

**US HISTORY II (Since 1865)**  
**HIST 2112 Honor's Spring 2017**  
**MW 11-12:15 TLC 3205**  
**DR. STEPHANIE M. CHALIFOUX**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course surveys the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. We will explore economic, political, social, and cultural developments in America. The content reflects the instructor's interests and perceptions of the most important issues and forces that have shaped American society. This course will consist of brief lectures for context only and rely heavily on readings, in-class discussions, assignments, and activities.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to examine topics and issues from diverse perspectives.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in higher order abstract, creative and critical thinking.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to explore, and if feasible, experiment with possible applications of their learning toward the solution of "real world" problems.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to explore and conduct discipline- specific independent research and creative activities using a variety of resources.
5. Students will demonstrate superior oral and written communication skills.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Lectures:** The lectures in this course will be brief. They are designed to provide context for the readings, discussions, and activities required for an Honors course.

**Readings:** To make the most of this class, students must read the assigned materials and be prepared to engage in dialogue based on what they have read and demonstrate they have read the material through various assessments. The readings are not busy work, rather they are designed to enhance your knowledge by pushing you to look a bit deeper into the events and issues we will cover in class. Each day's assigned readings appear in the **Schedule of Lectures and Assignments** and must be completed by the beginning of class.

**Daily reading assignments:** Most readings will be found in your assigned books. However, at times, some readings will be uploaded to CourseDen under the folder "Course Readings" and listed by due date.

**Books: There are 6 required books for this course**

1. *For the Record: A Documentary History of America. From Reconstruction through Contemporary Times 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* - Shi, David and Mayer, Hollay A.

2. *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labor after the Civil War* - Hunter, Tera.
3. *The Great Depression and the New Deal* - Rauchway, Eric (ebook available through UWG Library)
4. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap* – Coontz, Stephanie
5. *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* – McGirr, Lisa
6. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* – Stevenson, Bryan

**ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be readings, six book essays, a midterm exam, a final exam, and a research paper (suggested topics are on CourseDen)

**In-Class Activities and Assessments:** I will assess your understanding and completion of each required reading. These assessments will take various forms.

**Plagiarism Quiz:** You are required to take and pass a plagiarism quiz. Your papers will not be graded unless you pass this quiz in advance. It will be administered **January 23<sup>rd</sup>**.  
**NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Research Paper:** You are required to submit a 1500-1800 word research paper (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font with standard margins). You may choose a topic (see suggested topics on CourseDen) in American History (since 1865) and I will need to approve it by **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. You will be required to research and write this paper using at least **two** secondary sources (scholarly books or professional academic journal articles) and **three** primary sources. A one-page description of your topic and your bibliography are due on **February 13<sup>th</sup>**. You are also required to take and pass a plagiarism quiz. **Your paper will not be graded unless you pass the Plagiarism quiz.** Guidelines for the paper will be posted on CourseDen. Papers must be submitted to dropbox on CourseDen on **April 5**.

**Book Essays:** You will be required to submit a 600-word essay for **each** book we read in class. The essays will be submitted to dropbox on CourseDen before the start of class.

**EXAMS:** You must submit **2 exam booklets** (available at the bookstore) by **January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will consist of an essay question. The midterm exam will be on **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Final Exam:** The exam will consist of an essay question. The final exam will be on **Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm**.

**Participation:**

Class discussion is a crucial part of your grade. Honors courses are limited to only 16 students. These small classes are designed to allow you to engage with the material, the professor, and your peers in a way that enhances your communication, analytical, and civil discourse skills. Simply attending will not earn you a passing participation grade.

**MAKE-UP POLICY:**

Make-ups are given only with the permission of the instructor and only in the face of extreme, extenuating circumstances (death in the family, serious illness, car accident, injury).

**Documentation is required.** Feeling under the weather, roommate issues, traffic congestion, or breakups with your partner are not valid excuses for missing an assignment, an exam, or a paper. In the case of an emergency on exam day, you must contact the instructor at the soonest possible time. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities that will occasionally require them to miss class *must provide their travel schedule well in advance of the expected absence. They must also arrange to make up any missed assignments before they leave.*

**Make-up in class activities:** There are no makeups for in class activities or participation.

**Late Book Essays:** Only with documentation and only in extenuating circumstances.

**Late Research Papers:** I will allow late papers. However, one letter grade will be docked for each day your paper is late resulting in an F after 5 days (NO EXCEPTIONS).

**Make-up midterm exam:** If approved, it must be taken within 5 days of the original exam date at my convenience.

**Make-up final exam:** If approved, you will receive an incomplete until the following semester when you will take the exam at my convenience.

**The assignments are weighted as follows:**

Book Essays	20%
Research Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation and Various Assignments	20%

**COURSE POLICIES:**

**ATTENDANCE:** Although I will not keep attendance, you are expected to attend class. You will not pass this course if you do not attend.

**Extracurricular Conflicts:** If you are member of an athletic team, musical group, or other University organization, it is your responsibility to provide me with a schedule of planned absences at the beginning of the semester. Participation in extracurricular activities DOES NOT excuse the student from any course requirement.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY:** Any acts of dishonesty in your work constitute acts of academic misconduct. This includes first and foremost cheating and plagiarism. In cases of student academic misconduct, the instructor will determine the appropriate penalty which will range from a “0” on the assignment to a failing grade for the class. In addition, I will submit students who cheat or plagiarize to the University of West Georgia’s Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. I take these issues seriously and I do not overlook, ignore, or give second chances.

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** A good learning environment requires that we treat each other with respect and consideration. We must all behave in a manner that is conducive to an effective and positive learning environment. Distracting behavior including, but not limited to, talking, eating, working on assignments for another class, using earbuds or headphones, texting is not acceptable. **Studies show that students who check their phones during class receive an average of half a grade lower than their peers who do not check their phones. Turn your phone off.** You will be asked to leave class if you violate the classroom conduct rules. Continued violations will be reported to the student conduct board. Penalties range from community service, withdrawal from the course, and suspension from the university.

**LAPTOPS: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE LAPTOPS IN THIS CLASS. No exceptions without documentation from Accessibility Services.** Multiple studies have demonstrated that students who take notes by hand are more engaged and perform better on class assessments Read the most recent study: <http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>

**YOU MAY NOT RECORD ANY PORTION OF THIS CLASS.**

**Please review the Common Language for university syllabi at the link below for further information about course policies as well as information about academic and disability services:**

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

**Special Note:** I reserve the right to modify the syllabus over the course of the semester as circumstances dictate. Revisions will be announced in class and on CourseDen. Students are responsible for checking CourseDen regularly for any changes to the syllabus and assignments.

## **SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Assigned readings are located on CourseDen unless noted otherwise.

1/9: Course Introduction and the Post Civil War US

1/11: What is History? What are primary and secondary sources?

1/16: MLK Jr. Day: No Class

1/18: Reconstruction  
**Required Reading: FTR: Chapter 17**

1/23: The West and New South  
**Required Reading: FTR Chapter 19 (pgs 47-59)**  
**Plagiarism Quiz (Read links on CourseDen)**

1/25: Farmers and Politics  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 21 (pgs 82-93)**  
**Exam books due**

- 1/30: Required Reading:**  
*To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labor after the Civil War*  
Book Essay Due
- 2/1:** Urban America  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 20**  
Claim your Topic
- 2/6:** Immigration  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 21 (pgs 76-80)**  
**Chapter 23 (pgs 120-121)**  
See CourseDen
- 2/8:** Progressive Era  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 23 (pges 112-119, 121-136)**
- 2/13: Triangle Fire**  
Paper topic and bibliography due
- 2/15:** American Empire  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 22**
- 2/20:** WWI  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 24**
- 2/22:** War at Home  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 23 (pgs 137-140) and Chapter 25**
- 2/27:** 1920s  
**Required Readings: See CourseDen**
- 3/1:** Great Depression and New Deal  
**Required Readings: *The Great Depression and the New Deal***  
Book Essay Due
- 3/6: MIDTERM**
- 3/8:** World War II and the Homefront  
**Required Reading: FTR Chapter 28**  
See CourseDen
- 3/13:** The Cold War  
**Required Reading: FTR Chapter 29**
- 3/14:** Civil Rights  
**Required Reading: FTR Chapter 30 (278-283)**  
**FTR Chapter 31 (294-309)**

- 3/20: Spring Break – NO class
- 3/22: Spring Break – NO class
- 3/27: Required Reading: *The Way We Never Were***  
Book Essay Due
- 3/29: The Policies of JFK and LBJ  
**Required Readings: See CourseDen**
- 4/3: Political and Social Movements of the 1960s and 1970s  
**Required Readings: FTR Chapter 32**
- 4/5: Vietnam**  
**Paper Due. Upload to Dropbox on CourseDen by 5pm.**
- 4/10: Required Reading: *Suburban Warriors***  
Book Essay Due
- 4/12: Reagan  
**Required Readings: See CourseDen**
- 4/17: 1980s Culture  
**Required Readings: See CourseDen**
- 4/19: Required Reading: *Just Mercy***  
Book Essay Due
- 4/24: New Democrats  
**Required Readings: See CourseDen**
- 4/26: TBA
- 5/1: Final exam discussion

**Final Exam: Monday May 8, 11am-1pm**