

HIS 212-07: The US Since 1865

Spring 2012 Syllabus

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15pm Bryon Building: Room 206

Contact Information

Instructor: Therese M. Strohmer
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:30 and by appointment
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Course Description

This course will engage the student in the major historical issues and debates of American history since Reconstruction. Instead of focusing exclusively on dates and memorization of facts, this course will examine why events took place and help students understand that there are multiple causations of events. We will also look at major historical trends and recognize major change and/or continuity over time. Major themes will include economic, political and cultural transformations, social movements, demographic change, democracy and portraits of "ordinary" as well as "famous" Americans. This course will help students recognize the significance of important events/issues and assess the relative importance of causes and effects.

Teaching Strategies

The course will encourage you to develop your analytical skills. It will involve lectures, group discussions, and will incorporate video and music clips. You will examine historical sources – both primary and secondary. By evaluating the available evidence, you will formulate arguments for a particular point of view. As part of a team, all students are also required to conduct/and or participate in the fundamentals of an oral history interview.

REQUIRED Textbooks & Course Materials

(Available at UNCG Bookstore, and Amazon and other bookstore outlets)

- ❖ Oakes, James, ed. *Of the People: A History of the United State, Volume II: Since 1865* (Concise Edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- ❖ Olson, James S. and Randy Roberts, eds. *My Lai: A Brief History with Documents*. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 1998.

- ❖ Royster, Jacqueline Jones, eds. *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900*. New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 1997.
- ❖ [Selected readings] and Assigned E-Reserve Readings on Blackboard and handouts.

OPTIONAL Textbook

- Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 2007

Course Learning Objectives

While this course will look at the “who, what, when and where” about history, its focus will be to examine the “why” or significance of certain historical events/people and issues. With this emphasis, you will discover answers to historical questions, but in the process, you will learn what questions to ask of history. Thus, you will gain the ability to think critically about history and analyze some of the issues that historians deal with every day. For example, Why do events/movements emerge at the moments that they do? What factors influence change over time? What does “democracy” and “equality” mean to different groups—does it mean the same thing over time or something different?

Learning Objectives --- By the end of the Course, students will be able to:

Research: Demonstrate knowledge of historical methods by locating, evaluating and differentiating between primary and secondary source material from a variety of sources. Conduct the fundamentals of an oral history project by identifying the subject, formulating questions, interviewing and assessing the results of the interview.

Analysis: Deal with conflicting historical viewpoints by weighing differing interpretations of US History and construct a logical historical argument.

Interpretation: Interpret and discuss in written essays historical data from the texts, classroom discussions, and other sources.

Comprehension: Discuss American historical economic, social and political issues and problems since 1865 from multiple perspectives. Comprehend the historical processes of continuity and change.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- ✓ Attend Class and be actively engaged in class discussions.
- ✓ Complete all readings and assignments and be prepared to analyze and discuss the material.
- ✓ Complete all assignments on time.

Course Requirements

1. **Class Participation (10%)**: Students are required to complete the assigned readings before class and be prepared to discuss them. Bring a hard copy printout or the applicable book to class for primary documents when they are assigned for selected discussion days. **Laptops/digital devices are not acceptable for viewing documents.** Attendance is important and mandatory. Since critical thinking is a significant learning objective, active participation is essential. Participation involves making informed comments or asking and/or answering questions about the topic/issue/event covered in that days readings. TIP: Make notes while reading to ask questions, make comments or connect the topic to other themes in the class.
2. **Blackboard responses (10%)**: Each week there will be questions posted on blackboard about the weekly readings. You are responsible for completing at least eight weekly responses. A separate handout will be placed on Blackboard that describes the requirements to receive full credit for these responses.
3. **Exams (20% each)**: There will be a Mid-term and Final Exam. They will consist of identification terms, short answer/essay and a timeline. The exams are not cumulative.
4. **Quizzes (5%)**: There will be a minimum of three unannounced quizzes.
5. **Analysis Paper (15%)**: Select one of the two book options below for analysis. Detailed Instructions will be provided on Blackboard for this assignment. Important note--Both books are required reading, but only one book (of your choice) will require a paper to be turned in as an assignment.
 - a. **Option 1 - Due February 23**: *Southern Horrors and Other Writings: The Anti-Lynching Campaign of Ida B. Wells, 1892-1900.*
 - b. **Option 2 - Due April 19**: *My Lai: A Brief History with Documents.*
6. **Oral History Project (20%)** Students will receive a handout and instructions on Blackboard for the specifics of this project. This will be a team-oriented project with grades assigned for both team (10%) and individual work (10%). Each team will identify a source to interview, develop questions, perform an interview and assess the results.

Grading Policy

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-96%	Nearly Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Superior Work
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
B	83-86%	Good Work
B-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79%	Above Average Work
C	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken every class period through a sign up sheet. You are responsible to make sure that you sign this sheet every class period. This course requires some group exercises and interactive assignments during the class period and all students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar. More than three unexcused absences will affect your grade. After the third unexcused absence, your grade will drop by one point per absence. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor or classmates to make up any material missed due to an absence.

Course Communication

It is important for you to contact me as soon as possible with any issues you have about the course. You can stop by during office hours, or make an

appointment to meet with me, or send me an email. I am here to help you, but I need to know that you need/require assistance. Students are encouraged to utilize email to contact me at tmstrohm@uncg.edu. If you send an email, I will respond within 24 hours, except on weekends, when it may be up to 48 hours.

I will be sending you additional course information and updates via email and on Blackboard Announcements. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard and UNCG email. Only a broad course outline is presented below. The professor will provide specific instructions for assignments via the course schedule on Blackboard and provide any updates to this schedule (via email and/or Blackboard Announcements).

Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted without a penalty unless previous arrangements have been arranged with the instructor. There will be a 1/3 drop in grade for each day that the assignment is past the due date. (For example, a grade of B will drop to a grade of B- and so on).

Class Citizenship

- Turn off all Electronic devices and put them out of sight. Cellphone texting or talking and laptop surfing is disruptive.
- Inappropriate behavior such as arriving late to class, leaving early, sleeping, and making side conversations will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave class resulting in an unexcused absence.
- Do not pack up bags to leave until class is completed.
- Be respectful of views that differ from your own.
- Listen and debate courteously.
- Review the UNCG policies for students:
<http://deanofstudents.uncg.edu/policy/>

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university), you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation, and integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.*

Please review the UNCG policy at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/> for more information.

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

Topic Outline/Course Schedule

Refer to the Course Schedule on Blackboard for specific meeting dates and times. Specific reading requirements, assignment details, due dates and other information will be explained in detail on the Course Schedule available on blackboard.

Student Responsibilities

If you are feeling overwhelmed, find yourself falling behind, struggling academically or are having any problems outside of class that are adversely affecting your performance in class, be sure to let me know. Do not wait until the end of the semester when it will be too late. I am more than willing to work with you to help you "survive," but I need to know you are having difficulties.

Week 1	January 10	Introduction Class Introduction & What Does it Mean to Study History?	Introduction
	January 12	Reconstruction Chapter 16	(Start Reading <i>Southern Horrors</i>)
Week 2	January 17	Reconstruction/Origins of New South Chapter 16	Lecture
	January 19		Group Worksheet
Week 3	January 24	Industrialization Chapter 17	Lecture
	January 26	Industrialization and Culture Chapter 18	(Oral History Project Teams Formed)
Week 4	January 31	Industrialization and Politics Chapter 19	Lecture
	February 2		
Week 5	February 7	The West Chapter 17 & 20 Empire Building Chapter 20	Lecture
	February 9		(Finish Reading <i>Southern Horrors</i>)
Week 6	February 14	Progressive Era Chapter 21	Lecture
	February 16		Group Worksheet (Oral History Questions Due)
Week 7	February 21	Global Power Chapter 22 American Modernity Chapter 23	Lecture
	February 23		Option One Paper #1 Due (<i>Southern Horrors</i>)
Week 8	February 28	Depression and the New Deal Chapter 24	Lecture
	March 1	MID TERM EXAM	(Start Reading <i>My Lai</i>)
Week 9	March 3-11 SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS	

Week 10	March 13 March 15	World War II Chapter 25	Lecture Group Worksheets
Week 11	March 20 March 22	Early Cold War Chapter 26	Lecture
Week 12	March 27 March 29	Consumerism and American Culture Chapter 27	Lecture
Week 13	April 3 April 5	Modern Civil Rights Movement & 1960s Chapter 28	Lecture and Group Worksheets (Oral History Final Projects Due)
Week 14	April 10 April 12	The 1960s and Vietnam Chapter 28 & 29	Lecture
Week 15	April 17 April 19	The Rise of Conservatism Chapter 30	Lecture and Group Worksheets Paper Option #2 Due (My Lai)
Week 16	April 24	Globalization and the Post-Cold War Chapter 31	Lecture
FINAL EXAM	April 26 3:30-6:30pm	FINAL EXAM TIME: 3:30-6:30	http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/examCal/Sp12.html

Important Note: This syllabus, along with the Course Schedule on Blackboard, and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check their UNCG email and Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus and Course Schedule. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through email.