

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Department of History
SPRING Semester, 2003

History 212-02 American History Since 1877

3 lecture/0 lab/3 credit hours

McIver Bldg. Room 226: 1:00-1:50 pm

M-W-F

Instructor: Kenneth Anthony

Office: McIver Bldg. 334 C

Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:30 pm

MTWR

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or by appointment

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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the history of the United States from the end of Reconstruction, until the modern day, 1877-2000. The course will cover the events, ideas, and people that have shaped American history in this period. The main thrust of the course is to examine how and why the United States emerges as the world's pre-eminent power in this period. In the course we will cover two World Wars, several "depressions," the struggle for Civil rights, and the creation of a military, economic, political, and social colossus.

Prerequisites: None.

Textbooks:

Liberty, Equality, and Power: A History of the American People, Volume II: Since 1863.

The South in the History of the Nation, Volume II, by Link and Wheeler

Additional Materials: Spiral Notebook, a folder or notebook, etc. to keep handouts in.

Student Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to;

1. Understand how and why the United States became first a world power, then a superpower;
2. Be able to identify what are the lasting contributions of the recent American past to our present; (Examples: The New Deal, The National Security State, Civil Rights, etc.)
3. Have a working knowledge of each of the three eras that we will study; The rise of industrial America, the two World Wars, the modern era.

4. Be able to competently write and describe details, facts, and opinions concerning the subjects covered;

Methodology: lectures/discussion./library research

Course Requirements:

Grades for the course will come from 4 exams, one of which will be a take-home quiz, and one out of class assignment (this will either be a book review or an internet multimedia project). In addition there will be several “pop quizzes” given at random throughout the semester.

In-class exams: will consist of 2 essays chosen from among 4, or more, questions, plus several (usually 8 to 12) identifications on each test. Essays and Identifications will come from a study guide that students will receive **prior** to each exam.

The take home exam will be given to you approximately one month before it is due, it is an “open book” exam. **The Take Home test will have no study guide, nor any identifications.** Instead, it will consist of 3 (three) essay questions chosen from among a larger list.

All Exams are to be written in Ink, Not Pencils. Since pencil writing can smear, it is to your advantage to use ink, since if your instructor cannot read your answer, your grade may suffer. The Take Home exam may be written in ink, or type-printed, your choice. All Essays should be well thought out, and reflect your understanding of the material.

The Out of Class Assignments: There are three options available to complete this assignment. One, is to write a review of a book, historical in nature, pertaining to a subject within the scope of the course that you have read. Two, is to use the Internet to find a webpage, or webpages, pertaining to a subject within the scope of the course, and write a review about that webpage,(s). Three, is to write a review of a movie, historical in nature, pertaining to a subject within the scope of the course that you have seen.

Which ever choice the student makes, the assignment will be **due before the mid-term break,** It should be about 3 hand written/2 typed pages long. The review is not a book report, it should not tell me what the book (or webpage) says, but how it says it.

The choice of assignments is up to you. The only requirements for the choice are that the subject (book, movie, or website) covers material related to the time period covered during the class (1877-2002). **Everyone must bring either their book, or its title, or the title of the webpage to me to have it approved before you start. Reviews written on unapproved materials may not be graded. It is your responsibility to see to it that you have a topical subject chosen, and approved.** You are strongly urged to choose your topical

subject very early in the course, even if it covers a period we have not yet reached. Choose a period that interests you or one you are curious about.

Pop Quizzes: They will be just that. . .given at random occasionally during the class. These grades are for your benefit, and **they cannot hurt your final grade, only help it.** Think of them as an incentive, or as a bonus for good attendance. Also they function as a barometer of class performance, and let your instructor know how things are going in the short term.

Evaluation of Performance:

Grading Scale

Each test is worth 20 % of the final grade

A= 94 - 100

The review is also worth 20%

B= 87 - 93

5 x 20 = 10, i.e., 100% of grade

C= 78 - 86

D = 70 - 77

F = 0 - 69

Pop quizzes are factored into your grades after they are computed at the end of the course. In value, all of the pop test together will equal only 2% of your grade. This means that if you make an A on every one of them, then, your grade will go up by 2%. **This will not turn a grade of C into a grade of A, however, it would be enough to turn a C+ into a B-. Hard Work will pay off.**

The Mystery of the Split Grades. In this course a test may be graded with a split grade, i.e., A-/B+, etc. Note that this may also occur on individual essay questions. What this translates into is that your work is borderline between those two grades. A split grade can work for you in this way: at the end of the course, when your grades are computed, **if, and only if, the higher of the two grades (for the whole test) will raise your overall grade in the course, then you will receive the higher grade.** In practice this is only going to happen if you make steady, or hopefully, improving grades with each exam. If your grades are declining, then it will probably not help you.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be in class every session. It is unreasonable for you to expect to make a good grade if you have excessive cuts. Students are expected to make up all missed class work, and come prepared to the class following the absence. Students may be dropped from the course after six (6) absences, instructor's discretion. **Note: If you decide to leave the course, it is your responsibility to drop the class. If you simply stop coming and do not drop the class, you will receive an F for the course.** If you have to miss class for a valid reason, i.e., death in the family, illness, etc. please see me after class upon your return. Your instructor is a reasonable person and will hear you out.

Class schedule:

Introduction to the course

Unit One: Post Civil War America, Reconstruction to the Progressive Era, 1865-1919

LEP: Chapters: 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

The South, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Topics:

The Gilded Age and the New Industrial Society

Urbanization and the creation of Modern Society; the closing of the Frontier

1890's an era of Social Upheaval

Populism and Progressivism

Test I

Unit Two: America becomes a World Power

LEP: Chapters: 23, 24, 25, 26.

The South, Chapters: 7, 8, 9, 10.

Topics:

World War I: America goes "Over there"

The Roaring Twenties: "The Lost Generation"

Out of Class Reviews Due

The Great Depression and Franklin Roosevelt: the New Deal

"The Only Thing We have to Fear is Fear Itself!"

World War Two and the Great Power Era

Test II

Take Home Test handed out

Unit Three: The Post War Era: 1945-1980

LEP: Chapters: 27, 28, 29, 30.

The South, Chapters: 11, 12, 13, 14.

Topics:

The Cold War: Life with the Bomb! "There is a Communist under every rock!"

America, 1952-1968: "The best of times, the worst of times."

Civil Rights, the Space Race, the Youth Movement

Vietnam, Watergate, Iran: "Our long National Nightmare."

Test III: The Take Home Test due

Unit Four: The Modern World: 1980-2000, Our Times

LEP: Chapter: 31.

The South, Chapter:15

Topics:

The Reagan/Bush Era: Conservatives vs. Liberals

America takes Charge: the New World Order

The Gulf War: The Return of Captain America”

The Baby Boomers come to power: The Clinton Presidency

All Course work due: Friday May 2

Review: the Long and Winding Road:

Last day of Class: Tuesday May 6, (Yes this date is correct)

Test IV: the Final Exam: Friday, May 9, 3:30 – 6:30 pm