

History 211-06 (Spring 2020)
United States History to 1865
TR: 3:30-4:45 pm, Bryan 213

Instructor: Mrs. Ashley Loper-Nowak
Office: MHRA 3103
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1:00 pm- 2:30 pm or by appointment
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Course Description:

Leading up to the Civil War, the United States experienced an era of significant transformation. This course will focus on several themes—including political, cultural/social, economic, international, environmental—and follow their trajectories from precontact to 1877. By exploring each theme, students will begin to understand how they intersect and influence each other in constructing identities, policies, and national and international perspectives. In addition to examining key events, people, and trends, this course will explore what comprises the historical discipline and how historians produce history.

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.

Required and Recommended Texts:

Throughout the semester, we will examine a variety of sources including speeches, correspondence, political cartoons, and other documents. The 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. Weekly reading assignments should be completed in preparation for class discussion days, and students must come prepared to participate—in other words, ready to ask questions and discuss the readings. Students should bring a copy of the assigned readings to class meetings. Attendance will be taken at the start of all classes. Students who regularly arrive late or leave early without permission will be marked absent.

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

There will be eleven (11) short (10 minute) quizzes based on the reading due for that week. All quizzes will be graded on a scale of one (1) to twenty (20). There are **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 three short writing assignments over the course of the semester. The first will be due on February 13th, the second will be due on March 19th, and the third will be due on April 23rd. The purpose of these papers is to analyze and contextualize a primary source document. Your response should convey 1) an understanding of the document’s main argument and 2) an understanding of how that argument fits within the context of American history. Writing topics will be provided in advance.

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 27th and the final exam will be on May 5th. Review sheets will be provided in advance for both exams.

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:

Writing Assignments:	40% total
Writing Assignment #1	10%
Writing Assignment #2	15%
Writing Assignment #3	15%
Exams:	30% total
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
In-Class Reading Quizzes:	20% total
Attendance and Participation:	10% total

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.

Syllabus Modifications:

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to watch for any class announcements about alterations.

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. Check them out!

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>.