

History 218-03: United States History since 1865 (Spring 2019)

Instructor: Mr. Andy Bedingfield

Office: MHRA 2102

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm

E-mail: rabeding@uncg.edu

Time and Place: Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:45pm, MHRA 1214



Course Description:

Welcome to United States History since 1865. The century and a half following the American Civil War was a period of immense transformation. American society, culture, work, politics, and government were pulled at the seams as men and women struggled to make sense out of a changing world. This is a time of both bold reformers and staunch reactionaries, isolationists and interventionists, grass-roots organizers and centralizing bureaucrats. Together, we will work to understand how Americans sought to remake their world following the peace at Appomattox. Major Topics include: Reconstruction, Populism, Civil Rights, Progressivism, the New Deal, the First and Second World War and American society, the Cold War, Discontent, Liberalism and Conservatism, as well as contemporary trends.

Student Learning Outcomes:

General College Historical Perspective (GHP) SLOs

- 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 SLOs: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Comprehend that history is not the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the *interpretation* of the past.
- Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and

larger system or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.

- Analyze the key terms, facts, and events in American history and thereby exhibit an informed historical perspective.
- Critically appraise varying historical arguments and clearly express their own interpretations.
- Critically read and distinguish between different types of historical sources and “read between the lines” of differing points of view.

Required Reading (Available at the UNCG Bookstore)

Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty: An American History* Volume II 5th edition
This **must** be Volume II.

John Dittmer, Jeff Kolnick, Leslie-Burl McLemore, *Freedom Summer: A Brief History with Documents*

Assignments:

Response Paper: (20%) You will be assigned a brief, 3-4 page, prompt based upon your course readings and lectures. I will discuss this in more detail in class. Due 2/15.

Evidence Based Argument Paper: (25%) You will complete a 5-7 page paper based upon your readings from *Freedom Summer*. You use the primary sources provided in the reading to make a supported argument about some aspect of the Freedom Summer in 1964 Mississippi. I will discuss this in detail during class and highly encourage you to schedule meetings with me to discuss your ideas and/or drafts. Due 4/19.

First Exam: (20%) The First Exam will be a series of identifications and short answer questions based upon your readings and the lectures up to 2/27.

Final Exam: (25%) The Final Exam will be similar in form and length to the midterm but will only cover materials after the Mid Term. It is not cumulative.

Reading Quizzes: (10%) Periodically, you will complete brief, in-class quizzes based upon *Give Me Liberty*. Quizzes may only occur on Wednesday’s and will be assigned at the instructor’s discretion. Readings for a particular week are considered due by the beginning of class on Wednesdays.

Final Grade Scale: (A)93+, (A-) 90-92, (B+) 87-89, (B) 84-86, (B-) 80-83, (C+) 77-79, (C) 74-76, (C-) 70-73, (D+) 67-69, (D) 64-66, (D-) 60-63, (F) <60.

Course Policies:

Attendance:

A student who is not present to sign the attendance sheet when it circulates at beginning of class will be marked “absent.” **Once the sheet has circulated the room, no late students will be allowed to sign it.** Students who leave class early without permission will be marked absent. You are permitted (3) no-excuse needed absences without penalty. Absences past (3) will each deduct 3 points each from your final grade.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Every word you write in this class must be your own, not copied from any other source, whether in print or online, unless clearly indicated. The UNCG Academic Integrity Policy is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. If you are not sure if you are accidentally committing plagiarism do not hesitate to ask for clarification!

Course Website and E-Mail:

You must have a working email address, and check it regularly, as it is our main means of communication out of class. In addition, you will need to utilize CANVAS in order to submit papers and to have electronic copies of important documents and/or readings.

Classroom Standards and Etiquette:

In this class we will cover events that may reflect upon contemporary problems. Indeed, recognizing continuing trends is an expectation for the course. In doing so, however, we must maintain an atmosphere of courtesy and respect for opposing viewpoints. Disagreement is welcome, but only if done so in a constructive manner that targets arguments, not people, and is based upon evidence.

Technology:

Phones are to be put on silent and out of sight. If I see a phone out during the midterm or final exam I will assume the worst.

Laptops/tablets are permitted but only as a privilege that can be revoked at my discretion. Students using these devices are asked to sit at the back of the classroom so their screens do not distract fellow students.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with questions or needs related to academic accommodations for disabilities

should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS), located in the Elliot University Center, Suite 215. For more information, please see <http://ods.uncg.edu>.

Course Schedule:

Readings are from *Give Me Liberty* unless otherwise specified. Readings are mandatory. Course lectures assume you have familiarity with the text and will provide opportunities to dive deeper into particular issues or events. Therefore, it is essential to both complete readings and attend lectures to have access to all course content.

I still encourage you to read relevant material on those weeks with no assigned reading if able.

Week 1 Introduction and Reconstruction Part I

1/14

1/16

Week 2 (ch.15) Reconstruction Part II

1/21 NO CLASS, Dr. Martin King Jr. Holiday

1/23

Week 3 (ch.16) Industrial Revolution

1/28

1/30

Week 4 (ch.17) Reform and Reaction

2/4

2/6

Week 5 (ch.18) The Progressive Era

2/11

2/13

2/15 Response Paper Due

Week 6 (ch.19) World War I and American Society

2/18

2/20

Week 7 (ch.20) The 1920's

2/25

2/27 First Exam

Week 8 SPRING BREAK

3/4 NO CLASS

3/6 NO CLASS

Week 9 (ch.21) The Great Depression and the New Deal

3/11

3/13

Week 10 (ch.22) World War II and American Society

3/18

3/20

Week 11 (No Foner readings, use time to read *Freedom Summer*) The Cold War and American Society

3/25

3/27

Week 12 (No Foner readings, use time to read *Freedom Summer*) Life in the "Golden Age"

4/1

4/3

Week 13 (No Foner readings, begin writing paper using *Freedom Summer*) A Decade in Tumult: The 1960's

4/8

4/10

Week 14 (ch. 26) The New Conservatism

4/15

4/17

4/19 Evidence Based Argument Paper Due

Week 15 (ch.27) A New World?

4/22

4/24

Week 16 (ch.28) The 21st Century, so far.

4/29

5/1 Last Day of Classes

FINAL EXAM May 8th 3:30-6:30pm.

