HIST 2112: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1865
Course Syllabus
Section 16
2:00-3:15 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday
Humanities Academic Building #312
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-1:50 p.m.; 3:30-4:30 p.m.; and by appointment.
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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.

LEARNING OUTCOME

The instructor will work to help students achieve the following outcome: “Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of U.S. History.”

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT


Note: Edition 8 is available for purchase in the UWG Bookstore.
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.

**COURSE RESERVE BOOKS**

There are three hard copy textbooks that are available through Course Reserves in Ingram Library. One is an unabridged version. The other two are 7th edition versions. Each one may be used on-site in the library for up to 2 hours at a time. To access them, visit the circulation desk and request a course reserve book for HIST 2112 under the instructor name “Rivers.”

**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%)**

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 (25%)**

This test will consist of short answers/IDs.

**Examination #2 (25%)**

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

**Essay Assignment (10%)**

Students will complete an essay assignment that will test their reading comprehension skills, writing skills, ability to follow directions, and other skills related to the course learning outcome. The instructor will provide further details.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is important and will be considered when assessing each student’s “participation” grade. The instructor will not provide lecture notes for students who miss class meetings.
CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Students who engage in disruptive conduct, including but not limited to talking without being recognized by the instructor, will be asked to leave the classroom and will be marked as “absent” for that class meeting.

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.

RETURN OF GRADED STUDENT WORK

Student work that is turned in on time will normally be returned within two weeks of the due date. Assignments that are submitted for a pass/fail grade will only be returned if a student specifically makes that request. Examination #2 will not be returned to students during a class meeting due to the end of the semester. However, that graded examination will be available from the instructor at the beginning of the next semester.

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 and will result in failing the course.

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.”

Violations of the Honor Code will be grounds for a failing grade in the course.

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

The study of U.S. History 1865-present reveals how developments in this country’s recent past provide a context for today’s current events.

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 ACADEMIC INFORMATION

https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies

COURSE INTRODUCTION
January 7

WRITING AND STUDY TIPS
January 9

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 14
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 16, January 21

NOTE: Roster verification will take place January 15-19.

STUDENT STUDY DAY – NO CLASS MEETING
January 23

INDUSTRIALIZATION, URBANIZATION, AND IMMIGRATION (con’d)
January 28

IMPERIALISM AND PROGRESSIVISM
Ch 19 “From Crisis to Empire”
Ch 20 “The Progressives”
January 30, February 4, February 6

WWI AND THE ROARING TWENTIES
Ch 21 “America and the Great War”
Ch 22 “The New Era”
February 11

AN ECONOMY IN TURMOIL AND RISE OF FDR
Ch 23 “The Great Depression”
Ch 24 “The New Deal”
February 13, February 18

MID-SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
February 20 (First Study Guide Due), February 25

EXAM #1/HISTORICAL WRITING GRAMMAR SKILLS TEST #1
February 27

NOTE: Friday, February 28th is the last day to withdraw with a grade of “W.”

WWII AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA
Ch 25 “The Global Crisis, 1921-1941”
Ch 26 “America in a World at War”
March 3, March 5, March 10, March 12

SPRING BREAK
March 16-20

THE LIBERAL CONSENSUS, MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, COLD WAR, AND GROWING MIDDLE CLASS
Ch 27 “The Cold War”
Ch 28 “The Affluent Society”
March 24, March 26, March 31

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”
April 2

UWG SCHOLARS’ DAY
April 7
Classes will not meet between 12:15 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

THE “SECOND RECONSTRUCTION,” ‘NAM, AND GREAT SOCIETY (con’d)
April 9

END-OF-THE SEMESTER SUMMARY/REVIEW
April 14 (Second Study Guide Due), April 16

EXAM #2/HISTORICAL WRITING GRAMMAR SKILLS TEST #2
April 21

PREPARATION FOR IN-CLASS WRITING ACTIVITY
April 23

IN-CLASS WRITING ACTIVITY: Tuesday, May 5, 2:00-4:00 pm