Instructor Information
Professor: Dr. Steve Goodson  
Office: Technology-Enhanced Learning Center (TLC) 3224  
Phone: 678-839-6042  
Email: hgoodson@westga.edu  
Office hours: MW 2:00-3:15, TTH 2:00-4:00, or by appointment

Learning Outcome
Students will demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, or political development of the people and institutions of the United States.

Why Study History?
The discipline of History teaches important intellectual skills such as analyzing written and unwritten materials to draw sound conclusions and make clear arguments. History highlights key conceptual building blocks of the human experience: identity, motivation, cause and effect, intended and unintended consequences, conflict and consensus, change over time. By studying History we can gain insights into today’s world – how did things come to be the way they are? The study of History also builds empathy, the capacity to grasp and appreciate other people’s thoughts, feelings, and perspectives. Moreover, through History we may arrive at a deeper understanding of ourselves – of the ways we are different from and similar to individuals in other times and places, of what it means to be a human being.

Required Materials
The following books are available for purchase in the bookstore:  
Elaine Marie Aphin, *An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank*  
Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Exams
There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from lectures, readings, and class discussions, and from any other material presented in class (handouts, music, videos, etc.). The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student presents a written doctor’s excuse. It is the student’s responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

Papers
Each student will write an autobiographical essay (3 pages) which will be due on Oct. 2. Each student will also be required to write an oral history paper (3-5 pages) based upon an interview with a relative or acquaintance. These papers will be due on Dec. 4. Students will submit papers electronically on Course Den and will submit a hard copy in class. Students must complete both paper assignments in order to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade a day. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Class Engagement
Students are expected to do the required reading in advance of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there will be unannounced quizzes. There may also be short in-class or out-of-class writing assignments. Aside from the two required books for the course, readings will be posted on Course Den. I will also provide on Course Den a summary document for each major topic. A student’s attendance record will play an important role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior (talking out of turn, sleeping, texting, etc.) will severely damage a student’s final grade. Please silence cell phones and other electronic devices before entering class. The class engagement grade will be determined based on a student’s attendance, participation in class, and performance on quizzes and short writing assignments.

Evaluation
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>20 percent each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autobiographical Essay</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral History Paper</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Engagement</td>
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Tentative Class Schedule: Date, Topic, and Required Reading

Industrialization, Immigration, and Social Change
Aug. 19
Aug. 26 – “Working for the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory”

The Postwar South
Aug. 28 – “A Georgia Sharecropper’s Story of Forced Labor, ca. 1900”
Sept. 9 – *An Unspeakable Crime*

World War I
Sept. 11 – Hervey Allen, *Toward the Flame*, chap. XVIII: “Last Hours in Fismette”

Sept. 18 – First Exam

The 1920s
Sept. 23 – Bruce Bliven, “Flapper Jane”
Sept. 25 – William Allen White, “Mary White Obituary”

The Great Depression and the New Deal
Sept. 30 – Ann Marie Low, *Dust Bowl Diary*, chap. 7, “The Dust Storms”
Oct. 2 – Autobiography Paper Due

World War II
Oct. 9 – Audie Murphy, *To Hell and Back*: chap. 19

Women in the Postwar Era

The Civil Rights Movement
Oct. 16 – Melba Patillo Beals, *Warriors Don’t Cry*, chap. 2
Oct. 21

Oct. 23 – Second Exam

Oct. 28 – *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Vietnam
Nov. 4
Nov. 6
Nov. 11 – Wallace Terry, *Bloods*, First Lieutenant Archie “Joe” Biggers

The Nixon Administration and Watergate
Nov. 13
Nov. 18

Recent Trends
Nov. 20 – Reading TBA
Dec. 4 – Final Paper Due

Monday, Dec. 9, 11:00-1:00 – Final Exam