

**History 211 (Spring 2020)**  
**United States History to 1865**  
**TR: 8:00-9:15**

Instructor: Mrs. Kaitlyn Williams  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:30

**Course Description:** This course will explore American history from a time before European contact through Reconstruction. After completing this course, students will be able to analyze significant political, social, economic, and cultural developments in American history. This course will explore the impact and contributions of many historical actors, not just traditional figures. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the impact of ordinary people on the world around them. Students will also learn how to understand historical context and gain analytical skills useful in the study of history and beyond.

**General Education Historical Perspectives (GHP) 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 Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

1. Explain the significance of major events, people, and debates in the history of the United States.
2. Engage in historical thinking to contextualize, interpret, and analyze primary and secondary texts.
3. Identify the historical origins of significant debates in today's world.

**Readings:**

Throughout the semester, we will examine a variety of sources. Most reading and source material will be available on the course Canvas page or linked to the syllabus.

There is no textbook for this course, but if you wish to consult a text I recommend the following:

Hewitt, Nancy A. and Steven F. Lawson. *Exploring American Histories: A Survey with Sources Volume 1*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/MacMillan, 2019.

**Course Requirements:**

**Participation and Attendance** (GHP 1, 2; SLO 1, 2, 3):

Your participation grade will be based on in class discussions. Students should complete course readings before class and come prepared to participate. A copy of the assigned readings should be brought to class meetings. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of each class. Students who regularly arrive late or leave early without permission will be marked absent. Each student is allowed three absences. Excused absences will require a doctor's note or other legitimate documentation.

**Reading Quizzes** (GHP 2; SLO 1, 2):

Some classes will begin with a short writing assignment or quiz based on the reading due for that day. All quizzes will be graded from 0 to 20. There will be **no make-up quizzes**. Instead, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

**Writing Assignments** (GHP 1, 2; SLO 1, 2):

Students will be required to complete two writing assignments over the course of the semester. Each assignment will be worth 15% of the student’s grade. Assignments will be 2-3 pages typed, times new roman, with one-inch margins. Each assignment will require students to analyze a set of primary and secondary sources from the course readings.

**Exams** (GHP 2; SLO 1):

There will be two exams in this course. Each exam will be content-driven, based largely on lectures, class discussions, and readings. The midterm exam will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> and the final exam will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading:**

Grades will be based on four different aspects of student performance: (1) writing assignments, (2) exams, (3) in-class reading quizzes, and (4) participation and attendance. The final grade will be determined according to the following calculation:

<b>Writing Assignments:</b>	<b>30% total</b>
Writing Assignment #1	15%
Writing Assignment #2	15%
<b>Exams:</b>	<b>40% total</b>
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
<b>In-Class Reading Quizzes:</b>	<b>20% total</b>
<b>Attendance and Participation:</b>	<b>10% total</b>

**Grading Scale:**

	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 0-59
A: 93-100	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
A-: 90-92	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

**Electronic Devices:**

Laptops and tablets are allowed for notetaking, but please refrain from cellphone use. Make sure all electronics are silenced before class begins.

**Academic Integrity:**

All work must be your own. UNCG prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsibility to know what constitutes academic integrity and to be familiar with UNCG policies which can be found here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in academic dishonesty (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating on an exam) will receive a zero and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action, including suspension or expulsion. Do not attempt it.

**Useful Resources:**

UNCG provides a variety of useful services for students that focus on writing, speaking, and researching.

- History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>
- Jackson Library Website: <https://library.uncg.edu/>
- Writing Center Website: <https://writingcenter.uncg.edu/>
- Speaking Center Website: <https://speakingcenter.uncg.edu>

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

UNCG seeks to adhere to the ADA and provide equal access to a college education. Students with any 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 <https://ods.uncg.edu>.