

United States History since 1865  
Hist. 2112: L2B, LXB  
Fall 2008

**Professor:** Dr. Stephanie Wright

**Office:** TLC 3208

**Phone:** 678-839-6035

**email:** [swright@westga.edu](mailto:swright@westga.edu)

\* Please note that all email communications must take place through campus email.

**Office Hours:** Tu/Th 9-9:30; 10:45-12; 12:30-2:00; 3:15-3:45; and by appointment

**Class Meetings:** Tu/Th, 9:30-10:45, TLC 1203

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:** This course explores the social, political, and cultural history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. It provides students with an opportunity to examine the historical origins of present day America by studying the various individuals, groups, institutions, and movements that shaped the modern United States. Through the use of examinations, oral participation, and essays, students will develop their critical thinking and writing skills. Upon completion of the course, students should have a deeper understanding of how the past shapes our present experiences as well as the tools used by historians to study the past.

### Class Evaluation

<b>Exams:</b>	200 points each
<b>Participation:</b>	50 points
<b>Short Research Paper</b>	200 points
<b>Primary Source Analysis</b>	50 points each
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>1000</b>

Exams: There will be three exams. Exams will cover material from your assigned readings, lectures, and films. You will need blue books for the exams. Please turn in three small blue books by **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. They will be initialed by me or the graduate assistant for the class and returned to you on test day. Any un-initialed blue books will be returned to you with a grade of zero (0). Please purchase the large, pink scantron (Form 229633). Make up exams will only be given in the case of a **documented** medical emergency. Exams must be made up within one week. All electronic devices should be turned off during exams.

Short Research Paper: Each student will complete a 5-6 page research paper. Please see Web Ct for a detailed assignment sheet and list of topics. This paper should be submitted via WebCt. Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center. Submit a hard copy of your initialed draft to me on the due date (**October 30<sup>th</sup>**).

Primary Source Analysis: Each student will complete **three** primary source analyses. Please see Web Ct for a detailed explanation of this assignment. These should be turned in via Web Ct. A primary source analysis is due on **Sept. 9, Oct. 14, and Nov. 25**.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken during the first five minutes of class. Students who enter class after attendance has been taken or who leave prior to the end of class without an excuse will be counted as absent. Students who engage in inappropriate behavior (e.g. talking while others are talking, text messaging during class) will be asked to leave. **Four** absences, excused or unexcused, will be allowed. Every absence after four will result in a 25 point reduction from your over all grade. Excessive absences or tardiness may result in your withdrawal from this course with a grade of WF.

Participation is an integral part of the learning process. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. To aid you in process of analyzing the reading, there may be short un-announced quizzes given on the day's readings. These will be factored into your participation grade.

**Academic Honesty:** The work that you submit should be original. Evidence of cheating will result in a **failing grade for the course**. Please see the History Department's statement on plagiarism at: <http://www.westga.edu/~history>

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade a day beginning at the close of class on the assignment's due date.

### Assigned Texts

Mary Beth Norton, et al., *A People and a Nation*, vol. 2, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (brief), see <http://college.hmco.com/pic/nortonbreif7e> for study tips and practice tests.  
Laura A. Belmonte, *Speaking of America*, vol. II: Since 1865

### Course Schedule

Aug. 19	Course Intro.
Aug. 21	Reconstruction Belmonte, 12.1-12.9 and 12.11
Aug. 26	Reconstruction, Norton, Ch. 16
Aug. 28	The Development of the West Norton, Ch. 17 Video: "The Transcontinental Railroad"
Sept. 2	Native Cultures in the West Belmonte, 13.8-13.11
Sept. 4	Industrialization Read ½ of Norton, Ch. 18
Sept. 9	Industrialization Finish Ch. 18 of Norton and read Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," online at <a href="http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/carnegie.htm">http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/carnegie.htm</a>
	<b>Primary Source Analysis Due</b>
Sept. 11	The Growth of Urban America Norton, Ch. 19
Sept. 16	The Growth of Urban America Belmonte, 13.1-13.3 and 13.7
Sept. 18	Gilded Age Politics and Populism

- Norton, Ch. 20 and Belmonte, 15.6
- Sept. 23 **EXAM 1**
- Sept. 25 The Progressive Era  
Norton, Ch. 21 and Belmonte, 16.3, 16.5
- Sept. 30 Progressivism and Repression: Racial Violence during the Progressive Era  
Belmonte, 14.6-14.8
- Oct. 2 Woman's Suffrage during the Progressive Era  
Belmonte, 12.10, 16.7, 17.4
- Oct. 7 Imperialism  
Norton, Ch. 22  
Film: "America: 1900"
- October 8, 2008 – last day to withdraw with a W**
- Oct. 9 **No Class, Fall Break**
- Oct. 14 Imperialism  
Belmonte, 15.7-15.8
- Primary Source Analysis Due**
- Oct. 16 WWI  
Norton, Ch. 23
- Oct. 21 The end of WWI and the Red Scare  
Belmonte, 17.3, 17.6, and 17.7
- Oct. 23 The 1920s  
Norton, Ch. 24 and Belmonte, 18.3, 18.5
- Oct. 28 The Great Depression  
Norton, Ch. 25 and Belmonte, 19.1, 19.2
- Oct. 30 The New Deal  
Belmonte, 19.3-19.5 and 19.9
- Short Research Paper Due**
- Nov. 4 The end of the New Deal and WWII  
Norton, Ch. 26
- Nov. 6 **EXAM 2**
- Nov. 11 WWII  
Norton, Ch. 27 and Belmonte, 20.3, 20.5, 20.8
- Nov. 13 The Cold War and the Affluent Society  
Norton, Ch. 28 and Belmonte, 22.6
- Nov. 18 The Cold War  
Norton, Ch. 29 and pp. 555-557 in Ch. 30
- Nov. 20 The Civil Rights Movement  
Norton, Ch. 30
- Nov. 25 The Civil Rights Movement  
Belmonte, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 23.6
- Primary Source Analysis Due**
- Nov. 27 **No Class, Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec. 2 Vietnam  
Norton, pp. 563-572 in Ch. 30 and pp. 580-582 in Ch. 31  
Belmonte, 23.8-23.11
- Dec. 4 Watergate and Current Issues

Norton, pp. 583-586; Belmonte, 24.3

Bring in a newspaper article that reflects an important issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 11, 2008, 8-10 AM**