SPRING SEMESTER 2017  
HISTORY 2112, SECTION L2Y/LXY

UNITED STATES HISTORY SINCE 1865  
TLC 1303, TR 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
This course will explore the political, economic, social, diplomatic, and cultural development of America since the Civil War. Upon satisfactory completion of this class, students should have a thorough understanding of the origins and development of the people and institutions of the United States as outlined by the following criteria:

- Students will understand the social and cultural diversity of the United States
- Students will understand the political development of the United States
- Students will understand how the United States has interacted with other nations of the world
- Students will understand the development of a national identity

In addition to these specific criteria, this course should also help students in developing the broader skills of clear, analytical reasoning; a sense of historical consciousness; and a deeper understanding of global and cultural diversity.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- You will also need AT LEAST THREE (3) answer sheets for during the semester. (Make sure you get Scantron #229633)

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

The primary method of instruction for this class will be lecture. However, in order to succeed in this course, students MUST obtain a textbook and read it diligently. In addition to the text (America), students will be required to read selected primary documents (these can be accessed free on the companion website for America or they will be provided via CourseDen). If you are not prepared to do the reading, it is in your best interest to drop the course immediately. Please do not hesitate to contact me individually with any questions or concerns you have about my expectations.

Electronic media, film footage, audio recordings, overhead transparencies, and other media may occasionally be included in class along with more conventional lectures; take notes on these supplementary materials just as you would for any other lecture or “text,” as historical documents containing visual and aural evidence to be interpreted and subjected to the same analytical scrutiny as the written word.  

READING ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the text and lecture material, you will be required to read various primary documents, which will be included on the exams. When assigned, these documents will be posted on CourseDen.

EVALUATION COMPONENTS AND GRADING:

The bulk of your grade will consist of three exams — two during the semester and a non-cumulative final exam. These will be primarily objective in format, containing any combination of multiple choice questions, short answer, identifications, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay.

Since so much of American history (and contemporary life) centers around the U.S., it is absolutely vital for all students and citizens to have a thorough understanding of this document, the fundamental law of our nation. Therefore, in addition to the three regular exams, there will be an exam covering only the Constitution and its amendments (I will be providing additional information, study tips, and resources during the semester). This exam will provide the final component of your overall course grade.

***Please note that there are NO provisions for extra credit in this class.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

| Exam 1 | 25% |
| Exam 2 | 25% |
| Exam 3 (Final Exam) | 25% |
| Constitution Exam | 25% |
POLICY ON E-MAIL, ABSENTEEISM, LATERNENESS, TECHNOLOGY, AND OTHER MATTERS OF ETIQUETTE:

- ATTENDANCE: In order to succeed in this class, you must attend it. However, there is not an attendance policy in this class. Therefore, in ordinary circumstances there is no need to present an excuse for missing class. However, if you are absent on the day of an exam, then you MUST have a University-sanctioned excuse in order to make up the exam. All make-up exams are in essay format. (NOTE: you will NOT be allowed to make-up exams missed as a result of an unexcused absence.) It is your responsibility to make arrangements with me for a makeup exam. If you schedule a make up exam with me but fail to show up, you will not be given another chance to make up the exam and will receive an “F” for the exam.
- If you do miss class (for any reason), I strongly recommend that you get the notes from a classmate. No notes will be provided by the instructor.
- Lateness to class is distracting, disruptive, and disrespectful, both to your colleagues in the class and to me. Also note that if you are more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent for that day. Class will begin promptly at the scheduled time.
- In addition to arriving on time, I expect you to stay until class is over. If for some reason you must leave early, then I expect you to notify me ahead of time and sit near the door so as to minimize the disruption. Failure to follow this procedure will result in you being considered absent for that day. Be aware that repeatedly being late to class or leaving class early will lower your grade or in removal from the class.
- I regularly use e-mail to communicate about matters relating to the class, assignments, and examinations. It is my expectation that you will check your University e-mail account regularly. Please let me know immediately if you have any questions or concerns in this regard. All email correspondence with me should include your name, the course ID (HIST 2112), and the section number (L2L/LXL) or the class meeting time. Also note that I cannot/will not discuss grades via email (or by phone).
- DO NOT bring children or pets to class for any reason.
- In summary, I expect you to be courteous and respectful, both to me and to your fellow students.

CRITICAL NOTE TO USERS OF WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY: Due to unfortunate experiences in the past, I require that you disable the sound on your cell phones and any other wireless devices before coming to class. If your cell phone or device goes off audibly in class, I will ask you to leave the classroom. If you use any wireless device during an exam, I will require that you turn in your exam immediately and leave the class, receiving a grade of ZERO for that exam. Additionally, I will not tolerate texting during class. Not only are such behaviors rude and disrespectful, they are distracting to your fellow students. Therefore, repeated violations will result in you failing the class.

UWG INFORMATION

Students should familiarize themselves with the important University information and policies found at this website: http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

NOTE REGARDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Any student who qualifies for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should contact me immediately so that such accommodations can be arranged.

DISCLAIMER:

One of the first things that becomes apparent to students of American History, and indeed the entire history of the world, is that much of it is unpleasant or even offensive to modern sensibilities. Since it is the nature of this course to examine and explore those very unpleasantries, you may encounter actions, words, or points of view with which you disagree or that you find offensive. Rest assured that any such material you may encounter in no way reflects the personal opinions of the instructor, the history department, or the University. If you do not feel you are mature enough to engage in an academic study of such material, you should consider taking a different course.

EXAM SCHEDULE: **

| Test 1 | Tuesday, February 14 (will cover approx. first 3 chapters of America) |
| Test 2 | Thursday, March 16 |
| Final Exam | Tuesday, May 9, 11:00am – 1:00pm (in TLC 1303) |
| Constitution Exam | Date TBD, administered via CourseDen |