

United States History since 1865
Hist. 2112: L2B & LXB
Fall 2007

Professor: Dr. Stephanie Wright

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* 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 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

Exams:	20% each
Book Review:	10%
Participation:	10%
Family History Paper:	20%

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 27th. 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). 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.

Family History Paper: Each student will complete a 4-5 page family history paper that explores one of the major historical themes discussed in this class. Please see the *Family History Paper* handout on WebCt for detailed instructions. The family history paper is due November 6, 2007. Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center. Attach the initialed draft to your final paper.

Book Review: Students will write a book review of Melissa Fay Greene's *Praying for Sheetrock*. Book reviews should focus on analyzing the text for what it can tell us about the time period under study. Reviews that provide only a summary will not earn an A or B grade. Each review should be 3-4 pages. Please see the *Writing the Book Review*

handout on WebCt for detailed instructions. The book review is due November 29, 2007. Students may receive 5 extra credit points for having a draft of the paper reviewed and initialed by an advisor at the Writing Center.

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. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student with more than **four (4)** unexcused absences. 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 will 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)

Laura A. Belmonte, *Speaking of America*, vol. II: Since 1865

Melissa Fay Greene, *Praying for Sheetrock*

Course Schedule

Aug. 16	Course Intro.
Aug. 21	Reconstruction Belmonte, 12.1-12.9 and 12.11
Aug. 23	Reconstruction, Norton, Ch. 16
Aug. 28	The Development of the West Norton, Ch. 17 Video: "The Transcontinental Railroad"
Aug. 30	Native Cultures in the West Belmonte, 13.8-13.11
Sept. 4	Industrialization Read ½ of Norton, Ch. 18
Sept. 6	Industrialization Finish Ch. 18 of Norton and read Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," online at http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/carnegie.htm
Sept. 11	The Growth of Urban America Norton, Ch. 19
Sept. 13	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. 20 **EXAM 1**
- Sept. 25 The Progressive Era
Norton, Ch. 21 and Belmonte, 16.3, 16.5
- Sept. 27 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. 4 Imperialism
Norton, Ch. 22
Film: "America: 1900"
- Oct. 8 is the last day to withdraw with a W**
- Oct. 9 Imperialism
Belmonte, 15.7-15.8
- Oct. 11 **No Class: Fall Break**
- Oct. 16 WWI
Norton, Ch. 23
- Oct. 18 The end of WWI and the Red Scare
Read Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points at
<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1918/14points.html>
- Oct. 23 The 1920s
Norton, Ch. 24 and Belmonte, 18.3, 18.5
- Oct. 25 **EXAM 2**
- Oct. 30 The Great Depression
Norton, Ch. 25 and Belmonte, 19.1, 19.2
- Nov. 1 The New Deal
Belmonte, 19.3-19.5 and 19.9
- Nov. 6 The end of the New Deal and WWII
Norton, Ch. 26
- Family History Paper Due**
- Nov. 8 WWII
Norton, Ch. 27
- Nov. 13 The Cold War and the Affluent Society
Norton, Ch. 28 and Belmonte, 22.6
- Nov. 15 The Cold War
Norton, Ch. 29 and pp. 555-557 in Ch. 30
- Nov. 20 The Civil Rights Movement
Work on finishing Greene
- Nov. 22 **No Class: Thanksgiving Recess**
- Nov. 27 The Civil Rights Movement
Discussion of Greene
- Nov. 29 Vietnam
Norton, pp. 563-572 in Ch. 30 and pp. 580-582 in Ch. 31
Belmonte, 23.8-23.11
- Book Review Due**
- Dec. 4 Watergate and Current Issues

Norton, pp. 583-586; Belmonte, 24.3

Choose one primary source from Ch. 24 or 25 of Belmonte that you believe represents an important issue in the 21st century or bring in your own newspaper article.

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec. 13, 8-10 A.M.