

Spring 2013

SYLLABUS
HIS211-01 The United States to 1865

Meeting Time/Location: MWF 12:00 to 12:50 MHRA 1215
Instructor: Mark Moser Office: MHRA 2104
Office Hours: MWF 11:00 to 12:00 --- MW 2:00 to 3:00 (and by appointment)
Email: mamoser@uncg.edu

Required Texts:

Michael Schaller, et al. *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Context Volume I to 1877* (and accompanying reader) (New York: Oxford UP, 2013).

Joseph J. Ellis. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* (New York: Vintage Books, 2002).

Louis P. Masur. *1831: Year of Eclipse* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001).

Learning Goals for this Course:

(These learning goals are applicable to both history majors and non-history majors alike.)

- **Historical Comprehension:** Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in analyzing historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.
- **Historical Analysis:** Students will demonstrate ability to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- **Historical Interpretation:** Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.

Students will be expected to:

- Understand and retain the basic facts and framework of United States history, placed within a global context, from its pre-colonial origins to the end of the Civil War
- Think critically and make informed judgments

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Discussion of your readings will routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) Class discussions will be difficult to conduct if you haven't read and class lecture/discussion sessions will be more understandable if you have actively, rather than passively, read the assigned material ahead of time.

Note: Please turn off phones or silence them *BEFORE* class begins.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a substantial portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here you cannot participate. Excessive absences will adversely affect your participation grade and may result in your being dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of "W" must drop the class on or before Friday, March 8. Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session. (*A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above*)

This class meets three times per week and I expect you to remain for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to both the class and myself.

*Please note that I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences—you are either here or you are not.

Warning: Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop or tablet in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops and similar devices from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to *any* electronic device that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 50 minutes without checking your Facebook® Account, Twitter® Account, email, etc., then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Unannounced Quizzes*	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale and I do assign +/- to final grades when warranted.)

*I will drop your three lowest quiz grades

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 14, 16, 18) *AH* chapter 2 and Reader documents (2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6)
Course introduction

Week Two—(January 23, 25) *AH* Chapter 2 (continued)

***No class Monday, January 21 --- MLK, Jr. Holiday**

Week Three—(January 28, 30, February 1) *AH* Chapter 3 and Reader documents (3.1, 3.5, 3.6)

Week Four—(February 4, 6, 8) *AH* Chapter 4 and Reader documents (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)

Week Five—(February 11, 13, 15) *AH* Chapter 5 and Reader documents (5.4, 5.5, 5.6)

Week Six—(February 18, 20, 22) *AH* Chapter 6 and Reader documents (6.2, 6.3, 6.5)

Week Seven—(February 25, 27, March 1) *AH* Chapter 7 and Reader documents (7.2, 7.4, 7.5)

***Discussion of *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* Monday, February 25**

Week Eight—(March 4, 6, 8) **MIDTERM EXAM** Monday, March 4 You will need a small format Bluebook. *AH* Chapter 8 and Reader documents (8.3, 8.4)

***SPRING BREAK* --- No class March 11, 13, 15)**

Week Nine—(March 18, 20, 22) *AH* Chapter 9 and Reader documents (9.1, 9.3, 9.5)

Week Ten—(March 25, 27) *AH* Chapter 10 and Reader documents (10.2, 10.5)

***No class Friday, March 29 Spring Holiday**

Week Eleven—(April 1, 3, 5) AH Chapter 11 and Reader documents (11.1, 11.4, 11.8)

Week Twelve—(April 8, 10, 12) AH Chapter 12 and Reader documents (12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5)

Week Thirteen—(April 15, 17, 19) AH Chapter 13 and Reader documents (13.4, 13.6, 13.9)

***Discussion of 1831: Year of Eclipse** Friday, April 19

Week Fourteen—(April 22, 24, 26) AH Chapter 14 and Reader documents (14.1, 14.2, 14.3)

Week Fifteen—(April 29, 30*) Last day of class --- Tuesday, April 30 follows Friday schedule
AH Chapter 14 (continued) Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM --- Take-home due by Friday, May 3 @ 3:00pm

Academic Integrity:

On all exams and papers you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.

**If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*