

United States History Since 1865
Hist. 2112: 25H
Spring 2007

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 (My UWG)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 9-9:30; 10:45-12, 12:30-2:00, 3:15-4:15; and by appointment

Class Meetings: Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45, Pafford 206

Course Description and Learning Outcomes: This course explores the 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. Important themes discussed in this course include the nation's shift from a rural/agricultural economy to an urban-industrial power; the ways that race, class, and gender shape the historical experiences of individuals and groups; and the emergence of the United States as a world power. Through the use of examinations, oral participation and presentations, and research papers, 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.

Grading

Exams 20% each

Family History Paper 15%

Book Reviews 10% each

Response Papers 5%

No extra credit will be offered for this course

Requirements

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. These should be turned in to me no later than **one week** prior to the exam. Make up exams will only be given with documentation of a legitimate absence. Exams must be made up within one week. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during exams.

Family History Paper: Each student will be required to complete a 6-8 page family history paper that explores one of the major historical themes discussed in this class. Handouts will be provided outlining the requirements for this paper. This paper will be due on **April 26**.

Book Reviews: Students will write a book review of Anzia Yezierska's *The Bread Givers* and of Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. Book reviews should focus

on analyzing both texts for what they can tell us about the time periods under study. Reviews that provide only a summary of the text will not earn an A or B grade. Each review should be 3-4 pages.

In-Class Response Papers: Students will be required to write in-class response papers throughout the semester. The response paper should be a short essay related to the week's assigned readings. Response papers will be unannounced.

Participation: Participation is an integral part of the learning process. Please come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Contributing to class includes not only your readiness to discuss the assigned readings, but your ability to respect your fellow scholars by arriving on time, not talking while others are talking and by turning off all cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices. Participation will be an important consideration in the case of borderline grades.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken each class period during the first five minutes. 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. Attendance will be taken into consideration in the case of students with borderline grades.

Academic Honesty: The work that you submit and the answers that you provide on exams should be your own. 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, 6th edition

Marian Morton & Russell Duncan, *First Person Past: American Autobiographies*, vol. 2, 2nd edition

Anzia Yezierska and Alice Kessler Harris, *The Bread Givers*

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

In schedule, *FPP* refers to *First Person Past*

Course Schedule

Jan. 9 Introduction

Jan. 11 Reconstruction, Norton, Ch. 16

Jan. 16 Reconstruction, *FPP*, Tunis Campbell

Jan. 18 The Development of the West, Norton, Ch. 17
"Transcontinental Railroad"

Jan. 23 The Development of the West and Native Cultures, *FPP*, Black Elk

Jan. 25 Industrialization, Read ½ of Norton, Ch. 18

Jan. 30	Industrialization, Finish Ch. 18 in Norton, Hand-out, Carnegie, “Wealth”
Feb. 1	The Growth of Urban America, Norton, Ch. 19
Feb. 6	The Growth of Urban America, Discussion of Yeziarska Yeziarska Review Due
Feb. 8	EXAM 1
Feb. 13	Gilded Age Politics and Populism, Norton, Ch. 20
Feb. 15	Racial Violence, <i>FPP</i> , Booker T. Washington, Hand-out, W.E.B. Du Bois
Feb. 20	The Progressive Era, Norton, Ch. 21
Feb. 22	Woman’s Suffrage during the Progressive Era, <i>FPP</i> , Anna Howard Shaw
Feb. 27	Imperialism, Norton, Ch. 22
Mar 1	Imperialism, “America: 1900” Last day to withdraw with a W
Mar 6	World War I, Norton, Ch. 23
Mar 8	The End of WWI, Hand-outs
Mar 13	EXAM 2
Mar. 15	The 1920s, Norton, Ch. 24
Mar 19-24	Spring Recess
Mar. 27	The Great Depression, Norton, Ch. 25
Mar. 29	The New Deal, Lib. Of Congress documents
April 3	The end of the New Deal & WWII, Norton, Ch. 26
April 5	WWII, Norton, Ch. 27
April 10	The Cold War, Norton, Ch. 28
April 12	The Cold War, Norton, Ch. 29
April 17	The Civil Rights Movement, Work on finishing Moody
April 19	The Civil Rights Movement, Discussion of Moody Moody Review Due
April 24	Vietnam, Norton, Ch. 31
April 26	Watergate, Norton, Ch. 30 Family History Paper Due

Final Exam: See date and time listed in the *Scoop*.