Office: Office 105 Pafford
Phone: 678-839-6508

Office Hours: Tuesday: After class
            Thursday: After class
            By appointment

Very Important Link: https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-
resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf

Course Description and Learning Outcome:
In accordance with the learning outcomes adopted for the University of West Georgia’s Core
Area E, students in this course will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social,
economic, or cultural dimensions of American history. This course will include lectures, reading
assignments, in-class discussions, and occasionally the use of other media.

Required Reading:
Edward Ayers, David Oshinsky, Jean Soderlund, and Lewis Gould. American
edition

The course lectures and the textbook reading reinforce each other. Use the textbook to review,
flesh out, and reinforce what you will learn in lecture. My lectures do not duplicate the textbook.
Lectures often introduce new topics and stories and go into greater depth than the textbook.
Complete the textbook reading each week and use it to prepare for class discussions and exams
and to review and flesh out your lecture notes.

The readings for each class meeting will also usually include short primary source selections or
articles. These readings will introduce you to the types of evidence that historians use to
construct their arguments and interpret the past. It is very important that you read the assigned
documents; each class is centered on these texts. You are required to print out and bring the
short reading assignments to class. All assigned readings should be completed before class
meets.

Exams and Grading:
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam 3: 20%
Exam 4: 0%

Four exams will be given, however, only three exams will count toward your final grade.
The lowest exam score will be dropped.
Class Participation: 20%
Class participation is very crucial for a good grade in this class. This grade includes not only coming to class but being a part of the discussions. Doing the read will prepare you for class discussions, so be prepared.

Short Essay Assignment: 20%
Choose one (1) question during the semester to answer. You must do one (1) short essay assignment to earn full credit (20%). Write 3 or so pages, double-spaced, on your chosen question using lectures and readings to write your answer. No partial credit will be given and no late papers will be accepted. See Reflections Essay handout for details regarding the essay.

The University of West Georgia grading scale is as follows:

A= 89.50 or above  
B= 79.50- 89.49  
C= 69.50- 79.49  
D= 59.50- 69.49  
F= 59.49 or below

Classroom Etiquette:
- Come to class on time.
- Come to class prepared. Read all the homework assignments so that you can engage in each week’s topics.
- Check your student email and CourseDen every day. If you are going to take notes on your laptop, you need to be at the ready to provide those notes for people who are missing class for legitimate, approved reasons. I also ask you to sit near the front of the class, and for those behind you to let me know if you are internet surfing during lecture (and distracting everyone behind you). This seemingly draconian policy is for your benefit. Recent pedagogical research has indicated that taking notes by hand is far superior for learning lecture material. Finally, all ringers on all gadgets need to be OFF during class, and no texting or headphones are allowed. You can audio record my lectures (no video please!).

For information regarding accommodations for disabilities, UWG e-mail policy, credit hour policy, and the honor code, please see this link:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and exam dates

R 8/10 Class Intro; Where’s the Party? What is a Democrat? What is a Republican?  
- Homework: Please purchase/rent American Passages. Read “Newspaper Account of a Meeting between Black Religious Leaders and Union Military Authorities” found on CourseDen [New York, N.Y. February 13, 1865]
LAST DAY TO OPEN DROP 8/11 @ 11:59 am

T 8/15  The Failure of Reconstruction and the American Political Landscape

R 8/17  Farmers, Natives, and Cowboys: The Postwar American West

T 8/22  Industry, Labor, and Urban Immigration in Gilded Age America
- Homework for Wed: Read *American Passages*, pp. 368-378. Read “Sister Carrie” and “A Call to Arms” found on CourseDen.

R 8/24  The Age of Innocence? Science, Culture, and Politics in the Gilded Age

T 8/29  Imperial Designs: American Foreign Expansion

R 8/31  Jim Crow and the New South

T 9/5  The “P’s” of Political Reform: Populism and Progressivism

R 9/7  Exam 1
- Covers material through 9/5.

T 9/12  The Great War Abroad and at Home
- Homework for Mon: Read *American Passages*, Chapter 20 (all), pp. 470-495

R 9/14  The Roaring 20s – Did they Roar?

DUE DATE #1 FOR REFLECTION ESSAYS TURN IN AT END OF CLASS

T 9/19  Confronting Modernity: The Scopes Trial
R 9/21 Jazz, Booze, and the Klan
   - Homework for Wed: Read *American Passages* pp. 508-510; 514-517. Read “Jazz Age” packet found on CourseDen.

T 9/26 The Great Depression
   - Homework for Wed: Read American Passages, pp. 520-529. Other readings TBD/announced in class.

R 9/28 Exam 2
   - Covers material through 9/26.

**LAST DAY TO WITHDRAWL ON 9/29**

T 10/3 The New Deal
   - Homework for Wed: Read American Passages, pp. 532-536 & 542-549.

R 10/5 **Fall Break No Class**

T 10/10 World War II and the Advent of the Cold War

R 10/12 The Communists, McCarthyism, and Freedom of Speech

**DUE DATE #2 FOR REFLECTION ESSAYS TURN IN AT END OF CLASS**

T 10/17 The Baby Boom: Consumption and the 1950s American Family

R 10/19 Civil Rights from Birmingham to Black Lives Matter

T 10/24 The Magic and Mistakes of Camelot: The Kennedy and Johnson Years

R 10/26 Exam 3
   - Covers material through 10/24.
T 10/31 No Class

R 11/2 Hippies, Feminism, and Free Love

T 11/7: Vietnam and the New Left
   - Homework for Wed: Read *American Passages*, pp. 650-652. Read “Port Huron Statement,” “Sproul Hall Sit-In Address” and “Letter to the Left” found on CourseDen.

R 11/9 Patty Hearst Heard the Burst of Roland’s Thompson Gun (and Bought It): America in the 1970s
   - Homework for Mon: Read “Statement in Support of the Equal Rights Amendment” found on CourseDen.

DUE DATE REPLACEMENT REFLECTION ESSAYS TURN IN AT END OF CLASS

T 11/14 Morning Again in America: The Reagan Revolution and the New Conservatism

R 11/16 Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll, and Russia: 1980-1989

T 11/21 Thanksgiving Break

R 11/23 Thanksgiving Break

T 11/28 Contract with America: Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich

R 11/30 The World of Kurt Cobain: Who’s Revolution is this anyway?
   - Homework for Mon: Read Franke-Ruta, Garance “How America Got Past the Anti-Gay Politics of the ’90s” found on CourseDen.

T 12/5: Final Exam Date
   - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Covers material from 10/26-11/30 (if we get that far!).