

United States History since 1865
Hist. 2112: 25H
Spring 2009

Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wright

Office: TLC 3208

Phone: 678-839-6035

email: 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; 1:45-3:45 and by appointment.

Class Meetings: Tu/Th, 12:30-1:45, TLC 3205

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: This course explores the social, political, and economic 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.

For the learning outcomes expected of all students in history courses, please see the History Department's website at <http://www.westga.edu/~history>

Class Evaluation

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Exams 1 and 2 | 150 points each |
| Final Exam | 200 points |
| Participation: | 50 points |
| Short Research Paper | 150 points |
| Primary Source Analysis (2) | 50 points each |
| Book Review (2) | 100 points each |
| Total Possible Points | 1000 |

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. 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 consult the detailed paper instructions prior to submitting the paper. **Due April 16th**.

Primary Source Analysis: Each student will complete **two** primary source analyses. First essay due **March 3rd**. Second essay due **April 28th**.

Book Review (2): You will review Anzia Yezierska's *The Bread Givers* and Robert McElvaine's *The Great Depression: America, 1929-1941*. The review of Yezierska is due **February 5th**. The review of McElvaine is due **March 26th**.

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 overall 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. This is a small class and will be run as a seminar. Its success is, in part, dependent upon your class participation. 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, 7th edition (brief), see <http://college.hmco.com/pic/nortonbrief7e> for study tips and practice tests.

Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, *Major Problems in American History*, vol. 2: since 1865. 2nd ed. Anzia Yezierska, *Bread Givers* foreword and introduction by Alice Kessler-Harris, New York: Persea Books.

Robert McElvaine, *The Great Depression: America, 1929-1941* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1984).

Course Schedule

| | |
|----------|---|
| Jan. 8 | Course Intro. |
| Jan. 13 | Reconstruction Norton, Ch. 16 |
| Jan. 15 | Reconstruction Major Problems, "Intro. To Students," all documents in Ch. 1; Foner essay in Ch. 1 |
| Jan. 20 | The Frontier Norton, Ch. 17 |
| Jan. 22 | Native Cultures in the West Major Problems, Ch. 2 |
| Jan. 27 | Industrialization Read ½ of Norton, Ch. 18; Book I, <i>Bread Givers</i> |
| Jan. 29 | Industrialization Finish Ch. 18 of Norton; Major Problems, Ch. 3, documents 2-7; Book II, <i>Bread Givers</i> 5 extra credit points for submitting paper topic and annotated bibliography today. |
| Feb. 3 | The Growth of Urban America Norton, Ch. 19; complete <i>Bread Givers</i> . |
| Feb. 5 | The Growth of Urban America Discussion of <i>Bread Givers</i> , Book Review Due |
| Feb. 10 | The Progressive Era Norton, Ch. 21 |
| Feb. 12 | The Progressive Era Major Problems, Ch. 5 |
| Feb. 17 | EXAM 1 |
| Feb. 19 | Women in the Progressive Era Reserve Reading, Ellen DuBois and Lynn Dumenil, Ch. 7, <i>Through Women's Eyes</i> |
| Feb. 24 | The Spanish-American-Cuban-Filipino War Norton, Ch. 22 |
| Feb. 26 | Imperialism Major Problems, Ch. 4 Film: "America: 1900" March 2, 2009– last day to withdraw with a W |
| March 3 | WWI Norton, Ch. 23. Primary Source Essay Due |
| March 5 | WWI and Its Aftermath Major Problems, Ch. 6 |
| March 10 | The "Roaring" Twenties Major Problems, Ch. 7 5 extra credit points for submitting paper introduction today. |
| March 12 | The Great Depression |

March 16-21 Chs. 1-5, McElvaine
Spring Break: No Class
 March 24 The Great Depression
 Chs.6-10, McElvaine
 March 26 The New Deal
 Complete McElvaine. Discussion of *The Great Depression*. **Book Review Due**
 March 31 WWII
 Norton, Ch. 27
Last day to submit draft of research paper for review and comment.
 April 2 WWII
 Major Problems, Ch. 9
 April 7 **Exam 2**
 April 9 The Cold War
 Norton, Ch. 28, Major Problems, Ch. 10, documents
 April 14 The Cold War in the midst of an Affluent Society
 Norton, Ch. 29 and pp. 555-557 in Ch. 30, Major Problems, Ch. 11, documents 4, 8, and 9
 April 16 The Civil Rights Movement
 Major Problems, Ch. 12, essays by Sitkoff and Garrow, documents, 1 & 2
Short Research Paper Due
 April 21 The Civil Rights Movement
 Norton, Ch. 30
 April 23 Vietnam
 Norton, pp. 563-572 in Ch. 30 and pp. 580-582 in Ch. 31; Major Problems, Ch. 14, documents
 1-8
 April 28 The End of the Vietnam War and Watergate
 Norton, pp. 583-586; Major Problems, Ch. 14, documents 9 and 10.

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 7, 2009, 11-1