HIST 2112: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865
Course Syllabus
Section 09
5:30-6:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday
Humanities Academic Building, Room #312
Spring 2017

Larry O. Rivers, Ph.D.
Department of History
3220 Technology Learning Center
Office Hours: Tues, Thurs: 10:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m.; and by appointment.
Phone: (678) 839-6038
Email: lrivers@westga.edu

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to major ideas, events, and personalities in the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction (1877) to the present. Throughout the semester, students will be challenged to ask and answer questions based upon the themes of identity, liberty, equality, change, progress, and power in recent American history. Some examples include: What does it mean to be an American (Identity)? What does it mean to be free (Liberty)? What accounts for the differences in the quality of life among various groups in our country (Equality)? Is America getting closer to or farther from the ideals it expresses (Change/Progress)? What constitute moral and immoral uses of America’s strength and influence (Power)?

GOALS

In this class, the instructor will work to help students develop and/or refine a number of skills. The first is the ability to craft and articulate well-reasoned arguments. The second is the ability to follow major current events and trace their origins back to relevant historical antecedents in the nation’s recent past. The third is the ability to produce effective study/review materials. The fourth is the ability to write concise short answer responses under time constraints. The fifth is the ability to recognize basic grammatical concepts that are essential to historical writing.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT


Note: Older and/or unabridged editions of Alan Brinkley’s textbook (ex: American History: A Survey. Volume 2) will generally contain the same essential information. However, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that he or she follows the correct order of reading whenever there are inconsistencies between the chapter titles of different editions.
GRADING

Classroom Participation (10%)

Attendance is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and answer questions pertaining to the material. Students will also be evaluated through unannounced pop quizzes and in-class writing assignments.

Historical Writing Grammar Skills Tests (10%)

In lieu of a term paper, students will take two tests that examine their mastery of grammar skills that are essential to historical writing. Each test will be worth 5% of the total grade.

Study Guide Assignments (20%)

Students will develop study guides to help them prepare for the midterm and final examinations. Each study guide will be worth 10% of the total grade. The instructor will provide further instructions.

Examination #1 (30%)

This test will consist of short answers/IDs.

Examination #2 (30%)

Like the midterm, this test will consist of short answers/IDs.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Make-up tests will consist entirely of essay writing and will only be granted if the student provides an excuse approved by the instructor. Examples of acceptable excuses include a coach’s letter or a doctor’s note.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION RULES

Check your westga.edu email address on a regular basis for information from the instructor. Additionally, use your westga.edu address for all email communication with the instructor. When initiating an email conversation with the instructor, provide your course and section number.

Please note that the instructor will not provide student grade information through email.

FORMAT FOR WRITTEN WORK

Write your full name, course number, section number, and the date on ALL written work you submit to the instructor.

All homework assignments must be typed. Use 12-point font and double-spacing.
FORMAT FOR QUIZZES/TESTS

Use a black or blue pen for in-class tests and quizzes. Write in print/manuscript format; DO NOT write in cursive. Short answers/IDs must be completed on blank, college ruled paper.

HONOR CODE EXPECTATIONS

Students should make sure to understand and strictly follow the standards of the university’s Honor Code as outlined in the Student Handbook. Cheating and plagiarism constitute violations of the Honor Code.

The Student Handbook defines cheating as: “using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids.” It defines plagiarism as “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged.”

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Please submit an official Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to the instructor if the Office of Accessibility Services has authorized you to receive special assistance during regular class meetings and/or test dates. For testing purposes, appropriate arrangements will be made in accordance with the following procedures outlined by the Office of Accessibility Services:

Most special needs students “are entitled to 1.5 time on all tests in classes in which they have presented their Student Accommodations Report (SAR) to their professor and made advance arrangements with their professor for this extra time per test…Students have two options for receiving testing accommodations. They can make arrangements directly with their professor or test at the Learning Support and Testing Center.”

LECTURE RECORDING POLICY

Students are NOT permitted to record the instructor’s lectures. Exceptions will be made for students who submit a Student Accommodations Report (SAR) that explicitly requests permission to create recordings.

EXTRA CREDIT

Periodic extra credit opportunities will be available. They may include current events quizzes and written reports on academic events/activities approved by the instructor.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSIONS

At the beginning of each class meeting, there will be a discussion period during which the class will work to compare and contrast historical events related to the course topic with current events.

Please come prepared to share at least one current event every class meeting. Acceptable current events topics include: politics, sports, entertainment, business, technology/science, and international affairs.
Your current event must come from a news report aired or published by a **credible, professional news organization** (e.g.: PBS NewsHour, New York Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, or Times-Georgian). For guidance in assessing the credibility of a news story, consult the UWG Library’s “News Literacy Toolkit” at: http://libguides.westga.edu/newsliteracy

Each current events discussion will begin with the stories shared by volunteers. After that, the instructor might begin “cold-calling” students from the roll. Be prepared for the instructor to ask you follow-up questions about the current events you share. Your fellow classmates might have some follow-up questions for you, as well.

Make sure you watch the news, read newspapers, read online news articles, and come to class ready to talk. Your performance during the current events discussion will be part of your participation grade.

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

*Note: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings **BEFORE** the dates they appear on the class schedule. Please come to class ready to discuss the contents of the chapters. The instructor might ask you oral questions or administer pop quizzes (in short answer/ID format).

**COURSE INTRODUCTION**
January 10

**WRITING AND STUDY TIPS**
January 12

**THE POSTBELLUM SOUTH, NADIR, AND CLOSING OF THE FRONTIER**
Ch 15 “Reconstruction and the New South”
Ch 16 “The Conquest of the Far West”
January 17

**Quiz #1: Homestead Act of 1862, Fourteenth Amendment, Fifteenth Amendment, and the Battle of Little Bighorn**

**INDUSTRIALIZATION, URBANIZATION, AND IMMIGRATION**
Ch 17 “Industrial Supremacy”
Ch 18 “The Age of the City”
January 19

*Note: Roster verification will take place January 19-23.*

**INDUSTRIALIZATION, URBANIZATION, AND IMMIGRATION (con’d)**
January 24, January 26

**IMPERIALISM AND PROGRESSIVISM**
Ch 19 “From Crisis to Empire”
Ch 20 “The Progressives”
January 31, February 2, February 7

WWI AND THE ROARING TWENTIES
Ch 21 “America and the Great War”
Ch 22 “The New Era”
February 9

AN ECONOMY IN TURMOIL AND RISE OF FDR
Ch 23 “The Great Depression”
Ch 24 “The New Deal”
February 14

MID-SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
February 16 (First Study Guide Due), February 21

EXAM #1/HISTORICAL WRITING GRAMMAR SKILLS TEST #1
February 23

WWI AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA
Ch 25 “The Global Crisis, 1921-1941”
Ch 26 “America in a World at War”
February 28, March 2, March 7

NOTE: Thursday, March 2 is the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.”

THE LIBERAL CONSENSUS, MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, COLD WAR, AND GROWING MIDDLE CLASS
Ch 27 “The Cold War”
Ch 28 “The Affluent Society”
March 9, March 14, March 16

SPRING BREAK
March 20-25

THE “SECOND RECONSTRUCTION,” ‘NAM, AND GREAT SOCIETY
Ch 29 “Civil Rights, Vietnam, and the Ordeal of Liberalism”
Ch 30 “The Crisis of Authority”
Ch 31 “From ‘The Age of Limits’ to the Age of Reagan”
March 28, March 30, April 4, April 6, April 13

END-OF-THE SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
April 18 (Second Study Guide Due), April 20

EXAM #2/HISTORICAL WRITING GRAMMAR SKILLS TEST #2
April 25

IN-CLASS WRITING ACTIVITY: Tuesday, May 9, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
John Winthrop was the starting quarterback for the Miami Dolphins from 1983-86, hitting 75 home runs and scoring an average of 3 re-bounds per set.

(0 points – completely wrong identification)

2) John Winthrop was a Puritan.

(1 point – correct, but very limited identification; no context or discussion of significance)

3) John Winthrop was a Puritan immigrant to New England who became the first Governor of Massachusetts.

(2 points – correct identification; no context or discussion of significance)

4) John Winthrop was a Puritan immigrant to New England who became the first Governor of Massachusetts in the 1630s. He believed New England should be a ‘city upon a hill.’

(3 points – correct identification; some context but no explanation of significance)

5) John Winthrop was a Puritan immigrant to New England who became the first Governor of Massachusetts in the 1630s. He believed in maintaining the social order and that New England should be a ‘city upon a hill’ – an example for others to look up to.

(4 points – correct identification; good context but little talk of significance)

6) John Winthrop was a Puritan immigrant to New England who became the first Governor of Massachusetts in the 1630s. He believed in maintaining the social order and that God had selected the Puritans to be his people on earth. His call for New England to be a ‘city upon a hill’ would provide a challenge to future generations to live up to the high standards he had set for the early settlers.

(5 – points – correct identification; good context and discussion of significance)