

The United States Since 1865 - HIS 212-03

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Course Information

Class: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12- 12:50 Room: 1214

Instructor: Justina Licata

Contact Info: j_licata@uncg.edu

Office: MHRA 3103

Office Hours: by appointment

This course provides a historical perspective on major themes in U.S. history since 1865. It does not offer a comprehensive survey but will provide historical background on many important topics: foreign policy, race relations, labor, immigration, social policy, women's rights, and social movements. Students will learn how to read, use, and evaluate a wide range of primary historical sources including memoirs, novels, letters, speeches, political cartoons, and oral interviews. They will identify different methods of historical inquiry and gain an appreciation for how history structures our daily lives.

Course Objectives

- Students will gain a strong understanding of major themes and events in U.S. history since 1865
- Students will learn how to historically contextualize and analyze a range of primary sources representing different points of view
- Students will use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument
- Students will improve their reading, writing, and verbal skills

Link to Spring 2015 Academic Calendar

<http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/acaCal/sp15.html>

Readings and Videos

A great deal of your grade is based on participation in class discussion. Class discussion is based primarily on the readings. You can find all of the required readings in the Course Pack. We will use the readings in class almost every day. You must annotate them (see below) and bring them to class every day.

Textbook

I will not strictly follow a textbook for this course. However, Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty* is a good source for anyone struggling to keep up with the lecture. See me if you feel like purchasing a textbook will help your academic performance.

Course Pack

A mandatory collection of primary source readings is available for purchase at Copy King, 611 West Lee Street. All readings are in the course pack unless otherwise noted.

Videos

Most weeks, I will list a video (usually from John Green's "Crash Course" series or somewhere else on YouTube) for you to watch at home before the lecture. You should expect occasional quizzes (either online or in person) in response to these videos.

Policies

Laptops and Mobile Devices

Please do not use either in class. You should take notes on paper, or directly on the reading.

I will treat having a cell phone out during a test the same way I will treat cheating. Please see the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy for more information:

<http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

Office Hours

My office hours are by appointment. If you schedule an appointment with me, please treat this appointment the same way you would treat attending class. Notify me immediately (preferably 24 hours ahead of time) if you're going to need to break the appointment. I will count violations of this policy as an absence. (See attendance policy below.)

E-mail

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it, and you will not receive credit for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly.

You can use j.licata@uncg.edu. Please always

- Include the title of the class in the subject line
- Use a salutation – "Dear," "Hello," or even just "Hi" are all fine
- Include your full name at the end

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, webpages) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation.

Plagiarism includes copying and pasting any text from the internet into a document without using quotation marks and a citation.

Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized. For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

I report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean of Students.

Absence, Tardiness, and Late Assignments

Attendance is mandatory and counts as part of the overall participation grade.

I will not collect documentation for absences except in cases where an extended absence is necessary (e.g., hospitalization). Note that beyond the role attendance plays in the grading rubric, a student who seriously neglects attendance and class preparation risks failing the course. You must sign in at the beginning of every class.

Please do not come late to class as it disrupts the class for both your fellow classmates and for me. If you are significantly late (more than 10 minutes) or chronically late, you will be marked as absent.

Turn in all assignments on time; those turned in late will not receive credit. This includes online assignments and annotations. If you have very extreme, dire, extenuating circumstances, contact me at least 48 hours before an assignment is due, and we will discuss alternate arrangements for completing the assignment.

You must take all tests during the time scheduled on the syllabus. If you have very extreme, dire, extenuating circumstances, contact me at least 48 hours before the test, and we will discuss alternate arrangements.

Classroom Etiquette

It's okay to eat and drink during class as long as this does not cause a problem for you, me, or the rest of the class. Please limit crunchy and messy foods or anything else that could pose a problem for your neighbor. If food becomes a problem, we will discuss it and reconsider this policy.

Please observe all other normal rules of polite classroom behavior. Raise your hand when participating in a large group discussion. Don't talk or make excessive noise when others are talking. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you engage in behaviors that make it difficult for me to teach or for you or other students to learn.

Please do not pack up your bags until I have signaled that class has come to an end! This is very rude. It makes it difficult for your classmates to hear, and it signals to me that you are no longer paying attention. I will do my best to signal that class has come to an end in a timely manner so that you can get to your next appointment on time. Please do your part by waiting to pack up.

Grading

Grade Components:

Attendance, participation, and class citizenship in lecture and discussion: 25%

Annotation: 20%
Quizzes: 10%
Timeline: 10%
Primary Source Assignment: 10%
Midterm Exam: 10%
Final Exam: 15%

Grading Scale

99 and above A+, 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F

Powerpoint

We will often use Powerpoint in lecture. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will not provide a complete set of notes and will not be distributed after class. It is imperative that you take notes to supplement the power point in order to succeed in the course.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Class participation may take many forms, including the following:

- Thoughtfully answering questions posed in class
- Asking thoughtful questions in class
- Being engaged in group work, taking an active role in groups
- Participating in the online Blackboard forum
- Visiting my office to ask questions, discuss assignments, get help with assignments you are struggling with

You can earn up to 5 participation points every week.

- 1-2 = Showing up on time and signing in (absence causes you to lose one of these points)
- 3 = Appearing attentive and engaged
- 4-5 = Asking/answering questions in class or on BB, taking an active role in groups, visiting my office for help or discussion

Quizzes and Surveys on Blackboard, Google Drive, etc.

I will occasionally use Blackboard, Google Drive, online quiz sites, etc. in order to assess your performance in the class. You should complete these assignments outside of class, by the required due date.

Additionally, I will open a number of Blackboard discussions throughout the semester. Participating in these discussions is not mandatory, but doing so is a good way to improve your participation grade, especially if you have trouble talking in class or have

to miss a class. I STRONGLY encourage you to participate in the online discussions if you miss a class. Be sure to post in a way that is respectful to your classmates. Remember that I will read these posts just like any other written assignment, so use proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. They don't need to be formal, five-paragraph essays, but they should be easy to read and well thought out. You may reply to my original post, pose a question on the same topic, answer another person's question, or respond to other students' comments. Please do not use these discussions as a place to ask questions about assignments or other "housekeeping" matters. Use email for that instead, or come to my office.

I will also occasionally use Blackboard to communicate with the entire class. Be sure to read all announcements promptly and to email me if you have questions.

Annotation

You must take notes (annotate) on every reading. (This includes videos.) We will discuss various annotation techniques throughout the semester. Sometimes I will provide a handout that will guide you in your note taking. Typically, you should take notes directly on your printed-out readings. Talk to me if you find that this doesn't work for you. Note that annotation is 20% of your grade. I will collect annotation at random, so you should be prepared to turn it in every day. Annotations, like all other assignments, are not accepted late. If you are absent on a day that I collect annotations, then your annotation grade for that day will be a zero.

Primary Source Assignment

Instructions are forthcoming. This assignment is due before class on the last day, April 23rd.

Timeline

Instructions are forthcoming. This assignment is due one week before class ends, on April 16th, though you should be working on it throughout the semester. (There will be one check-in on Mar. 3rd.) Be sure to submit it before class.