

HIS 212-02 American History Since 1865

T 6:00-8:50

Curry 241

Jason Stroud

Office Hours: T 4:45-5:45

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify major events, persons, and themes that shaped the United States since the end of the Civil War.
- Use historical thinking and effective writing to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources from different points of view.
- Express arguments based on critical analysis of primary and secondary sources in writing.

Required Text:

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty*, Seagull Ed., Vol. 2. 4th ed., ISBN 9780393920314 (available in campus bookstore) You will need this book every week.

Learning Plan: Please note that this is subject to minor change depending on a number of factors. It should also be noted that the lectures listed below will only take up about half of the class. The rest will be spent on a variety of activities, including films and especially using primary sources. I reserve the right to assign short primary source readings in addition to the readings listed below.

January 14: Introduction/Major themes in course

Lecture: What is History?

January 21: Reconstruction

Reading: Ch. 15, Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*

Lecture: "Splendid Failure"

January 28: The Gilded Age

Reading: Ch. 16, Foner

February 4: Freedom's Boundaries: Jim Crow, Nativism, and American Imperialism

Reading: Ch. 17, Foner

February 11: The Progressive Era

Reading: Ch. 18, Foner

Film: *Ten Days that Unexpectedly Changed America*: “Murder at the Fair”

February 18: World War I

Reading: Ch. 19, Foner

March 4: MIDTERM EXAM

March 11 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

March 18: The Twenties and the Great Depression

Reading: Ch. 20, Foner

Film: Ken Burns, *The Dust Bowl*.

March 25: World War II

Reading: Ch. 22, Foner

Film: Burns, *The War*

April 1: The Cold War and 50s Society

Reading: Ch. 23&24, Foner

April 8: The Sixties

Reading: Ch. 25, Foner

Film: *Ten Days that Unexpectedly Changed America*: “Freedom Summer”

April 15: The Triumph of Conservatism

Reading: Ch. 26, Foner

April 22: The “New World Order”

Reading: Ch. 27 & 28, Foner

FINAL EXAM: TBA

Grading: Your grade will be determined according to the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Weekly Quizzes and Class Activities: | 20% |
| Participation: | 15% |
| Midterm: | 20% |
| Essay: | 20% |
| Final: | 25% |

Assignments:

Each week, you will be responsible for 1-2 chapters of reading (outlined above). Class will begin with a short quiz intended to assess your understanding of basic themes from the week’s reading. It will not be a “gotcha” or a trivia quiz, but it is essential that you complete the reading to do well. We will take a practice (non-graded) quiz after the first week’s reading to give you an idea of the types of things I’m looking for. Class activities will include written responses to primary source documents, films, and other activities. Participation is essential to doing well in the course, and it is expected that all students contribute to class discussions. Both the midterm and the final will be in a short answer and short essay format. You will have the option of writing by hand or using a laptop (recommended.) Your essay will require you to read a journal article from a list I provide and to critically assess its argument. We will talk more about these requirements, particularly the exams and the essay, as the course progresses.

Grading Scale:

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| A+: 99-100 | |
| A: 93-98 | 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: 59 and lower |

Class attendance

Regular attendance is expected. You are allowed no more than two absences. After your second unexcused absence, I will take action, beginning by dropping your participation grade 20 points. Students who leave class during breaks will be counted absent for that period. You should also be at class on time.

Other policies**Electronics in the classroom:**

You are allowed, indeed encouraged, to use laptops, tablets, etc.. However, they may only be used for class-related purposes. Texting in the middle of lectures is especially obnoxious (and obvious) and will not be tolerated. Students who use electronic devices for other than class reasons will first be warned, and then asked to leave (and counted absent) if the behavior is repeated. Generally, it is best to turn off cell phones as class begins.

Plagiarism:

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing on assignments will be referred to the Dean of Students as a matter of policy. For more on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy, go to the following website: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. We will discuss this issue at length before you turn in assignments.

Late Work:

Obviously, assignments should be turned in on time. If, however, you cannot get an assignment turned in on time, contact me via email to request an extension. Late work will be penalized unless there is an extremely compelling reason that it is late. I will not accept late work if you have not contacted me beforehand.