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History 212-04, Spring 2018

The United States from 1865 – America, Negotiated

Course Description

While the Declaration of Independence in 1776 announced and the 1783 Treaty of Paris formalized the formation of the United States, these documents signify neither the beginning nor the end of the creation of a nation. America as an idea, community, and sovereign political state is the sum total of interactions of a countless sea of formal and informal agendas, laws, causes, conflicts and interests. The emergence of America from the Civil War only increased the scope and intensity of these interactions as groups formally excluded from political and public life began to lend their voices to the discourse of what America should be.

This course will examine the continuing negotiated recasting of America from the end of the Civil War to the present day. Special attention will be given to the interplay between the myriad of groups and individuals that helped shape the United States from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first century. The historical profession has benefitted greatly over the past four decades from an increased focus outside of politics and economics to form a more complete portrait of American life. We will tap into that broadened focus to hear from several people and groups not normally considered.

General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) Student Learning Outcomes:

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

Course Learning Objectives

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

- Recognize how interaction between various social, class, racial, and gender groups affected change over time of societal structures and systems and provide evidence-based interpretations for those changes.
- Contextualize primary sources within their historical moment and understand the purpose, meaning, and audience of those sources.
- Demonstrate and improve information literacy skills in relation to both historical sources

Department Contacts

History Department Website: his.uncg.edu

History Department Facebook Page: facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory

Required Books and Other Readings

The following texts are required and available through online retailers or the UNCG bookstore. All other readings will be made available on Canvas. The list of readings may change over the course of the semester. Make sure to consult the most up-to-date syllabus on Canvas.

Foner, Eric. *Give me Liberty!: An American History, Fifth Edition, Volume 2*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2017.

Foner, Eric. *Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History, Fifth Edition, Volume 2*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2017

Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. To accommodate for sudden illness, unavoidable appointments, etc., students are allowed three absences for the semester at no penalty. Beginning with the fourth absence, students will receive a zero for participation for that day. Accommodations can be made with official documentation.

Office Hours

The instructor will have office hours after class in MHRA 2110, 9:45-10:45a Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment.

Email

The best way to reach the instructor is through Canvas messaging where your query will be partitioned from regular mail. An effort will be made to answer all questions within twenty-four hours.

Late Assignments

Regular assignments turned after the beginning of class the day that they are due will be given half credit. Essay exams will be deducted 10% per day. No late work will be accepted more than a week past the due date.

Makeup Exams

In the event a student misses an exam, a makeup must be taken within one week of the exam date, barring extraordinary circumstances that prevent such a deadline from being met. Students with anticipated absences for university activities, medical procedures, etc., should plan on taking the exam before the scheduled time. Makeup exams will feature an alternate format and / or questions.

Electronics

Students may use laptops for notetaking purposes or viewing the class texts in e-book format. Phones should not be used. In the rare instance of unavoidable phone use for emergencies, students should leave the classroom. Abuse of electronic devices will result in the loss of privileges. Students who use electronics in a disruptive manner will be asked to leave the classroom.

Plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism as "intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise." (See the [University's Academic Integrity Policies](#) for further information.) All sources (books, articles, documents, internet sites, etc.) used in any paper or assignment must be properly cited or will be considered plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion from the University.

Grading

The final grade for the course will be calculated as such:

- Attendance / Participation: 15%
- Reading Quizzes and Source Analyses: 20%
- Exam I: 15%
- Exam II: 15%
- Exam III: 15%
- Final Exam: 20%

Grading Scale

		B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	Below 60

Assignments

Participation

Besides attendance, students are expected to have read the assigned materials and fully engage in class during small-group and full-class discussions.

Reading Quizzes

Students will be assigned a reading over the four-day gap between Thursday and Tuesday classes. At the beginning of Tuesday meetings, a brief quiz consisting of key terms and a short answer questions will be given. These questions will closely mimic elements found on the exams.

Source Analyses

Students will be required to complete guided analysis of several primary source documents, taken from Foner's *Voices of Freedom* primary source reader. Analyses are to be completed outside of class and must be submitted to Canvas by the beginning of class the day that they are due (typically Thursdays).

Exams

Exams will be given periodically throughout the semester. Each exam will comprise of short answer and essay prompts based on lectures and readings.

- Exam I: Thursday, February 8th
- Exam II: Thursday, March 1st
- Exam III: Thursday, March 29th
- Final Exam: Tuesday, May 1st

Course Schedule

This schedule and readings assigned are subject to change. The most current version of the syllabus is always available on Canvas.

Week 01: Turning the Bloody Page

01/09: Course Intro: What is History?

01/11: Catching up to '65: The Causes and Consequences of the Civil War

Week 02: Reconstruction, 1865-1877

Weekly Reading: Chapter 15, GML: 564-602; VoF: 1-28

1/16: Myths and Realities of Reconstruction

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 15

01/18: The Betrayal of Reconstruction

Graded: Ch 15 Source Analysis

Week 03: The Gilded Age, 1870-1890

Weekly Reading: Chapter 16, GML: 603-648; VoF: 28-51

01/23: Industrial North; New South

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 16

01/25: The Wild(?) West

Graded: Ch 16 Source Analysis

Week 04: Redefining Social, Political, and International Boundaries, 1890-1900

Weekly Reading: Chapter 17, GML: 649-690; VoF: 52-76

01/30: New freedoms; old oppressions

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 17

02/1: Populism at Home and Imperialism Abroad

Graded: Ch 17 Source Analysis

Week 05: Progressivism, 1900-1916

Weekly Reading: Chapter 18, GML: 691-733; VoF: 77-104

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 18

02/06: The Progressives and their movement

02/08: EXAM I

Week 06: Transformations of the Great War, 1916-1920

Weekly Reading: Chapter 19 GML: 734-778; VoF: 105-135

02/13: Women, Labor, and an evolving nation

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 19

02/15: Over There

Graded: Ch 19 Source Analysis

Week 07: Roaring; Crashing, 1920-1932

Weekly Reading: Chapter 20, GML: 779-817; VoF: 136-162

02/20: Fords, Flappers, and the Fight for Civil Rights

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 20

02/22: Business, Government, and the Economic House of Cards

Graded: Ch 20 Source Analysis

Week 08: The New Deal, 1932-1940

Weekly Reading: Chapter 21, GML: 818-860; VoF: 163-191

02/27: The New Deal – A necessary deal?

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 21

03/01: EXAM II

Week 09: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Week 10: World War II, 1941-1945

Weekly Reading: Chapter 22, GML: 861-904; VoF: 192-214

03/13: A War on all fronts

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 22

03/15: The Home Front

Graded: Ch 22 Source Analysis

Week 11: Communism and the Cold War, 1945-1953

Weekly Reading: Chapter 23, GML: 905-939; VoF: 215-247

03/20: Cold War; Hot Spots

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 23

03/22: McCarthy and a Phantom Enemy

Graded: Ch 23 Source Analysis

Week 12: Post-War Affluence, 1953-1960

Weekly Reading: Chapter 24, GML: 940-982; VoF: 248-271

03/27: A Consumer Republic

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 24

03/29: Exam III

Week 13: The Chaotic 1960s, 1960-1968

Weekly Reading: Chapter 25, GML: 983-1029; VoF: 272-306

04/03: The Civil Rights Movement

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 25

04/05: The Vietnam Experience, Home and Abroad

Graded: Ch 25 Source Analysis

Week 14: Nixon and the New Conservatism, 1968-1990

Weekly Reading: Chapter 26, GML: 1030-1070; VoF: 307-331

04/10: Nixon Swings the Pendulum

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 26

04/12: Reagan's Revolution

Graded: Ch 26 Source Analysis

Week 15: New World Order and The War on Terror 1990-2001

Weekly Reading: Chapter 27, GML: 1071-1108; VoF: 332-348

04/17: Life after the Cold War

Graded: Reading Quiz Ch 27

04/19: 9/11

Graded: Ch 27 Source Analysis

Week 16: New Century, New Crises 2001-Present

Weekly Reading: Chapter 28, GML: 1109-1150; VoF: 349-368

04/24: Current History

Final Exam: TUESDAY, MAY 1st