

Course Description

This course surveys U.S. history from the post-Civil War period to the present. Lectures and assigned readings trace the shaping of American political institutions, the changing of American society, the evolution of the American economy, and the nature of American foreign relations since the Civil War era. The course will be arranged topically covering issues related to the changing relationship between the federal government and its citizens and the expanding citizenship rights of women and minorities.

Class Content

This class is divided into three individual sections. Each section will cover a chosen topic chronologically.

Topic One: From Emancipation to *Cooper v. Aaron*: A History of the Struggle for Racial Equality in America

Topic Two: From Seneca Falls to *Roe v. Wade*: A History of the Struggle for Gender Equality in America

Topic Three: The Freedom of Expression and Individual Liberty in America

Learning Objectives

1. Students will acquire a general knowledge of the major themes and events in American history since 1865.
2. Students will acquire a national and international perspective of American history since 1865.
3. Students will acquire active reading skills that will hone their comprehensive and analytical skills.
4. Students will learn the difference between a primary and secondary source.
5. Students will learn how historians have used these sources to interpret the past.
6. Students will learn how to be critical of extant historical interpretations and sources.
7. Students will enhance their writing skills through the completion of several analytical writing assignments.
8. Students will learn to draw connections between their daily lives and past events.
9. Students will enhance the basic skills (reading, writing, studying, verbal participation) required to successfully earn a college degree.

Professor Contact Information

Office Location and Hours:

History Department, TLC #3245 [**On most days I will hold office hours at Pafford Hall**].

Pafford Hall #207: MWF 10:00 to 1:00 and by appointment.

Office Phone Number:

E-mail: khebert@westga.edu

A syllabus is a legal contract: Your remaining in the course indicates that you have read the syllabus and understand all requirements.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that impair their course performance should contact the course professor as soon as possible. The UWG Student Disability Services Office's URL is: <http://www.westga.edu/~dserve/faculty.html> and their phone number is 678-839-6428.

Electronic Devices Policy (Audio Recorders, Laptops, Cell Phones, I-Pods, etc.)

The use of electronic devices during class is strictly forbidden. Students should turn off and store all electronic devices prior to entering class. No student should be seen wearing any type of earphone device while in class. Students using electronic devices in class without my permission will be counted absent from class. Repeat offenders will receive a 30-point reduction in their final exam grade. Students who wish to use laptop computers to assist with note taking should sit near the front of class.

Required Textbooks (Four Total)

1. Kermit Hall, *The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
2. N.E.H. Hull, *Roe v. Wade: The Abortion Controversy in American History*. Kansas University Press.
3. Robert Cottrol, *Cooper v. Aaron and School Desegregation*. Kansas University Press.
4. Laura Wittern-Keller. *The Miracle Case: Film Censorship and the Supreme Court*. Kansas University Press.

Required Course Materials

- 30 Scantron form no. NCS 229629 (pink rectangular form)
- 3 Large Blue Exam Books

Course Grading Scale and Assessments

Semester Grade Averages

- A = 89.5-100
- B = 79.5-89.4
- C = 69.5-79.4
- D = 59.5-69.4
- F = 59.4 and below*

*Students who miss more than six classes for the entire semester will receive a failing grade for the course.

Assessments

Reading Quizzes/Attendance	20 percent of final course grade
On-Line Assignments	20 percent of final course grade
Exam One	20 percent of final course grade
Exam Two	20 percent of final course grade
Final Exam*	20 percent of final course grade

*The final exam will not be cumulative and will cover only the final third of the course.

Academic Honesty Policy

The University of West Georgia Department of History does not tolerate violations of the university's honor code. It is every student's responsibility to read and understand the university honor code. The university honor code is published annually in the university student handbook. The handbook is available on-line at: <http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php>
Students who commit acts of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the semester.

Attendance and Reading Quizzes **20 percent of final course grade**

This class meets 48 times. Students are allowed six absences for the entire semester. *Students who miss more than six classes will receive a failing grade for the semester.*

Attendance will be taken at the start of every class period. Students who are late will be counted as tardy. Students who miss more than one half of the class session will be counted absent.

Three tardies equals one class absence.

Students are expected to stay for the entire class period unless they receive my permission to leave early. Students who need to leave early should speak with me prior to the start of class.

Students who leave prior to the end of class will be counted absent and will receive a zero on all assignments due on that class date.

Students are expected to act in a professional manner while attending class. Students who fail to act in a professional manner will be counted absent from class and possibly be asked to leave class. The following behavior is considered unacceptable and will result in an absence: talking in class without permission; listening to I-Pods or MP3 players during class; playing computer games or surfing the internet during class; sleeping; reading material or completing assignments for another class.

Reading Quizzes: Students will complete one or two quizzes per week. Pop quizzes will cover that day's reading assignments. Quiz guides will be available on-line for each class period. Quizzes will contain 5-10 objective questions (multiple choice & true/false). To conserve paper all quizzes will be delivered using Powerpoint. Students with vision problems should sit near the front of the room. Students who leave before or after the quiz will receive a zero on that quiz and will be counted absent from that day's class. Students need to bring a scantron form (no. NCS 229629) to every class. Quizzes not completed using the correct form will receive an automatic 30-point reduction.

On-line Assignments **20 percent of final grade**

Students will complete several on-line assignments throughout the semester. Assignments will typically involve some form of group discussion. Students will receive their online assignments approximately one week before they are due. Assignments will be graded according to a student's overall effort in completing the assignment as well as a student's ability to thoroughly follow directions. Students who do not follow directions or turn in on-line assignments late will receive a failing grade for these assignments. All online assignments will be completed using Courseden. The course professor will closely monitor all discussion posts. Students who post inappropriate behavior will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

Exam One **20 percent of final grade**

This exam will cover assigned readings and course lectures during the first third of the course. The book, *Cooper v. Aaron*, will be part of this exam. The exam will contain a number of short

answer questions and an essay question. A study guide will be posted one week prior to the exam on Courseden. Students will need to bring a black ink pen and a blue exam book to class on exam day. This exam will be held on September 21.

Exam Two **20 percent of final grade**

This exam will cover assigned readings and course lectures during the second third of the course. The book, *Roe v. Wade*, will be part of this exam. The exam will contain a number of short answer questions and an essay question. A study guide will be posted one week prior to the exam on Courseden. Students will need to bring a black ink pen and a blue exam book to class on exam day. This exam will be held on October 26.

Final Exam **20 percent of final grade**

The final exam is not cumulative. This exam will cover assigned readings and course lectures during the final third of the course. The book, *The Miracle Case*, will be part of this exam. The exam will contain a number of short answer questions and an essay question. A study guide will be posted one week prior to the exam on Courseden. Students will need to bring a black ink pen and a blue exam book to class on exam day. The final exam is on:

- a. MWF 9:00-9:50 Class: **Monday, Dec. 7, 8-10 AM**
- b. MWF 1:00-1:50 Class: **Friday, Dec. 11, 11 AM-1 PM**

All examination essays will be graded according to the following rubric:

A	Student demonstrated the completion and understanding of all assigned readings. Student demonstrated a firm grasp of the course lectures. Students integrated related assigned readings and lecture materials into the essay. The essay was well-written with a clearly defined and well-supported thesis. Essay does not contain any glaring factual errors. The essay demonstrates a student's broad knowledge of the material covered in this course.
B	Student demonstrated the completion and understanding of all assigned readings. Student demonstrated a firm grasp of the course lectures. Student integrated related assigned readings and lecture materials into the essay. The writing of the essay could have been improved (lack of thesis, supporting evidence, grammatical problems, etc.). Essay does not contain any glaring factual errors. The student failed to fully analyze the subject matter. It is clear that the student prepared for the exam, but at times struggled to demonstrate their preparation and knowledge in writing.
C	Student left some doubt about whether or not he/she completed and understood all of the assigned readings. Student left out several pertinent assigned readings and relevant lecture materials that would have improved their essay. The writing of the essay needs improvement (lack of thesis, supporting evidence, grammatical problems, etc.). Essay contains a minimal amount of factual errors. The student failed to adequately analyze the subject matter. It is clear that the student needed to spend more time preparing for the exam and/or needs help learning how to prepare for an essay exam. Student should spend more time reading and reviewing the assigned reading materials as well as class notes before taking the next exam.
F	Student failed to demonstrate the completion and understanding of assigned reading materials. Student failed to incorporate class lecture material into the exam. Student failed to make appropriate connections between course assignments and his/her essay. Student wrote a poorly crafted essay (lack of thesis, no supporting evidence, miststatements of fact,

grammatical errors). Essay contains a number of factual errors. Student should consult with the course professor prior to completing the next exam. Student should spent more time reading and reviewing the assigned reading materials as well as class notes before taking the next exam.

Assigned Readings: Students will receive reading assignments each Friday throughout the semester for the following week. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to the start of class.