

UNITED STATE HISTORY SINCE 1865
(History 2112-02 and 03)

Instructor: Cita Cook

Spring Semester, 2008

Office: 3210 TLC (678-839-6037)

email: ccook@westga.edu

Website: <http://www.westga.edu/~ccook>

Office Hours: Monday, 1:30-4:30; Wednesday, 1:30-5:30; other times, by appointment

Class Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00-10:50 and 11:00-11:50, 102 Pafford

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will learn basic developments in the history of the United States, from the end of the Civil War to the late twentieth century. In their exams and other assignments, they will demonstrate knowledge of how men and women, as individuals and in groups, affected the development of American society, what problems they faced, how they tried to overcome those problems, how all of this varied for people in different circumstances and affected the lives of Americans today. In all assignments, they will demonstrate improvement in reading and writing about history. For more information on Learning Outcomes for History 2112, go to the History Department website (www.westga.edu/~history).

TEXTBOOKS (in a packet together)

The Enduring Vision by Paul Boyer, et al., Volume II, Dolphin Edition, Houghton Mifflin
Enduring Voices, edited by James J. Lorence, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Houghton Mifflin
Atlas of American History, Houghton Mifflin and Rand McNally

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Class Attendance, Participation, and Short Assignments - 5% of the semester grade

A. Class Attendance: The typical class will involve a combination of lecture, discussion, and occasional videotapes. Some of the information and ideas of the course will be presented or explained only in class, so you should decide what note-taking system works best for you. Do NOT try to write down everything that is said or presented on an overhead transparency. It is much more useful to listen carefully enough to understand what is being said. **STUDENTS WHO TRY TO WRITE DOWN EVERYTHING WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THE MEANING USUALLY DO NOT DO WELL IN THIS CLASS.** Let me know if you need help on how to avoid this mistake. Except for the first few classes, you do not have to bring the textbook to class, but you will need to bring the documents from Enduring Voices for whatever chapters we are covering.

Regular attendance is required. You are allowed 5 unexcused absences. Each absence without a validated serious excuse approved by the instructor will lower your semester grade by 2 points. Chronic unexcused tardiness will also lower your grade. If you have to miss a class, you are responsible for discussing with me whether it is excused and for arranging to get any handouts, to find out what was covered in class, and to make up missed assignments.

You should average six hours of study a week for this class (two hours for every hour in class). If you are doing this and still feel confused or overwhelmed, make an appointment to meet with me or to discuss your concerns by telephone. Too often instructors find out too late about problems that could have been solved fairly easily with earlier notification.

B. Weekly Reading and Comment Sheets: Each week on my website there will be an assignment sheet indicating the required reading in the textbook and the documents book, as well

as lists of study questions, identifications, and dates that you need to know for the tests. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN WRITING** and I do not have time to correct attempts to do so. If you write down answers, always do so in your own words rather than copying or trying to memorize the exact words of the text; that is the only way you can tell if you really understand the material. **MEMORIZATION WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO EXPLAIN THE MATERIAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS DOES NOT WORK IN THIS CLASS.**

If you are not sure of the answer to any of the questions, please ask about them in class and/or in your comment sheets. Do not try to do all of the reading at once, but always read all of the assigned pages.

Everyone is required to hand in a casual comment sheet that is at least one-half a page (average handwriting) at least once every two weeks. It can include questions about the reading (especially the documents) and the class, topics or even words you did not understand, thoughts or feelings inspired by the history, and anything else you think I should know. **DO NOT TRY TO SUMMARIZE THE MATERIAL; INSTEAD, GIVE YOUR PERSONAL REACTIONS AND QUESTIONS.** Think of these comments as a way to discuss the history without worrying about whether what you write is “right” or “wrong,” as well as a way to let me know what is going on in your mind. Although the individual comment sheets will not be graded, the credit for participation will depend, in part, on your following these directions correctly. They will be handed back so you can receive feedback and use them for review.

II. Homework Assignments - 5% of the grade

There will be several writing exercises assigned as homework, usually involving particular skills and/or discussion of issues arising from some documents. They will be designed to help you develop the skills and knowledge needed for the tests and the essay. They may be handwritten as long as your writing is clearly legible. Some will be required and some optional. Grades on optional assignments will be included only if they raise your average.

III. Essay on a Set of Historical Documents - 15% of the semester grade

A 3-5 page paper is due at the end of the semester on what can be learned from the documents in one section in the documents book (one set of documents, not one chapter). Specific instructions will be handed out at least a month before the assignment is due. Do not try to start it before then. This paper should be typed or printed unless you have special permission to do it in handwriting. I will not accept any papers sent by email attachment or on disk. Please do not put them in a folder; if you do, I shall throw it away.

IV. Tests - 75% of the semester grade

There will be four tests, including the final examination, based on both the reading and the class lectures. Three of the tests will count 20% of the semester grade; the lowest test grade will count 15%. Nothing will be on a test that does not involve information required for the study sheets, but some questions may be worded differently and may combine information from more than one chapter. Each test will involve a combination of short-answer, identifying, and short outline/mini-essay questions. The final exam will cover only material from the required chapters that were not included in the other tests.

V. Extra Credit - up to 3 points of the semester grade

Extra credit will be given for doing a good-faith attempt of optional homework

assignments (one-half a semester grade point each) and for one or two page reports about lectures, movies, plays, or museum visits that relate to what we are covering (one point each).

VI. Academic Honesty

All assignments and tests handed in at the State University of West Georgia should reflect only the work of an individual student. This does not mean that students should not study together, only that each one should work alone when doing the final version of an assignment. Any use or paraphrasing of the ideas, information, or words of anyone else without crediting them is plagiarism and is a crime. A direct quote of the words (even only a few words) of someone else must be in quotation marks as well as have a note of its source. Any clear evidence of plagiarism or any other kind of cheating on a test or any other graded assignment will (after consultation with the student) result in a permanent zero for that assignment. See the section on the Honor Code in the Catalog or Uncatalog.

SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative, so notice any changes on the weekly assignment sheets or announced in class. The exact test dates cannot be any sooner than the dates below but may be a little later.

January 9, 11 - Introduction

1. January 14, 16, 18 - Transformation of the West (17)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY on Monday, January 21

2. January 23, 25 - Political Reconstruction (Chapter 16A)

3. January 28, 30, February 1 - Economic Reconstruction (16B)

4. February 4, 6, 8 - Industrialization (18A)

TEST I ON FRIDAY, February 8

5. February 11, 13, 15 - Responses to the Problems of Industrialization (18B, 19)

6. February 18, 20, 22 - Late Nineteenth Century Politics (20)

7. February 25, 27, 29 - Progressive Era (21)

TEST II ON FRIDAY, February 29

8. March 3, 5, 7 - Expansion and World War I (22)

(March 3 is the last day to withdraw with a W.)

9. March 10, 12, 14 -The Twenties (23)

SPRING VACATION THE WEEK OF MARCH 17

10. March 24, 26, 28 - The Depression and the New Deal (24)

11. March 31, April 2, 4 - World War II (25)

TEST III ON FRIDAY, April 4

12. April 7, 9, 11 - The Cold War and Red Scare (26)

13. April 14, 16, 18 - The Fifties (27)

14. April 21, 23, 25 - The Sixties (28 and 29A)

15. April 28, 30 - The Late Sixties and Seventies (29B and 30)

ESSAY DUE, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

FINAL EXAM (TEST IV) :

For the 10:00 class: Wednesday May 7, 8:00-10:00 (YES, IT IS AT 8:00 AM.)

For the 11:00 class: Friday, May 2, 11:00-1:00