

**History 2112**  
**United States History Since 1865**  
**Joe Anderson, Instructor**

**Section 25H, T-TH, 9:30-10:45 AM, TLC 3205**  
**University of West Georgia**  
**Spring, 2008**

**Course Description:** This course is a broad survey of US history. Topics include politics, society, economy, technology, diplomacy, and warfare. Students will learn how Americans dealt with change in the period after the Civil War.

**Purpose:** There are three goals for this class. The first is for students to understand important people events, trends, ideas, and movements in the United States since 1865. The second goal is for students to recognize how these developments in American society relate to their lives today. The third goal is for students to improve their academic skills, particularly reading, writing, and listening. Students demonstrate their understanding through exams, writing assignments, and possibly quizzes.

**Instructor and Office Hours:** Joe Anderson is the instructor for the course. Office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 PM at 207 Pafford or by appointment at 3221 TLC.

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**Attendance:** *Students who want to succeed come to class.* Class meetings will consist of lecture, discussion of reading materials, opportunity for questions, and exam review. The instructor does not provide copies of lecture notes to students who miss class. Students who need to miss an exam should contact the instructor in advance. A period for make-up exams will be scheduled during the week before finals.

**Academic Courtesy:** *Students expect respect from their instructor and fellow students during class meetings.* Students show respect by raising their hands to indicate that they have a question or comment, turning off cell phones during class meetings, refraining from conversation when another person is speaking, and paying attention during class. Please do not come to class to read the newspaper, use the internet, sleep, or to work on other assignments.

Students need to plan ahead to arrive on time, pay attention, and stay for the entire class period.

**Academic Honesty:** *Academic honesty is expected of all students.* Students who are caught cheating will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Most importantly, students should not hand in assignments that are plagiarized from historians or copied from other students. Students should consult the University Honor Code for more information.

**Required Reading:** There are four required books for this course.

- Elizabeth Cobbs Hoffman and Jon Gjerde, editors, *Major Problems in American History*, Volume 2: Since 1865
- Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*
- Russell Baker, *Growing Up*
- Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

The *Major Problems* book includes essays by historians (secondary accounts) and historic documents (primary sources). The other books, a novel and two memoirs, are used to provide students with a more in depth understanding than the textbook provides. There will be exam questions based on the required readings. For example, you may be asked to discuss primary documents or historians' perspectives.

**Recommended Reading:** Students will benefit from reading relevant chapters of a standard history textbook, but it is not required reading for the course. A textbook will provide useful to supplement lectures and for topics not covered in class. Copies of such textbooks may be obtained at the bookstore.

**Grades and Examinations:** There are three exams and a paper in the course.

Paper	100 points
Weekly Summaries	100 points
Exam I	100 points
Exam II	100 points
<u>Exam III (final)</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	500 points
Professional Department Credit (up to)	10 points

Exams and final course grades will be on a ten point scale: 100-90% A; 89-80% B, 79-70% C; 69-60 D; 59-0% F.

Each **exam** will include an essay and short answer section. The essay will cover a broad topic relating to the material covered between each exam. Exam questions may include references to historian's essays or documents from the *Major Problems* book. The short answer will cover one of the assigned books for each exam. Exams are worth 100 points. *Students will need to bring an unmarked bluebook to class to each exam.* Bluebooks are available at the University Book Store.

Students may take make-up examinations if they contact the instructor in advance of the test. However, all make-up examinations will be administered during the last week of classes before finals week at a time and place to be announced.

Each Tuesday students will turn in one page (250 word) **summaries** of the argument from each historian's essays in the assigned chapter of *Major Problems*. Each of these short papers is worth ten points and there are fourteen chapters assigned. Papers are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, except for March 25. Each student's top ten scores will be counted towards their final course grade. Two chapters are assigned for the week

of April 21; students may elect to turn in one paper that week, although the content of both may be included on the exam. Summaries should not exceed one page in length!

The **paper** will be a 1,000 word analysis of either *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair or *Growing Up* by Russell Baker. Students will relate the events, characters, and themes of the book to the historical material from the textbook and lectures. These reviews will be:

- double spaced
- 12 point font
- standard margins
- staple bound
- Papers must be free of typographical and grammatical errors.
- No cover sheets, please.
- *No electronic copies will be accepted—plan ahead to avoid last minute computer problems!*

**Papers turned in after 9:30 AM on the due date will receive half credit;** that is to say that a student who earned 80 points would receive a 40 point penalty.

Students will choose which book they want to review, but most note that there are different due dates for each book. Students who choose to write on *The Jungle* must turn their paper in no later than February 12, at 9:30 AM. Students who choose to write on *Growing Up* must turn in their paper no later than 9:30 AM, March 13.

Students may earn up to ten extra points for professional deportment over the semester, which includes participation, attendance, and degree of progress or consistent excellence. There may be unannounced quizzes or other assignments that will be considered extra credit.

**Email communication:** *Students and faculty must use University of West Georgia email accounts for all electronic communication (i.e., jstudent@westga.edu).* This is for the protection of students and faculty.

Email can enhance communication, but it is not a substitute for face-to-face communication. Plan a meeting with the instructor if you have concerns about any class-related issues.

**WebCT:** The instructor plans to utilize WebCT for posting a copy of the syllabus, study guides, announcements, and student grades. It is not, however, set up as of the first day of class. The instructor will make an in-class announcement as soon as the account is established.

### **Class Schedule and Assignments:**

Week of January 7	Course Introduction and America in 1865
Week of January 14	Reconstruction Reading: <i>Major Problems</i> , chapter 1
Week of January 21	Westward Expansion and Rural Rebellions

- Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 2; Sinclair, *The Jungle*, Chapters 1-16
- Week of January 28                      Industrialization and Urbanization  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 3; Sinclair, *The Jungle*, Chapters 17-31
- Week of February 4                      America and the World  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 4  
**EXAM I, Thursday, February 7**
- Week of February 11                      Progressive America  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 5  
***The Jungle* PAPER DUE:** Students who wish to write on *The Jungle* must turn  
 in papers before **9:30 AM, February 12.**
- Week of February 18                      World War I  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 6
- Week of February 25                      The 1920s  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 7
- Week of March 3                          The Great Depression  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 8; Baker, *Growing Up*, Chapters 1-6
- Week of March 10                          The Great Depression  
 Reading: Baker, *Growing Up*, Chapters 7-18  
***Growing Up* PAPER DUE:** Students who wish to write on *Growing Up* must  
 turn in papers **before 9:30 AM, Thursday, March 13.**
- Week of March 17                          **NO CLASS**---Spring Break
- Week of March 24                          World War II  
**EXAM II, Tuesday, March 25**
- Week of March 31                          World War II  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 9
- Week of April 7                              Politics and Foreign Policy, 1945-1960  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 10
- Week of April 14                              The 1950s at Home  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 11; Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Parts 1-2
- Week of April 21                              JFK and LBJ: Domestic and Foreign Policy  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 12-13; Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, Parts 3-4
- Week of April 28                              Nixon Years and Beyond  
 Reading: *Major Problems*, chapter 14
- Week of May 5                                  Finals Week  
**\*\*\*EXAM III (FINAL) May 8, 8:00-10:00 AM**