

HISTORY 340: THE UNITED STATES SINCE WORLD WAR II
Fall 2007
TR 9:30-10:45, MHRA 2209

Instructor: Lindsey Hinds-Brown
Office: 3102 MHRA
Office Hours: T 11-1, and by appt
Email: lghindsb@uncg.edu

Course Description

This course is a social, political, cultural and foreign policy history survey of the United States since World War II. We will consider how American society has fundamentally changed since 1945 by examining selected events and themes including: Cold War politics and culture, the affluence of the 1950s, the Black Freedom Movement, the Great Society, Vietnam, feminism, the rise of conservatism, immigration and globalization. Students will discover that there is no universal interpretation of the “hows” or “whys” for any given event. We will therefore encounter numerous primary and secondary sources including letters, speeches, memoirs, government documents, films, and historical scholarship in an attempt to gain an understanding of the course topics from a variety of perspectives.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. *To explore the connections between the social, political, cultural, economic, and foreign policy trends in American History since 1945.*
For example, how do social and economic concerns inform the political agenda of the nation’s leaders and the civic actions of ordinary men and women? What impact do international relations have on domestic culture?
2. *To reflect on how historians and others outside academia write and think about history.* What is the purpose of historical study? Should we glorify the past or examine it impartially? What sources do we use to learn about the past, and how do we use them?
3. *To consider how the past influences our daily lives.*

Required Texts (available at the UNCG bookstore)

Paul S. Boyer, *Promises to Keep: The United States Since World War II*, Third Edition (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005)

Timothy B. Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2005)

Dan T. Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution, 1963-1994* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1996)

E-Reserve

In addition to the three texts listed above, we will be working with a variety of articles and primary documents that will be available on e-reserve through the course Blackboard page (blackboard.uncg.edu). *These readings are required.* I recommend that you print out these documents and bring them with you to class on the day we are scheduled to discuss them so that you will be able to reference specific examples during the discussion.

Course Requirements

Class Participation – 25%

Each class meeting we will devote approximately 1/3 of the time to discussion either as a class or in smaller groups. Discussions will focus on the assigned documents and articles for that day. Before each class session you should print out the assigned readings and take notes on the important passages. Students are expected to come prepared to participate actively in discussion. You will be graded on the quality and frequency of your contributions as well as your respectfulness to fellow classmates.

Response Papers (3) – 10% each =30%

Three times during the semester you will be asked to respond to either a primary or secondary source that corresponds to specific topics we are studying. Formal descriptions and guidelines for each assignment will be distributed in class.

Midterm Exam – 20%

Final Exam – 25%

All exams will consist of a take-home essay and in-class identifications. The essay will be based on primary documents. The in-class component requires students to fully identify key terms from the class. Guidelines for the exam, including essay questions and a list of possible identifications, will be handed out during class one week before the exam.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required at all class meetings. Since a large portion of the class will be devoted to class and group discussion, it is imperative that you be in class to learn from and collaborate with your classmates. You are allowed 3 absences during the semester with no questions asked. This includes excused and unexcused absences – use them wisely. After 3 absences, your Class Participation grade will be reduced by 5 points for each day missed. In the case of an emergency that prevents you from attending class, please e-mail me as soon as possible.

Late Work and Make-up Exams

Response papers and take-home essays are due at the beginning of class on the specified due date. One letter grade per day will be deducted for any assignment submitted after the due date. Missing class to complete an assignment is unacceptable and assignments turned in after class will be considered late and receive the appropriate grade letter deduction. Make-up exams will be scheduled only in the case of a personal or family emergency or a pre-approved university function.

Grading Scale

97-100 = A+	93-96 = A	90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+	83-86 = B	80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+	73-76 = C	70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+	63-66 = D	60-62 = D-
0-59 = F		

Technology and Communication Policy

It is your responsibility to let me know about any problems you are having in the course EARLY in the semester. I am more than happy to work with students individually during office hours or by appointment, but I cannot help you if I am unaware of your situation. If you are having trouble, come see me immediately! Do not wait until finals week to ask for help.

E-mail is the easiest and quickest way to reach me. I check my e-mail several times throughout the day and will always respond as quickly as possible. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive the message and try sending it again. Undelivered e-mails will not be accepted as an excuse for any miscommunication. E-mail can be unreliable at times, therefore it is your responsibility to make sure the message (and any information it contains) is received.

Cell phone and internet use are NOT allowed in this classroom. Anyone who receives a phone call, is seen texting, or checking e-mail, etc., during a class meeting will be asked to leave immediately, be marked absent for that day, and will receive a deduction from his or her Class Participation grade. Violations during exams will result in an automatic “0” for the exam.

You must turn in hard copies of all assignments on the day they are due. No e-mailed work will be accepted.

Please check the Blackboard page for this course frequently. I will use this page to post important messages to the class, such as changes in the reading schedule or assignment reminders. You will also find a copy of the syllabus and all assignments as they are assigned.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism, or presenting another's work as your own, will not be tolerated. I do not expect cheating to be a problem in this class, but any student caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive a "0" for the assignment or exam and will be reported to the Dean of Students for violating the university's Academic Integrity policy. All references to someone else's ideas, such as primary and secondary sources, lectures, or the textbook, must be cited appropriately whether or not they are direct quotes. All direct quotes must be enclosed in quotation marks and cited appropriately. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or academic misconduct please visit UNCG's Academic Integrity webpage for details: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requiring assistance or accommodations for note-taking, testing, etc., due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services and let me know as soon as possible.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday, 8/21 **Introduction to the Course**

Thursday, 8/23 **Why 1945?**
Boyer: 1-25
Article: Neil R. McMillan, "Fighting for What We Didn't Have," in *Remaking Dixie*, 93-110.
Doc: Hill, "Rosie the Riveter" (1940s)

Week 2

Tuesday, 8/28 **Atomic Diplomacy and the Origins of the Cold War**
Boyer: 26-42
Article: John Dower, "Three Narratives of Our Humanity," in *History Wars*, 63-96

Thursday, 8/30 **Truman and the Early Cold War: Policies and Conflicts**
Boyer: 43-63
Docs: *Marshall Plan*
The Truman Doctrine
The President's Advisors Urge Military Expansion (NSC-68)

Week 3

Tuesday, 9/4 **Anticommunism and the Realities of the Post-War World**
Boyer: 65-95, 145-147
Doc: Lawson and Lardner, "Are You Now...?" *HUAC Investigates Hollywood*
Joseph McCarthy, "I Have In My Hand"
William O. Douglas, *A Liberal Deplores the Witch-Hunt*

Thursday, 9/6

1950's – Consumerism and Suburbia

Boyer: 97-127, 155-158

Docs: *U.S. Business Celebrates the "Miracle of America"*

A Journalist Describes Levittown (1948)

A Real Estate Agent Explains the Fine Art of Blockbusting (1962)

Week 4

Tuesday, 9/11

Youth Culture

Boyer: 129-145

Docs: *Newsweek Decries the Problem of Dangerous Teens*

Life Magazine Identifies the New Teen-age Market, 1959

Thursday, 9/13

Film: *Rebel Without A Cause*

Week 5

Tuesday, 9/18

JFK – Political or Cultural Phenomenon?

Boyer: 160-175, 180-190

Tyson: *Blood Done Sign My Name*, Chapters 1-3

Docs: John F. Kennedy, *Inaugural Address*

President Kennedy and His Advisers Debate Options in the Missile Crisis

John F. Kennedy, *The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962*

Thursday, 9/20

Civil Rights and the Grassroots Movement

DUE: Film Response

Boyer: 148-155, 214-239

Tyson: *Blood Done Sign My Name*, Chapter 4-5

Doc: Sherrod, *Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Memorandum*

Week 6

Tuesday, 9/25

The Move toward Black Power

Boyer: 241-252

Tyson: *Blood Done Sign My Name*, Chapters 6-8

Doc: Carmichael and Hamilton, from *Black Power*

Thursday, 9/27

LBJ and the Great Society

Boyer: 190-212

Tyson: *Blood Done Sign My Name*, Chapters 9-10

Docs: Johnson, *Defenders*

Goldwater, *The Attack from the Right (1964)*

Week 7

Tuesday, 10/2

Origins of the Vietnam War

Boyer: 175-180

Tyson: *Blood Done Sign My Name*, Chapters 11-Epilogue

Docs: *The Vietnamese Declare Their Independence, 1945*

President Dwight D. Eisenhower Explains the Domino Theory, 1954

A South Vietnamese Peasant Explains Why He Joined the Vietcong, 1961

- Thursday, 10/4** **Vietnam: American Involvement and the War at Home**
 Boyer: 263-289
 Docs: Johnson, *The Tonkin Gulf Incident* (1964)
 A “Tunnel Rat” Testifies About the My Lai Massacre, 1969
 Paul Potter, “*The Incredible War*” (1965)
- Week 8**
Tuesday, 10/9 **Midterm Exam**
DUE: Take-home Essay
- Thursday, 10/11** **Individual Meetings with Instructor**
- **FRIDAY, 10/12** **LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A “W”****
- Week 9**
Tuesday, 10/16 **Fall Break – NO CLASS**
- Thursday, 10/18** **Discussion of *Blood Done Sign My Name***
- Week 10**
Tuesday, 10/23 **The New Left and the Student Movement**
 Boyer: 252-262
 Doc: Students for a Democratic Society, *The Port Huron Statement* (1962)
 Young Americans for Freedom, *The Sharon Statement* (1962)
 SDS, *March on Washington: The War Must Be Stopped* (1965)
- Thursday, 10/25** **“Feminisms”**
DUE: Memoir Response
 Boyer: 331-335
 Excerpt: Ruth Rosen, “Leaving the Left,” *The World Split Open*, pp 94-140
 Docs: Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* 1963
 Bread and Roses, *Declaration of Women’s Independence*, 1970
- Week 11**
Tuesday, 10/30 **1968 – Part I**
 Boyer: 291-299
 Carter: *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, Introduction and C1
 Docs: *Robert F Kennedy in Cape Town*
 You Don’t Need a Weatherman to Know Which Way the Wind Blows
- Thursday, 11/1** **1968 – Part II**
 Carter: *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, C2
 Docs: Peter Schrag, *The Forgotten American* (1969)
 A Conservative Strategist Hails an “Emerging Republican Majority”
- Week 12**
Tuesday, 11/6 **The Presidency of Richard Nixon**
 Boyer: 299-321, 335-347
 Carter: *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, C2
 Docs: *President Richard M. Nixon Discusses the Watergate Break-in with Aide H.R. Haldeman*, 1972

Thursday, 11/8 **The Culture Clash of the 1970s**
Boyer: 322-335
Docs: Indians of All Tribes, *Proclamation to the Great White Father and all his people*
Martha Shelley, *Gay is Good* (1970)
Phillis Schlafly, *What's Wrong with "Equal Rights" for Women?* (1972)
Jerry Falwell, *"The Moral Majority"* (1981)

Week 13

Tuesday, 11/13 **Post-Watergate Political Malaise of the 1970s**
Boyer: 353-382
Docs: Jimmy Carter, *The "Crisis of Confidence" Speech*

Thursday, 11/15 **The Reagan Revolution**
Boyer: 384-413
Carter: *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, C3
Docs: Ronald Reagan, *"The Second American Revolution"*
Mario Cuomo, *"A Tale of Two Cities"* (1984)

Week 14

Tuesday, 11/20 **The 1990s and the End of the Cold War**
Boyer: 413-450
Readings: *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, C4
Docs: *President George Bush Proclaims a New World Order*, 1990
Newt Gingrich, *The Republican "Contract with America" 1994*

Thursday, 11/22 **Thanksgiving – NO CLASS**

Week 15

Tuesday, 11/27 **Discussion of *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich***

Thursday, 11/29 **Globalization and Immigration**
DUE: Book Critique
Boyer: 450-476
Article: Raymond A. Mohl, *"Globalization, Latinization, and the Nuevo New South,"* in
Globalization and the American South, p. 66-100
Docs: *A Columnist Decries "Outsourcing" in the New Global Economy*, 2004

Week 16

Tuesday, 12/4 **2000 Election to the War in Iraq**
Boyer: 479-508
Docs: *Who Voted for Whom in 2000: A Chart*
George W. Bush, *The Axis of Evil Speech*
Pew Global Attitudes Project, *Image of the United States* (2005)

Thursday, 12/6 **How Will We Remember the Present?**
No Readings – Review for Final Exam

Week 17

Tuesday, 12/11 **Reading Day – NO CLASS**

Thursday, 12/13 **Final Exam (8:00 am – 11:00 am)**
DUE: Take-home Essay