

United States History since 1865
Hist. 2112: L2R, LXM, LXR
Spring 2008

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: 25% each

Participation: 5%

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 January 31st. 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 long, pink scantron. 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 5-6 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 **March 27th**. 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.

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 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), 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

Jan. 10	Course Intro.
Jan. 15	Reconstruction Belmonte, 12.1-12.9 and 12.11
Jan. 17	Reconstruction, Norton, Ch. 16
Jan. 22	The Development of the West Norton, Ch. 17 Video: "The Transcontinental Railroad"
Jan. 24	Native Cultures in the West Belmonte, 13.8-13.11
Jan. 29	Industrialization Read ½ of Norton, Ch. 18
Jan. 31	Industrialization Finish Ch. 18 of Norton and read Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," online at http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/carnegie.htm
Feb. 5	The Growth of Urban America Norton, Ch. 19
Feb. 7	The Growth of Urban America Belmonte, 13.1-13.3 and 13.7
Feb. 12	Gilded Age Politics and Populism Norton, Ch. 20 and Belmonte, 15.6
Feb. 14	EXAM 1
Feb. 19	The Progressive Era Norton, Ch. 21 and Belmonte, 16.3, 16.5
Feb. 21	Progressivism and Repression: Racial Violence during the Progressive Era Belmonte, 14.6-14.8

- Feb. 26 Woman's Suffrage during the Progressive Era
Belmonte, 12.10, 16.7, 17.4
- Feb. 28 Imperialism
Norton, Ch. 22
Film: "America: 1900"
- March 3, 2008 – last day to withdraw with a W**
- March 4 Imperialism
Belmonte, 15.7-15.8
- March 6 WWI
Norton, Ch. 23
- March 11 The end of WWI and the Red Scare
Belmonte, 17.3, 17.6, and 17.7
- March 13 The 1920s
Norton, Ch. 24 and Belmonte, 18.3, 18.5
- Spring Break, March 15-22**
- March 25 The Great Depression
Norton, Ch. 25 and Belmonte, 19.1, 19.2
- March 27 The New Deal
Belmonte, 19.3-19.5 and 19.9
- Family History Paper Due**
- April 1 The end of the New Deal and WWII
Norton, Ch. 26
- April 3 **EXAM 2**
- April 8 WWII
Norton, Ch. 27 and Belmonte, 20.3, 20.5, 20.8
- April 10 The Cold War and the Affluent Society
Norton, Ch. 28 and Belmonte, 22.6
- April 15 The Cold War
Norton, Ch. 29 and pp. 555-557 in Ch. 30
- April 17 The Civil Rights Movement
Norton, Ch. 30
- April 22 The Civil Rights Movement
Belmonte, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 23.6
- April 24 Vietnam
Norton, pp. 563-572 in Ch. 30 and pp. 580-582 in Ch. 31
Belmonte, 23.8-23.11
- April 29 Watergate and Current Issues
Norton, pp. 583-586; Belmonte, 24.3
Bring in a newspaper article that reflects an important issue in the 21st century.

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 8, 2008, 8-10 A.M.