

HIS 212-03: U.S. History since 1865 Spring 2021



The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Aug. 28, 1963. Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2003654393/>

Instructor: Mrs. Carolyn Lindley

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Office/Office Hours: Google Meet, by appointment

Course Description:

This course surveys the social, cultural, and political history of the United States from Reconstruction to the beginning of the 21st century. For decades, historians have focused on major political figures and other “great men” as the main agents of change in American history. This course instead focuses primarily on ordinary Americans and their efforts to shape both their own history and that of their nation.

History is much more than just memorizing facts. Students will practice thinking critically as historians by analyzing evidence and learning to ask questions that illuminate historical context. Students will learn to analyze different types of evidence and hone historical and critical thinking and reading skills that are applicable beyond the field of history.

Because of its broad historical sweep, the variety of topics covered in this course make no claim to be comprehensive.

Online Course Disclaimer

This course is entirely online and asynchronous. There will be no set meeting days or times; students are responsible for logging in regularly and completing their coursework on time. There will be a Canvas Page published at the beginning of each week that details what students should read, watch, and submit for that week. Lectures for each week will be recorded, uploaded to Canvas, and either linked to or embedded within that week's Canvas Page.

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. Assess the political, social, economic, cultural, and environmental ramifications of Reconstruction, industrialization, the American Empire, World Wars I and II, and the Cold War.
2. Analyze, evaluate, and contextualize primary sources, in conjunction with secondary sources, to determine validity and reliability to the historical topic at hand and connect them to the larger themes in American history.
3. Analyze and compare changes in various racial, ethnic, religious, and gender norms and expectations that shaped the United States from Reconstruction to the beginning of the 21st century.
4. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.

Course Instructor/Facilitator Expectations:

- Grading/Feedback Policy: The instructor will provide feedback on assignments within 1 week of submission (2 weeks for exams).
- Discussion Posts: The instructor monitors all discussion posts and provides feedback when appropriate.
- Email Policy: The instructor will answer all emails from students within 24 hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Emails sent over the weekend will be answered within 48 hours.
- Course Updates: Any course updates and new information will be sent via course announcement in Canvas as early in the week as possible.

Participant Expectations:

- Weekly Timing for Coursework: Plan to spend at least 2-5 hours a week completing this course. This time includes reviewing the module, submitting your assessments, and participating in the discussions.

- **Unexpected Circumstances:** If you are unable to meet a deadline or experience a personal issue, please notify the instructor immediately.
- **Respectful Communication:** Be respectful of others in your discussion posts, replies, and emails. Any feedback should be constructive and sensitive. Think about the replies that you would want to receive.
- **Questions:** If you have a specific question about your course, email the instructor. If you have a general question about the specific topic that week, use the Q&A discussion forum on Canvas so that everyone can share their answers. Your question and the answer may benefit others in the course.

Required Text:

Throughout this course, you will use the **free online “textbook,”** *The American Yawp*, where you will find both your textbook readings and most of your primary source readings for a given week. All readings from this book are linked in the syllabus and in the Canvas Pages. This book is also available to purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and through the publisher, Stanford University Press. All other reading and source material will be available on the Canvas site.

[*The American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open U.S. History Textbook.*](#) Volume II. Redwood City, CA: Stanford University Press, 2019-2020 Updates.

Assignments:

Please note that all assignment due dates are labeled in the Course Schedule (beginning on page 6) and are **highlighted in blue.** Any of these assignments may be submitted before the due date.

Primary Source Analyses (GHP 1, 2; SLO 2)

There will be seven (7) primary source analyses throughout the semester. For each assignment, students will practice using historical skills to answer important questions about the assigned primary source or sources. These skills include sourcing, close reading, corroboration, and contextualization. These short formative assessments help prepare you for the midterm and final exams. These worksheets will be uploaded as a Word (.doc or .docx) file to the appropriate assignment link listed in Canvas. **When assigned, these worksheets will be due on Fridays at 11:59pm.**

Discussion Boards (GHP 1, 2; SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)

There will be eight (8) discussion board assignments throughout this course, not including the Introductory Discussion Board assignment. For each assignment, students will practice creating a solid discussion question based on the topic and readings for the week. A general discussion board rubric will be provided in the Class Information Module that will outline the criteria for the discussion board assignments. All assignments consist of an initial post and one response post:

1. **Requirements for Initial Posts (worth 5 pts):** After reading the **primary sources** for the week, create original discussion questions based for **each** source. Each question should indicate a level of critical engagement with the reading and should meet the

criteria listed in the Class Information Module.

2. **Requirements for Response Posts (worth 10 pts):** After reading the textbook sections assigned for the week, respond to two classmates' posts. You only need to answer one discussion question per post. Responses must be thoughtful and informed and must include specific examples from that week's materials. Each response post should consist of at least 100 words.

Logistics and Due Dates: Students will be broken up into smaller groups of 9-10, which will be randomly assigned by the instructor. These group assignments will change with each assignment to give students the ability to work with several of their classmates. To encourage discussion, students' initial posts to the Discussion Board will be due on Thursdays at 11:59pm and their response to at least one other classmate will be due on Fridays at 11:59pm.

***NOTE:** Students must maintain academic civility, use respectful language, and avoid rude remarks. Even more than in face-to-face debate, caution must be exercised in "virtual" debate or discussion to avoid insulting or offending others. Disrespectful and offensive language will not be tolerated. Please review the Netiquette Guidelines document located on the Canvas site.

Exams (GHP 2; SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)

There will be two exams in this course, a midterm and a final exam. The midterm exam will be based on Weeks 2-8 and the final will be based on Weeks 10-15. Each exam will be skills- and content-driven, based largely on lectures, discussions, readings, and videos. The midterm is due March 19th and the final exam is due on May 5th. Both exams are due at 11:59pm on the due date. These due dates are also marked within the course schedule.

Late Policy:

Assignments are due on the dates and at the times listed in the course schedule. **A late assignment will receive 1 point off for each day it is late** (including holidays and weekends). Keep in mind that this applies to all parts of your Discussion Board assignment posts. For instance, if you submit your initial post 2 days late and your first response 1 day late, 3 points will be deducted from that assignment, meaning that the highest you may earn is 12 out of 15 possible points (or, 80%). If you anticipate being unable to turn in an assignment on time, you will need to contact me via email or Canvas **before** the day the assignment is due. **The assignment will be closed and a zero automatically assigned one week after the initial due date unless you have made arrangements with me beforehand.**

Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

I will be grading on a 500-point grading scale. See the grading breakdown below:

Introductory Discussion Board	20 pts
Syllabus and Netiquette Quiz	20 pts
Primary Source Analyses (7)	140 pts (20 pts each)
Discussion Board Assignments (8)	120 pts (15 pts each)
Exams:	

Midterm Exam	100 pts
Final Exam	100 pts

Final Grade Scale: A 500-465; A- 464-450; B+ 449-435; B 434-415; B- 414-400; C+ 399-385; C 384-365; C- 364-350; D+ 349-335; D 334-315; D- 314-300; F 299-0.

Transparency Statement:

In this class, I seek to be transparent with students about what they will learn and why they will learn it, as well as why the class and its assignments are structured in this way. In lieu of quizzes, this course will have seven primary source analysis assignments that scaffold historical thinking skills as students learn them throughout the course. Each analysis assignment will consist of a variety of questions that will ask students to analyze primary and secondary sources based on historical thinking skills learned throughout the semester.

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://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>. 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.

Resources:

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>.

COVID-19: As UNCG returns to face-to-face course offerings in fall 2020, the campus community must recognize and address concerns about physical and emotional safety. As such, all students, faculty, and staff are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit the spread of COVID-19. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- [Wearing a face covering that covers both nose and mouth](#)
- Observing [social distance](#) in the classroom
- Engaging in proper hand washing hygiene when possible
- [Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- Staying home if you are ill
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.

Health and Wellness: Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience.

You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/>, or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive.

For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu

***In the case of a personal or family emergency, contact the Dean of Students office and they will contact all your instructors: deanofstudents@uncg.edu; (336) 334-5514.**

UNCG Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness Statement: UNCG fully supports and values an inclusive community with visible and meaningful representation of diversity. We seek to promote a climate of civility and respect, where diverse viewpoints and experiences are welcomed. UNCG is committed to protecting the rights of all to ensure that each person in our community is empowered, valued and respected for their contributions to the mission of this university. As a minority-serving institution, we embrace our role as serving a large, diverse student body and we are committed to our mission as providing access and opportunity for all.

Contra Power Statement: As your instructor, I am committed to creating a productive and non-discriminatory learning environment of mutual respect. Title IX and UNCG's school policy prohibit gender-based harassment, sexual harassment, and sex discrimination for all members of the University community. Harassment can come in many forms – both direct and indirect – and can occur in subtle or overt ways. Traditionally, harassment is seen from formal power-over structure. However, harassment can occur without a formal power structure. Contra power, when a student harasses an instructor or peer, is a type of behavior that can create an intimidating environment in and outside of the classroom. Either form of harassment can include direct or indirect comments, physical intimidation, emails, anonymous notes and course evaluations. Both Contra power and traditional forms of harassment are prohibited and subject to the same kinds of accountability applied to offenses against protected categories, such as race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

If you experience or witness such instances of harassment, please seek out the following resources:

- UNCG Counseling Center (non-reporting agency/confidential): 336.334.5874
- Murphie Chappell, Title IX Coordinator (reporting agent) 336.256.0362
or mechappe@uncg.edu
- University Police (reporting agent) 336.334.4444

For more information on UNCG's policies regarding harassment, visit http://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/sex_gender_harrassment/sex-gender-harrassment.pdf

Religious Holidays: It is expected that instructors will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts due to religious obligations. Please make arrangements with the instructor in advance of any conflict. For more information on UNCG's Religious Obligations policy, visit:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3_J3Uix1B4UeTV4Nk1vVFJoVFE/view?usp=sharing

Elasticity Statement: It is the intention of the instructor that this syllabus and course calendar will be followed as outlined, however, as the need arises there may be adjustments to the syllabus and calendar. In such cases, the instructor will notify the students in class and via e-mail with an updated syllabus and calendar within a reasonable timeframe to allow students to adjust as needed.

Adverse Weather: In cases of inclement weather that impact this course and course schedule, details can be found:

- In your University email: UNCG sends out Adverse Weather updates
- In the UNCG Mobile App: You can even set it to provide you alerts
- Via television announcements: UNCG makes weather announcements available on five local stations (WFMY-2, WGHP-V, WXII-TV, WXLV-TV, and Spectrum News)

Visit Spartanalert.uncg.edu or the UNCG homepage: UNCG posts up-to-date information on the main University web site (uncg.edu) and on the main Spartan Alert page (spartanalert.uncg.edu).

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. Be sure to **subscribe to Canvas Announcements**.