

HIST 2112
THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865
FALL SEMESTER 2009

Instructor: Matthew Hild

Office: TLC 3221 Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:50-12:20, 3:20-4:45, Wednesday, 1:30-5:00 Office telephone: (678) 839-6043

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Required books:

George Brown Tindall and David Emory Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 7th ed., Vol. 2
ISBN 0-393-92736-9

James C. Cobb, *Georgia Odyssey*, 2nd ed. ISBN 0-8203-3050-7

Course description: This course will utilize lectures, reading assignments, and occasionally films to examine the social, political, and economic history of the United States since the end of the Civil War. Specific topics will include Reconstruction, American industrialization, two world wars, the Great Depression and the New Deal, the Cold War, and the civil rights movement.

Exams and grading:

--There will be three examinations in this course, including a non-comprehensive final exam. Each exam will consist of fifty multiple choice questions, and each exam will constitute one fourth (25%) of the course grade. **Students must purchase a long-form (100 question) Scantron sheet at the UWG bookstore and bring that form to class on the date of each exam along with a #2 pencil.** (The short-form sheet will not work since that form only contains 40 questions.) Makeup exams will only be given to students who provide documentation verifying a valid excuse (illness, car accident, court summons, death in the family). Makeup exams will be written rather than multiple choice.

--There will also be a written assignment of approximately three double-spaced typed pages on *Georgia Odyssey*. This assignment will count for the remaining quarter (25%) of the course grade. More detailed instructions about this assignment will be provided at a later date. The assignment will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 15.

--During a class period shortly before each exam, a film will be shown pertaining to some topic(s) in United States history relevant to the era being covered by that exam. Any student who writes an acceptable paper of about 500 to 600 words (typed and double-spaced) summarizing that film in his or her own words will receive up to five bonus points on that exam. The paper must be turned in (in printed form) no later than the beginning of the class period on the date of that exam. These three papers will be the only opportunities for extra credit in this course.

--Each student's course grade will be determined according to the following scale, with no exceptions:

89.50 or above=A; 79.50-89.49=B; 69.50-79.49=C; 59.50-69.49=D; less than 59.50=F.

Classroom etiquette: All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class. Students will also of course be required to abide by the University of West Georgia Honor Code, which can be found in the 2009-2010 *UWG Connection and Student Handbook* on page 87.

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and exam dates:

Week 1 (August 13): Introduction

Week 2 (August 18 and 20) Topic: Reconstruction, 1865-1877

Reading assignment: *America*, chap. 18; begin reading *Georgia Odyssey* (read pages 1-53 before the first exam)

Week 3 (August 25 and 27) Topics: The New South and the New West; Big Business and Labor, 1877-1900

Reading assignment: *America*, chaps. 19-20

Week 4 (September 1 and 3) Topics: Gilded Age Politics and Culture; The Populist Revolt

Reading assignment: *America*, chaps. 21-22

Week 5 (September 8 and 10) Topics: American Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Reading assignment: *America*, chap. 23

Week 6

Exam # 1, Tuesday, September 15 (covers material from the first five weeks)

September 17: The Progressive Movement, part I (read *America*, chap. 24, and continue reading *Georgia Odyssey*)

Week 7 (September 22 and 24) Topics: The Progressive Movement, part II; World War I

Reading assignment: *America*, chap. 25

Week 8 (September 29 and October 1) Topics: The Roaring Twenties; The Great Depression, part I (1929-1933)

Reading assignment: *America*, chaps. 26-27

Week 9 (October 6 and 8) Topics: The Great Depression, part II (The New Deal); World War II

Reading assignment: *America*, chaps. 28-30

Week 10 (October 13; **no class on October 15 (fall break)**)

No reading assignment

Week 11

Exam # 2, Tuesday, October 20 (covers material from weeks six through ten)

October 22: The Cold War and the Baby Boom (read *America*, chaps. 31-32)

Week 12 (October 27 and 29) Topics: Cuba, Camelot, and Civil Rights
Reading assignment: *America*, chap. 33 plus pages 941-960

Week 13 (November 3; **no class on November 5**)
Topic: The Vietnam War, Watergate, and the Downfall of Two Presidents
Reading assignment: *America*, pages 960-996

Week 14 (November 10 and 12) Topics: “Stagflation,” Malaise, and the Reagan Revolution
Reading assignment: *America*, pages 996-1017

Week 15 (November 17 and 19) Topics: The End of the Cold War; America at the End of the Twentieth Century
Reading assignment: *America*, pages 1017-1046
***Georgia Odyssey* paper due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 15**

Week 16 (November 24 (**no class on November 26 (Thanksgiving)**)
Week 17 (December 1—last regular day of class)

There are no reading assignments for weeks 16 and 17. The last film will be shown on one of these days, and the other day will be used for reviewing material for the final exam, which will cover all material from week 11 and thereafter.

This list of dates and assignments represents the plan for the course, but it may have to be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. If any adjustments are made, students will be notified in class and/or by e-mail.

Final exam schedule (Students *must* take the exam with their class section.)
HIST 2112-02 (Tu/Th 9:30) Thursday, December 10, 8:00 AM
HIST 2112-04 (Tu/Th 12:30) Thursday, December 10, 11:00 AM
HIST 2112-05 (Tu/Th 2:00) Tuesday, December 8, 2:00 PM