United States History II (since 1865)
HIST 2112
Section 94
TR 9:00-10:15
Spring 2020
Newnan 131

Instructor Information:
Dr. Stephanie Laffer
Office: Newnan 225
Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30 or by appointment
Phone: 678-839-5200
Email: slaffer@westga.edu

Course Description:
This course explores the major themes and issues in American history from the end of the American Civil War to the present. It emphasizes the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of United States history; causal relationships and patterns of change and continuity over time; and the significance of ethnicity, gender, race, and class in historical events.

Course Learning Objectives:
The general learning outcome for all courses on American History is:
• Students will be able to identify and explain the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of US history.
In addition, by the end of this course:
• Students will demonstrate introductory knowledge of pivotal trends and issues in American History since 1865.
• Students will demonstrate improved abilities in processing and analyzing information from primary historical sources.
• Students will demonstrate improved skills at crafting written arguments based on primary sources.

Course Requirements:
This class has a required textbook:
It is an eBook which can be accessed via a link on CourseDen or by clicking below:
You can also rent this book for 6 months as an affordable option!
The book also has an electronic component, called Launchpad. While Launchpad is not required, it will be used as an additional resource for this course.

In addition, there will be a variety of primary sources available via the textbook and CourseDen.
Course Expectations:

Attendance:
Attendance will not be taken every course period, but it is your responsibility to attend class and get notes from a classmate if you miss a class. There will be four in-class assignments throughout the semester. If you are not present, there will be no opportunities to make these assignments up, but they are only a part of your participation grade. In addition, there will also be several opinion papers given at the end of class. These randomly scheduled papers will be used both as a mechanism for attendance and an opportunity to show understanding of course material.

Exams:
There will be 3 exams in this course. Those exams are non-cumulative and will consist of a mixture of questions including multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled throughout the semester on weeks 5, 10 and a final exam during Finals Week.

Assignments:
History is a reading and writing based discipline. This course will feature multiple assignments based off of the documents from the time period (primary sources). You can find those primary sources in your textbook or via links posted to CourseDen.

There are 4 Writing Assignments for this course. These assignments are all between 2 and 4 pages long, double spaced. Two assignments are creative, and two are more analytical. In order to pass this course, you must complete at least two of the Writing Assignments. The directions for each assignment will be available on CourseDen two weeks before the assignment is due. If you choose to complete all 4 assignments, then the two best grades will be used to determine the final grade.

Make Up Exams, Late Work, and Extra Credit:
I will accept late work for this class, but with a penalty of one half of a letter grade for every class section late (so, if the paper would have earned a B-, but was handed in one class late, it would become a C+).

If you need to miss an exam due to a legitimate, documented absence (I reserve the right to require proof) then a make-up exam will be administered following the same format as the exams described above.

There will be extra credit opportunities available that can be counted towards your overall grade. Those opportunities will be announced via CourseDen.

Overview of Grades:
Your grades in this class will be calculated based off the following scale:
First Exam: 20%
Second Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Writing Assignment 1: 10%
Writing Assignment 2: 10%
Class Participation: 20%

**Please note:** simply completing all of the assigned work is **NOT** a guarantee of a passing grade in this course. Also, as some of these grades are cumulative, the final tally will not be available until the end of the semester.

**Additional Important Policies:**

**University-wide:**
The university has several university-wide policies that apply to the syllabus. You can find all of them by clicking this link: [https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php)
It is your responsibility to know and follow these policies that are updated regularly.

**Communication and Electronic Devices:**

**Email:**
All University of West Georgia students are provided with a MyUWG email account. I will only answer emails sent from your University account. It is your responsibility to check your university account. Sensitive information, such as grades, will not be discussed over email and can only be discussed in person.

**Technology:**
You are permitted to use all forms of technology in the classroom, including cell phones/tablets/laptops for **academic purposes only**. However, you are not permitted to be disruptive. All devices must be set to silent, and if you are found to be disruptive, then there will be points deducted in your overall participation grade. I reserve the right to discontinue the use of technology in the classroom (except in cases where a special accommodation has been granted) if this policy is abused.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**
All work must abide by the UWG honor code that applies to all students (If you have forgotten the code, you can access it here). All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. To that end, all of your Writing Assignments will be monitored by TurnitIn. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the appropriate university authorities.
If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please click here for information from the University Writing Center on plagiarism and excessive collaboration.
Special Accommodations:
If you require accommodations, it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation from the office of accessibility services. It is also your responsibility to arrange for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance. **I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.** If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but do not have documentation, please contact the [Counseling Center](#).
Course Schedule:
This is a guideline. I reserve the right to change the syllabus if necessary.
Readings refer to your textbook, please see CourseDen for additional readings and documents throughout the semester

Week 1:
Reading: chapter 13, pp. 422-448

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday January 7: Introduction
Thursday January 9: The Civil War: A Brief Overview

Week 2:
Reading: chapter 14, pp. 462-479

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday January 14: Reconstructing the Union: Politically
Thursday January 16: Reconstructing the Union: Socially

Week 3:
Reading: chapter 15, pp. 488-517

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday January 21: Westward Ho!
Receive topic for Writing Assignment 1 on CourseDen
Thursday January 23: The Unsettled West

Week 4:
Reading: chapter 18, pp. 597-621

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday January 28: The Rise of America’s Cities
Thursday January 30: In Class Activity II

Week 5:
Reading: chapter 16, pp. 525-553

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday February 4: Exam 1
Thursday February 6: The Gilded Age: Or Was it?
Writing Assignment 1 Due on CourseDen at 9:00am

Week 6:
Reading: chapter 17, pp. 560-588 and chapter 20, pp. 666-680

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday February 11: Transformations in the late 19th Century
Thursday February 13: The United States Abandons All Hope of Neutrality

Week 7:
Reading: chapter 19, pp. 630-657 and chapter 20, pp. 680-692

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday February 18: Progressivism
Thursday February 20: The War to End All Wars

Week 8:
Reading: chapter 21, pp. 701-730

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday February 25: Aftermath of World War I
Receive Writing Assignment 2 on CourseDen
Thursday February 27: The Roaring '20s

Week 9:
Reading: chapter 22, pp. 736-749

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday March 3: Black Tuesday and What Comes Next
Thursday March 5: The New Deal

Week 10:
Reading: chapter 22, pp. 749-767

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday March 10: In Class Activity III
Writing Assignment 2 Due on CourseDen at 9:00am
Receive Writing Assignment 3 on CourseDen
Thursday March 12: Exam II

Week 11:
Reading: review all chapters covered up through week 10

Daily Schedule: Spring Break
Tuesday March 17: NO CLASS!
Thursday March 19: NO CLASS!

Week 12:
Reading: chapter 23, pp. 774-805

Daily Schedule:
Tuesday March 24: World War II: Part I
Thursday March 26:   World War II: Part II
Writing Assignment 3 Due on CourseDen at 9:00am

Week 13:
Reading:       chapter 24, pp. 812-840 and chapter 25, 849-864

Daily Schedule:
  Tuesday March 31:       America: The Superpower
  Thursday April 2:       The Baby Boomers Change America: Part I
                         Receive Writing Assignment 4 on CourseDen

Week 14:
Reading:       chapter 25, pp. 865-878

Daily Schedule:
  Tuesday April 7:       The Baby Boomers Change America: Part II
  Thursday April 9:      In Class Activity IV

Week 15:
Reading:       chapter 26, pp. 884-918 and chapter 27, pp. 924-952

Daily Schedule:
  Tuesday April 14:      The Turbulent 1960s
  Thursday April 16:     Watergate and its Aftermath
                         Writing Assignment 4 Due on CourseDen at 9:00am

Week 16:
Reading:       chapter 28, pp. 958-989 and chapter 29, pp. 997-1008

Daily Schedule:
  Tuesday April 21:      The Reagan Years
  Thursday April 23:     From Bush to Clinton and Back Again/End of Class Wrap Up

Final Exam: Tuesday May 5: 8:00-10:00