

History 212: The United States Since 1865

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Spring 2018 MWF 8-8:50

Classroom: Moore 1215

Instructor: Ethan Moore

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Office Hours: MW 9-10 or by appointment

“One is astonished in the study of history at the recurrence of the idea that evil must be forgotten, distorted, skimmed over. We must not remember that Daniel Webster got drunk and only remember that he was a splendid constitutional lawyer. We must forget that George Washington was a slave owner... simply remember the things we regard as creditable and inspiring. The difficulty, of course, with this philosophy is that history loses its value as an incentive and example; it paints perfect men and noble nations, but it does not tell the truth.”

-W.E.B Du Bois, “The Propaganda of History”

The Course:

This course will provide you with a historical perspective on the major themes of United States history since the end of the Civil War. Further, the class will encourage you to think critically about important events, individuals, and topics. It does not offer a simple or comprehensive survey of the past 150 years but will focus on a variety of many important topics including: foreign policy, labor, race relations, immigration, social policy, woman's rights, as well as social movements. At the core of this class is the use and interpretation of a wide variety of primary sources to understand how history impacts and defines our daily lives.

Required Texts:

You are not required to purchase any textbooks for this class. Rather, all the reading will be provided to you via the Canvas website.

Weekly Structure of the Course:

The course depends on sustained and active participation by you and your classmates. The classroom will be an open and free setting for engagement with multiple voices- not just mine. I expect that you will read the assigned material and come to class prepared to share your personal opinion and assessment of the readings. Monday and Wednesdays classes will primarily involve lecture and discussion of the material. Fridays, we will either have guest lectures or exercises that explore our topics in a variety of ways including but not limited to: film review, small or large group work, and material culture assessment.

Attendance:

It is the opinion of this instructor that you are adults. You are expected to come to all classes and treat me, your classmates, and yourself with the respect that we are all due. As such, we will jointly decide on a policy during our first session. Class starts promptly at 8:00 and if you are more than 10 minutes late you will be asked to leave. Please remember that nearly everything related to your assignments (and some of the assignments themselves) is dependent on what is learned/communicated in class. It is in your best interest to attend.

Student Learning Outcomes:

General Education Historical Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

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 Requirements:

Mid-Term (February 26th): 15%

Final Exam (April 27th): 15%

In Class Assignments: 20%

Oral History Assignment(March 16th): 15%

Archival Paper 1(March 30th): 15%

Archival Paper 2(April 23rd): 20%

We will use the following 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.

*Specific information related to the assignments will be provided at a later date.

Technology: E-mail Policy, Power Point, Laptops, and Cell Phones

E-mail is the best way to reach me. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive any response to your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

I will often use power point in lecture. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will be distributed after class via Canvas. However, it is imperative that you take notes to supplement the power point in order to succeed in the course.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. Unless you have a documented special need, you may not use laptops in the classroom. Cell phones and other similar electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times. No texting or checking your phones during class. If I see your cellphone/laptop, I will ask you to leave class.

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, etc...) 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.

*PLEASE NOTE: 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 severely. For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Week 1

Monday, January 8th: Review the syllabus and answer any questions

Wednesday, January 10th: What is History? What do Historians do?

-Hollitz, John. "Introduction"

-Excerpt from James W. Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*

- Schlerth, Thomas J. "Collecting Ideas and Artifacts: Common Problems of History Museums and History Texts."

Friday, January 12th: In class exercise

Week 2

Monday, January 15th: No Class MLK Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 17th: Reconstruction

-Hollitz, John. "Historians and Textbooks: The "Story" of Reconstruction"

-Mississippi Black Codes (1865)

Friday, January 19th: Industrial Capitalism

-Excerpt from Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2*.

Week 3

Monday, January 22nd: Labor

-Hollitz, John. "Using Primary Sources: Industrialization and the Conditions of Labor."

- "The Decline of the Independent Craftsman" (1883)

- "Shall Married Women Work?" (1879)

Wednesday, January 24th: Immigration

- "On the "Evils" of Chinese Immigration" (1878)

- "Life of a Chinese Immigrant" (1903)

- "The Promised Land" (1912)

Friday, January 26th: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 4

Monday, January 29th: Wednesday, September 6th: American Indians and the West

-Hollitz, John. "Evaluating Primary Sources: "Saving" the Indians in the Late Nineteenth Century"

Wednesday, January 31st: American Imperialism

-Hollitz, John. "Evaluating a Historical Argument: American Manhood and the Philippine Annexation"

-"The March of the Flag" (1898)

Friday, February 2nd: Friday Activity/Guest

Week 5

Monday, February 5th: World War I

-Excerpt from Eric Foner's Give Me Liberty: An American History, Volume 2.

-Cartoons on American Imperialism (1920s)

-German-American Loyalty (1917)

-Selected Letters: Paul Eliot Green (1917-1918)

Wednesday, February 7th: World War I Continued

Friday, February 9th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 6

Monday, February 12th: Women in the Early 20th Century

-Hollitz, John. "The Problem of Historical Motivation: The Bungalow as the "Progressive" House"

-Changes in Housework (1929)

-Happiness in Marriage (1926)

Wednesday, February 14th: Women's Suffrage

- Alice Paul Inspires Her Fellow Suffragists (1917-1918)

-The Remonstrance (1909)

-Election Day! (1909)

-Todd, "Getting Out the Vote" (1911)

Friday, February 16th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 7

Monday, February 19th: The “Modern 1920s”

-Hollitz, John- “Ideology and History: Advertising in the 1920s”

Wednesday, February 21st: The Depression and the New Deal

-Hollitz, John “History from the Top Down: Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady”

Friday, February 23rd: Mid-Term Exam IDs distributed and Exam Review

Week 8

Monday, February 26th: Mid-Term

Wednesday, February 28th: World War II Abroad

-Excerpts from Studs Terkels *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II*

Friday, March 2nd: World War II at Home

-Readings TBA

Week 9

*Monday- Friday, March 5th-9th: No Class- Fall Break

Monday, March 12th: The Cold War

-Hollitz, John “Popular Culture as History: The Cold War Comes Home”

Wednesday, March 14th: Archival Assignment 1 Distributed and Discussed

Friday, March 16th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture *Oral History Assignment Due

Week 10

Monday, March 19th: The Rise of the Suburb

-Hollitz, John “History From the Bottom Up: The Detroit Race Riot of 1943”

-A Real Estate Agent Explains the Fine Art of Blockbusting

Wednesday, March 21st: The Black Freedom Movement

-Hollitz, John “History and Popular Memory: The Civil Rights Movement”

Friday, March 23rd: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 11

Monday, March 26th: Vietnam ** Archival Paper 1 Due

-Hollitz, John "Causation and the Lessons of History: Explaining America's Longest War"

Wednesday, March 28th: The Growing Social Movements

-A Native American Protest (1969)

-The Reverend James Drake Recalls (1975)

-Dolores Huerta Recalls (1975)

-Chicago Gay Liberation Front, "A Leaflet for the American Medical Association" (1970)

-Asian American Political Alliance, "AAPA Perspectives" (1969)

Friday, March 30th: Spring Holiday

Week 12

Monday, April 2nd: Feminist Politics

-Hollitz, John "Gender, Ideology, and Historical Change: Explaining the Women's Movement"

-Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (excerpt) (1963)

-Chavez, "The Double Oppression of Mexican-American Women" (1972)

-The Politics of Housework (1970)

-Third World Women's Alliance Statement (1968)

Wednesday, April 4th: The New Left

-TBA

Friday, April 6th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 13

Monday, April 9th: The New Right

-Richard Nixon Accepts the Republican Nomination for President (1968)

-Falwell, "The Moral Majority" (1981)

-Robertson, "Action Plan for the 1980s" (1979)

-Morgan, "The Total Woman" (1973)

-Bryant, "When the Homosexuals Burn the Holy Bible in Public" (1977)

Wednesday, April 11th: The 1980s

- Reagan, "Farewell Address" (1989)

Friday, April 13th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 14

Monday, April 16th: The Post-Cold War 1990s and early 2000s

-TBA

Wednesday, April 18th: A Post-Racial and Post-Sexuality America?

-Hollitz, John "Why Historical Interpretation Matters: The Battle Over Immigration."

Friday, April 20th: Friday Activity/Guest Lecture

Week 15

Monday, April 23rd: Exam Review and Paper 2 Due

Wednesday, April 25th: Final Questions/Wrap-up

Friday, April 27th: Final Exam (8-11)

*Changes may occur to the syllabus at the discretion of the instructor