

HISTORY 2112-03: American History Since 1865
Spring 2005 3:20p-4:40p

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
Office Hours: MWF 10:40a-11:10a; 12:15p-3:15p
Office: TLC 3202 Office Phone: 678-839-6032
Email: cvasconc@westga.edu

Course Description:

This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history from 1865 to the Present. Topics include but are not restricted to imperialism, expansion, warfare, industrialization, immigration, civil rights, suffrage, and the changing role of the United States in foreign affairs. In order to examine American History from a well-rounded point of view, much of this class will take an Atlantic perspective in order to fully understand the peoples, events, and cultures that influenced and impacted the American past.

Learning Outcomes:

Learning outcomes for this course are as follows:

- * To provide students with an overall knowledge of American History since 1865
- * To provide students with an overall knowledge of how American History changed over time
- * To teach students how to analyze and understand the events and people that had a significant impact on American History
- * To teach students how to make connections between course readings, materials, and lectures and how to communicate these findings in informal reaction papers and in class discussions.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the evaluation of three examinations, ten reaction papers, and overall class participation.

Texts: (available both in the bookstore and on reserve in library)

George Brown Tindall & David E. Shi, *America: A Narrative History*, Full 6th Edition, Vol. 2 (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2003)

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Exams: 60%

You will have three exams over the course of the term, with each exam consisting of 20% of your final grade. Each exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and a short essay. Study guides will be given out one week before the date of the exam to help you in your exam preparation. We will also have a brief study session the class meeting before the exam. It is not mandatory that you attend, but it is recommended. Each exam will begin at the start of class. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will not be allowed to take the exam. *It is your responsibility to come see me in the event that you miss an exam.* If you miss an exam for any reason, the exam will be essay only. For

those of you who miss an exam for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. If you do not have proper documentation, you will not be allowed to make up the exam. Furthermore, you have one week to make up the exam. If you do not make up the exam in one week's time, you will be given an F for that exam. If you schedule a make up exam with me but fail to show up, you will not be given another chance to make up the exam and will receive an F for the exam.

Reaction Papers: 20%

Throughout the course of the semester, you will be expected to write 10 reaction papers on the assigned readings and in class lectures. For each paper, you will insert yourself into the material discussed for the week and write a diary entry from the perspective of someone who is actually living during that time in history. Each paper should be 1-2 pages, and will be worth 2 points each. The ten papers combined will be worth 20 points total, or roughly the same value as one test grade. Reaction papers are to be typed in 12 point print with 1 inch margins. No late papers will be accepted, and each paper is due by 5p the date that it is due. Email submissions are accepted, but please be advised that email submissions will not be returned. If you email your papers, don't expect to get them back. I will, however, confirm that the email was sent and that the paper is received. Reaction papers that have been written in other classes will not be accepted.

Class Participation: 20%

Although there will be class lectures throughout the semester, you will also be expected to participate in class discussion, group activities, etc on a daily basis. All reading assignments must be completed before the start of class, so that you will be ready to engage in class discussion, debate, and analysis. While you are expected to speak up in class and ask questions, you are also expected to respect your fellow students' opinions. I will not tolerate disrespect of any kind, and you will be asked to leave.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be available from time to time during the course of the semester, but only in the form of assignments or tasks given by me. Extra credit opportunities offered by the University will not be accepted in this class, as they usually have little to do with the study of History. Extra Credit written for other classes will not be accepted.

Class Policies:

Cell Phones:

TURN THEM OFF!!!! If you need them on for emergency purposes, please set the ring to vibrate only. If I hear a phone ring, you will be asked to leave the class. During exams, cell phones are to be turned off and out of sight. No vibrate, no text messaging, nada. If I hear a cell phone vibrate during an exam, you will be asked to leave and your test will be graded as is.

Attendance and Tardiness:

I will not be taking attendance in this class. You are all adults. Please keep in mind, however, that excessive absences will affect your class participation grade and your class performance. Excessive

lateness is disruptive to the class, affecting your fellow students as well as me. If for any reason, you need to leave class early, please let me know ahead of time. In short, come on time and stay for the whole class. If you miss class, I suggest you borrow notes from a classmate. Mine are not available, so do not ask. Study groups are also encouraged, but not required.

Academic Honesty:

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class, and any student found guilty will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action as well.

Please note that anything is possible and anything can happen over the course of a semester. Therefore, I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus and the course if the need arises.

Tentative Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 The New South and the Far West

Monday, August 14: Orientation and Introduction to Course

Wednesday, August 16: *America*-Chapter 19

Week 2 Big Business

Monday, August 21: *America*-Chapter 20

Wednesday, August 23: begin *America*-Chapter 21 REACTION PAPER 1 DUE

Week 3 Urbanization and Reform

Monday, August 28: finish *America*-Chapter 21

Wednesday, August 30: *America*-Chapter 22 REACTION PAPER 2 DUE

Week 4 The Spanish American War

Monday, September 4: NO CLASSàLabor Day Holiday

Wednesday, September 6: *America*-Chapter 23

Week 5 Progressivism

Monday, September 11: begin *America*-Chapter 24

Wednesday, September 13: finish *America*-Chapter 24 REACTION PAPER 3 DUE

Week 6 Exam 1 and World War I

Monday, September 18: **EXAM 1** Don't forget to bring a bluebook!

Wednesday, September 20: *America*-Chapter 25

Week 7 The Roaring 20's

Monday, September 25: *America*-Chapter 26

Wednesday, September 27: begin *America*-Chapter 27 REACTION PAPER 4 DUE

Week 8 The Great Depression and a New Deal

Monday, October 2: finish *America*-Chapter 27

Wednesday, October 4: *America*-Chapter 28 REACTION PAPER 5 DUE

******NOTE: October 6th is the last day to drop with a grade of W**

Week 9 America Prepares for War

Monday, October 9: No Class à Fall Break

Wednesday, October 11: *America*-Chapter 29

Week 10 World War II and The Holocaust

Monday, October 16: no readings, in class lecture only

Wednesday, October 18: *America*-Chapter 30 REACTION PAPER 6 DUE

Week 11 Exam 2 and Post War America

Monday, October 23:**EXAM 2** Don't forget to bring a bluebook!

Wednesday, October 25: begin *America*-Chapter 31

Week 12 The Cold War

Monday, October 30: finish *America*-Chapter 31

Wednesday, November 1: *America*-Chapter 32 REACTION PAPER 7 DUE

Week 13 The Politics of Change: Part I

Monday, November 6: *America*-Chapter 33

Wednesday, November 8: begin *America*-Chapter 34 REACTION PAPER 8 DUE

Week 14 Watch and Discuss the Movie *Pleasantville* November 13-15

Week 15 The Politics of Change: Part II

Monday, November 20: finish *America*-Chapter 34 REACTION PAPER 9 DUE

Wednesday, November 22: No Class à Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 16 The Carter Years and Reaganomics

Monday, November 27: *America*-Chapter 35

Wednesday, November 29: *America*-Chapter 36 REACTION PAPER 10 DUE

FINAL EXAM:

Monday, December 4 from 2p-4p

Don't forget to bring a bluebook!

