

HISTORY 702 Colloquium in American History since 1865  
Spring 2012  
Bolton

Office: MHRA 2135  
Office Hours: 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.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 engage with the material you encounter. A sizeable part of your grade will be determined by your participation in discussion opportunities. Non-participation or weak participation will obviously result in a low grade. I define participation qualitatively, not quantitatively. In addition to participating in our weekly class discussions, you will have a chance to discuss the readings on Blackboard. At the mid-point of the semester, I will give you a chance to offer a self-evaluation of your participation in the class.

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(s) 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 need to use correct Chicago Manual of Style citation in your essays.

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).

A take-home final exam will be given for this class, which will, of course, be comprehensive.

Readings Available at the UNCG Bookstore (and many other locations):

Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction  
Rebecca Edwards, New Spirits (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
Patricia Limerick, The Legacy of Conquest  
Mary A. Renda, Taking Haiti  
Gary Gerstle, American Crucible  
Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism  
Mae Ngai, Impossible Subjects  
Lizabeth Cohen, Making a New Deal (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

Nelson Lichtenstein, State of the Union (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
Melvyn Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind  
Adam Rome, The Bulldozer in the Countryside  
Charles Payne, I've Got the Light of Freedom (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
Kevin Kruse, White Flight

Other readings:

The other readings mentioned in the syllabus are available electronically either on blackboard or through one of UNCG's electronic databases.

### Schedule

January 23: Reconstruction

Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction; Edwards, "The Politics of Marriage and Households in North Carolina during Reconstruction" (blackboard)

Additional Reading: Steven Hahn, A Nation under Our Feet

January 30: The Gilded Age

Rebecca Edwards, New Spirits; Gutman, "Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919" (blackboard)

Additional Reading: Alan Trachtenberg, The Incorporation of America; Charles Postel, The Populist Vision

February 6: Western Settlement and the Frontier

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

Additional reading: William Cronon, Nature's Metropolis

February 13: American Imperialism

Renda, Taking Haiti; Williams, "Imperial Anticolonialism" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Jacobson, Barbarian Virtues

February 20: Democracy and the State in the Twentieth Century

Gerstle, American Crucible; William J. Novak, "The Myth of the 'Weak' American State." American Historical Review 113 (June 2008): 752-772 (JSTOR)

Additional Reading: Patricia Sullivan, Days of Hope; Daniel Rodgers, Atlantic Crossings

February 27: Women in Twentieth-Century America

Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism; Pascoe, "Miscegenation Law, Court Cases, and Ideologies of 'Race' in Twentieth-Century America" (blackboard)

Additional reading: Maurine Greenwald, Women, War, and Work

March 12: Immigration

Ngai, Impossible Subjects; Lee, "Enforcing the Borders" (blackboard)

Additional reading: John Bodnar, The Transplanted

March 19: The New Deal

Cohen, Making a New Deal; Bernstein, "The Conservative Achievements of Liberal Reform" (blackboard)

Note: For class this week, we will be attending the Duncan Women's History Lecture, which will be at 4 pm in the Virginia Dare Room of the Alumni House. There will be a blackboard discussion on this week's readings, which will take place between March 17 and March 21.

March 26: Labor and the Economy in Twentieth-Century America

Lichtenstein, State of the Union; Elizabeth Shermer, "Origins of the Conservative Ascendancy," Journal of American History 95 (December 2008): 678-709 (use Journal Finder to locate)

Additional reading: Lichtenstein, The Retail Revolution

April 2: The Cold War

Leffler, For the Soul of Mankind; Andrea Friedman, “The Strange Career of Annie Lee Moss,” Journal of American History 94 (September 2007): 445-468 (use Journal Finder to locate)

Additional reading: John Fousek, To Lead the Free World

April 9: Environmentalism in Twentieth Century America

Rome, The Bulldozer in the Countryside; James Morton Turner, “The Specter of Environmentalism’: Wilderness, Environmental Politics, and the Evolution of the New Right,” Journal of American History 96 (2009): 123-148 (use Journal Finder to locate)

Additional reading: Samuel P. Hays, Beauty, Health, Permanence

April 16: Civil Rights

Payne, I’ve Got the Light of Freedom; Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past” Journal of American History v. 91 (March 2005): 1233-1263 (JSTOR); Cha-Jua and Lang, “The ‘Long Movement’ as Vampire: Temporal and Spatial Fallacies in Recent Black Freedom Studies,” Journal of African American History 92 (Spring 2007): 265-288 (JSTOR)

Additional reading: Danielle McGuire, At the Dark End of the Street

April 23: The New Right

Kruse, White Flight; Lassiter, “Inventing Family Values” (blackboard); Sugrue and Skrentny, “The White Ethnic Strategy” (blackboard)

Additional reading: Lisa McGirr, Suburban Warriors

Grading:

Essays.....	45%
Class Participation.....	35%
Final Exam.....	20%