

The United States Since World War II
HIS 340-01
Spring 2015, TR 12:30-1:45, MHRA 2211

Instructor: Brian E. Lee

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Course Description

Selected social, political, and international trends and events: Cold War and Vietnam; conservatism from McCarthy to Reagan; black freedom, radicalism and the Great Society; feminism; mass immigration and multicultural America.

Student Learning Objectives

General Education Student Learning Objectives

Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to trace the major themes and events of American history since World War II.
2. Students will be able to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Students will be able to construct a historical argument using primary sources and support a thesis statement in a short essay.
4. Students will improve their ability to articulate their ideas both orally and in written form.

Required Textbooks

- William H. Chafe, *The Unfinished Journey: America Since World War II*. New York: Oxford University Press (Eight Edition, ISBN: 978-0-19-934799-5).
- Robert P. Ingalls and David K. Johnson, eds., *The United States Since 1945: A Documentary Reader*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell (ISBN: 978-1-4051-6714-7).

Grades

- Exams (3): 60%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams – each 20% of one's overall grade. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to test your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.
- Research Paper (1): 20%. Students will write a 5-page original research paper on a civil rights issue during the Kennedy administration. The paper will require synthesizing manuscript collections, oral histories, archival newspaper articles, news magazines, and court records (if applicable). More specific instructions, deadlines, and a grading rubric are available on

Blackboard. In addition, you must follow the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) or face disciplinary measures. Late papers will receive a ten-point deduction for every calendar day beyond the due date.

- Research Presentation (1): 10%. Students will make a five-minute Power Point Presentation based on their research paper. More specific instructions, deadlines, and a grading rubric are available on Blackboard.
- Quizzes (10): 10%. Students will be given quizzes on the course readings throughout the semester. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the unit study guide that is posted on Blackboard, which provides the student learning objectives and identifications. The quizzes will be given promptly at the start of class and CANNOT be made up. To earn full credit it is recommended that assignments are read prior to class and to attend all classes.
- Class Participation: Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. To ensure that you are best engaged and not a distraction to others, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning laptops, cell phones, and other non-life sustaining electronic devices will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in a recorded absence and a request for you to leave the classroom.
- Attendance: All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that arrive late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. A student may miss two (2) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Topic/Reading Assignment |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | 1/13 | Postwar Period <i>The Unfinished Journey</i> : Ch. 3, p. 50-72. <i>A Documentary Reader</i> : Introduction (p. 1-12), Ch. 1: “The Atomic Bomb” (p. 13-16). |
| | 1/15 | <i>A Documentary Reader</i> : Ch. 1: “The Policy of Containment” (p. 17-21), “The Truman Doctrine” (p. 21-23), “A Critique of Truman’s Policies” (p. 24-27), “A Soviet View of US Policy” (p. 27-31). |
| 2 | 1/20 | <i>The Unfinished Journey</i> : Ch. 4, p. 73-104. <i>A Documentary Reader</i> : Ch.1: “The Prosecution of American Communists” (p. 31-35), “The Red Scare” (p. 35-37), “The Lavender Scare” (p. 37-40), “A Defense of Civil Liberties” (p. 40-42). |

- 1/22 **1950s**
The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 5, p. 105-138.
A Documentary Reader: Ch.2: “The Growth of Suburbia” (p. 43-47), “A Critique of Suburbia” (p. 47-49), “Consumer Culture and Home” (p. 49-50), “Women’s Roles” (p. 50-54), “Men’s Roles” (p. 54-58), “Beat Generation” (p. 58-61)
- 3 1/27 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 6, p. 139-168.
A Documentary Reader: Ch.3: “A Protest Against Bus Segregation” (p. 62-64), “The Southern Manifesto” (p. 64-66), “Remembering the Sit-In Demonstrations” (p. 66-72).
[Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483, 74 S. Ct. 686, 98 L. Ed. 873 \(1954\), Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 349 U.S., 75 S. Ct. 753, 99 L.Ed. 1083.](#)
- 1/29 *The Cold War: A Global History With Documents*: Ch. 8, p. 100-116; Ch. 9, p. 117-135 (available on Blackboard).
- 4 2/3 **** Exam #1 ****
- 2/5 **1960s**
The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 7, p. 169-210.
[John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address](#)
**** Research Paper: Topic Due ****
- 5 2/10 Introduction to the Research Paper
Presentation by Kathryn Crowe
Associate Dean for Public Services & History Liaison
Class meets at Bryan 221
- 2/12 *A Documentary Reader*: Ch. 5: “The Cuban Missile Crisis (p. 107-108).
- 6 2/17 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 8, p. 211-235.
A Documentary Reader: Ch 3: “Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nonviolent Direct Action” (p. 72-77); Ch. 5: “The Great Society” (p. 117-120).
- 2/19 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 9-10, p. 236-288.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 4: “The ‘Falling Domino’ Principle” (p. 88-89), “The Escalation of War” (p. 89-91), “A Defense of the War” (p. 91-94), “Experiencing the War” (p. 94-100).
- 7 2/24 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 11, p. 289-364.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 3: “Black Nationalism” (p. 80-83), “Economic Justice” (p. 84-86); Ch. 5: “Students for Democratic Society” (p. 110-114),

“The Hippie Counterculture” (p. 114-117), “Caesar Chavez and *la Causa*” (p. 120-123), “The American Indian Movement” (p. 123-126); Ch. 6: “Second Wave Feminism” (p. 135-139), “The National Organization for Women” (p. 140-144), “The Gay Liberation Movement” (p. 148-152).

- 2/26 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 12, p. 289-364.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 4: “The Tet Offensive” (p. 101); Ch. 7: “The 1968 Election” (p. 167-170).
- 8 3/3 **1970s**
The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 13, p. 365-411.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 4: “Kent State Shootings” (p. 102), “Vietnam Veterans Against the War” (p. 103-106).
** Research Paper: Bibliography Due **
- 3/5
- 9 3/10 **Spring Break – No Class**
- 3/12 **Spring Break – No Class**
- 10 3/17 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 14, p. 412-428.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 7: “The Crisis of Confidence” (p. 170-173).
- 3/19 **** Exam #2 ****
- 11 3/24 **1980s**
The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 15, p. 429-447.
A Documentary Reader: Ch. 6: “Abortion Rights” (p. 152-158), “Opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment” (p. 159-162), “The Pro-Family Movement” (p. 162-166), “The Religious Right” (p. 173-176), “A Critique of the Religious Right” (p. 176-180).
** Research Paper: First Draft Due **
- 3/26 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 16, p. 448-474.
- 12 3/31 *A Documentary Reader*: Ch. 7: “The Second American Revolution” (p. 180-184), “Life in the Rust Belt” (p. 184-187), “Iran-Contra Investigation,” (p. 187-192).
- 4/2 **1990s**
The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 17, p. 475-491.
** Research Paper: Final Draft Due **
- 13 4/7 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 17, p. 492-522.

A Documentary Reader: Ch. 7: “The End of Big Government” (p. 193-197).

4/9 **21st Century**

The Unfinished Journey: Ch. 18, p. 523-570.

A Documentary Reader: Ch. 8: “War on Terrorism” (p. 224-225), “Hurricane Katrina” (p. 218-223).

**** Research Power Point Presentation Due **** (e-mail to belee@uncg.edu and a hardcopy of a slide printout)

14 4/14 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 18, p. 523-570.

A Documentary Reader: Ch. 8: “Recent Immigration” (p. 198-202), “Organized Labor and ‘Undocumented’ Immigrants” (p. 203-205), “The Culture Wars” (p. 211-215), “Family Income” (p. 216-217).

**** Research Power Point Presentation Due **** (e-mail to belee@uncg.edu and submit a hardcopy of a slide printout)

4/16 *The Unfinished Journey*: Ch. 19, p. 571-601.

**** Research Presentations ****

15 4/21 **** Research Presentations ****

4/23 **** Research Presentations ****

16 4/28 **No Class**

4/30 **No Class**

5/1 *****Exam #3*** Friday, May 1, 2015, 3:30-6:30.**