboard](#) at the beginning of each week to find the assigned readings listed on the syllabus. We will be discussing these in class, and quizzes will usually be drawn from these documents. Read them first, before you turn to the assigned chapter for background and contextual information.
- Complete all assigned readings before the scheduled class meeting.

Questions to keep in mind:

- What is the American Dream? Can all achieve it? Is it still a relevant goal?
- What rights define us as Americans? Do all deserve the same rights?
- What is the role of government in securing rights for Americans?
- How big should government be?

Week One: When the War was Over: Recreating the Union

Jan 11/T: Go over Syllabus and Introduce Course Themes/Terminology/Technology

Jan 13/Th: Ch. 15, "Reconstruction, 1865-1877"

Docs—[Sherman's Field Order 15](#); When a Woman Gets Her Rights; Letter to My Old Master

Week 2: Creating a New South and Winning the West

Jan 18/T: Ch. 19, p 581-588;

Docs—[Booker T. Washington's 'Atlanta Compromise Speech'](#);

[W.E.B. DuBois, 'Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others'](#); Rebecca Felton Speech

Jan 20/Th: Ch. 16, "The American West"

Docs—[The Dawes Act, 1887](#); [Tragedy at Wounded Knee \(1890\)](#)

Week 3: Changing the Face of America: Industrial Capitalism, Urbanization, and Immigration

Jan 25/T: Ch. 17, "Capital and Labor in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1900"

Docs— Why Strikes are Necessary; Mechanization of Labor; [Rose Schneiderman](#)

Jan 27/Th: Ch. 18, "Industrial City: Building It, Living in It"

Docs—[Lee Chew](#); [Chinese Exclusion Act](#); Mary Antin, 'The Promised Land'

Week 4: Gilded Age Politics: Wealth, Poverty, Corruption, and Imperialism

Feb 1/T: Ch. 19, "Politics in the Age of Enterprise, 1877-1896" (skip p. 581-588)

Docs—[Andrew Carnegie, 'Gospel of Wealth'](#); Henry Demarest Lloyd, 'Wealth Against Commonwealth'

Feb 3/Th: Ch. 21, "An Emerging World Power, 1877-1914"

Docs—[White Man's Burden](#); [The March of the Flag](#); McKinley's Decision on the Philippines
Savage Acts

Week 5: Progressivism North and South, Black and White: Part I

Feb 8/T: Ch. 20, "The Progressive Era, 1900-1914"

Docs—[Jane Addams, 'Women and Public Housekeeping'](#); [Triangle Fire](#); [Upton Sinclair, The Jungle](#)

Feb 10/Th: Progressivism North and South, Black and White: Part II

Docs—African American Women and the Anti-Lynching Crusade

Week Six: World War I: Making the World Safe for Democracy: Xenophobia and Racism at Home

Feb 15/T: Exam 1 = 15% Bring Blue Book

FIRST DOCUMENT ANALYSIS DUE BY THIS DATE

Feb 17/Th: Ch. 22, "War and the American State, 1914-1920"

Docs— Southern Blacks' Warnings About Migration; Wilson's Fourteen Points

Week 7: Anything Goes: The Roaring Twenties, Part I and II

Feb 22/T: *Writing Assignment One Due = 10%*

Ch. 23, "Modern Times: The 1920s"

Docs: [The New Woman and Bobbed Hair](#)

Feb 24/Th: Docs: [DuBois Defends Black Resistance](#); [Shut the Door: Immigration Restriction](#)

Week 8: The Depression: Economic, Social, and Political Consequences

Mar 1/T: Ch. 24, "Redefining Liberalism: The New Deal, 1933-1939"

Docs: [Hoover Reassures the Public](#); 'Women on the Breadlines'

Mar 3/Th: Ch. *Uprising of '34* (FILM)

Docs—[Homesteaders—New Style](#)

Week 9: Spring Break!!!

Week 10: World War II on the Homefront and the Beginnings of the Cold War

Mar 15/T: Ch. 25: "The World at War, 1939-1945"

Docs—[FDR Four Freedoms Speech](#) ; [Executive order 9066](#); [Abolish Jim Crow!](#)

Mar 17/Th: Ch. 26, "Cold War America, 1945-1960"

Docs—[Domino Theory](#); [NSC-68](#), [Eisenhower's Farewell Address, 1961](#)

Week 11: Fifties Affluence, Conformity, and Paranoia

Mar 22/T: Exam Two=15% Bring Blue Book

SECOND DOCUMENT ANALYSIS DUE BY THIS DATE

Mar 24/Th: Ch. 27, "The Age of Affluence, 1945-1960"

Docs—A Journalist Describes Levittown; Little Boxes; [Armageddon Again](#); [Comic Book Code](#)
Atomic Café (FILM)

Week 12: Sixties America, Part I: Movements for Change, Civil Rights

Mar 29/T:

The Long Civil Rights Movement: Before the Sixties

Docs—[Southern Manifesto](#); *Eyes on the Prize* (FILM)

Mar 31/Th: From Nonviolence to Black Power
[Letter from a Birmingham Jail, 1963](#), *Eyes on the Prize* (FILM)

Week 13: Sixties America, Part II and III: Movements for Change, Women and Youth in Rebellion

Apr 5/T: Freedom and Equality for All

Docs—[What is the Pill doing to the Moral Patterns of the Nation?](#) ; Welfare is a Woman's Issue; Equal to What?; [Time PhotoEssay on the Gay Rights Movement](#)
Berkley in the Sixties (FILM)

Apr 7/Th: The Counterculture: Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll

Docs--[The Revolution will not be Televised](#); [Port Huron Statement](#); [Sharon Statement](#),
Berkley in the Sixties (FILM)

Week 14: Vietnam and Political Upheaval: The American Nightmare

Apr 12/T: *Writing Assignment Two Due = 10%*

Ch. 28, "The Liberal Consensus: Flaming Out, 1960-1968"
Hearts and Minds (FILM)

Docs: [The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution](#); [Why was the U.S. in Vietnam?](#) [The Great Society](#); [War on Poverty](#)

Apr 14/Th: Ch. 29, "Toward a Conservative America, The 1970s"

Docs: [Watergate](#), Arab Oil Embargo
All the President's Men (FILM)

Week 15: From the Reagan to "Obama Mania"

Apr 19/T: Ch.30, The Reagan Revolution and the End of the Cold War, 1980-2001"

Docs— Fall of the Berlin Wall

Apr 21/Th: FINAL DOCUMENT ANALYSIS DUE TODAY!

Ch. 30, "The Reagan Revolution and the End of the Cold War, 1980-2001"
Docs—The American Century; Immigration 2007, [Tea Party Movement](#)

FINAL EXAM: TUES MAY 3, 12-3:00