

HIS 212-09: US History Since 1865
Fall 2009
Thursdays, 6-8:50 PM
MHRA 2209

Instructor Info:

Natasha Thompson

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Office: MHRA 2103

Office Hours: Thursday 4-5:45 pm and by appointment

Required Texts:

Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Volume Two: Second Seagull Edition. 2009.

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Fifth Edition. 2007.

Course Description: This course provides an overview of major trends and themes in United States history from Reconstruction through the present. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, industrialization, immigration, the Great Depression and New Deal, the major American wars, the Cold War, as well as social conflict and change. We will consider the impact of these events not only in political and economic terms, but also their effect on US society and culture.

Course Objectives

When you leave this course you will have:

- 1) An understanding of the key events, trends, and themes of US history since 1865
- 2) An awareness of the historical experiences and actions of different segments of US society
- 3) Improved research and writing skills
- 4) An understanding of the difference between primary and secondary sources
- 5) The ability to link historical events to contemporary issues

Exams: You will take three in-class exams over the course of the semester. These will consist of identifications and an essay. A study guide with potential identification terms will be distributed a week prior to each exam. I will provide you with more information on how best to approach exam questions as we get closer to the first exam. (You may also want to check pages 40-42 of Rampolla, as this section provides useful information as well.) The final exam is not cumulative and will follow the format of the other two exams.

Reading Quizzes: With the exception of exam weeks and the last day of class, we will start each class period with a quiz on the week's readings. Students will answer an open-ended question on the broad themes addressed in the readings. You are encouraged to take notes on the readings and may use YOUR notes while taking the quiz. We will discuss strategies for effective note taking.

Research Project: Over the course of the semester you will complete a research paper on a topic of your choosing. Specific details and requirements about the project are provided on Blackboard.

Attendance: You are allowed one unexcused absence throughout the course of the semester. Any additional unexcused absences will result in a reduction of 5 points from your final grade. Additionally, leaving excessively early/arriving excessively late can also result in an absence for the day. Excused absences will be evaluated on a case by case basis. You should contact me as soon as possible after an absence if you feel it might qualify as excused.

Extra Credit: You can earn up to five points of extra credit on two of the three exams. In order to do so, you must locate a current news story (print stories only – no video) and write a 1-2 page paper connecting the current event to a topic we are covering in class. You must attach a hardcopy of the article to the paper and submit it either on or after the day that we actually discuss the topic. (In other words, if you read a news story about Vietnam veterans in September, you would need to hold on to the story until we actually get to the Vietnam War.) You are allowed to turn in a total of two current events papers and you will be expected to *briefly* tell the class about the article that you read.

Note that you are not guaranteed the full five points simply because you submitted an article. Points will be determined by the relevancy of the current event as well as the quality of your accompanying paper.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Cheating on exams and quizzes and plagiarism (presenting someone else's ideas as your own) on written assignments will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and/or exam. Repeated instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. UNCG's full academic integrity policy can be found at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>.

Throughout the course we will discuss ways to effectively give credit for the sources you use on written assignments.

Grade Breakdown:

Reading Quizzes: 20 %
(10 Quizzes worth 2% each)

Exams: 45%
(3 Exams worth 15% each)

Research Project: 35%
Topic Selection (on time): 5%
Annotated Bibliography: 10%
Paper: 20%

Grading Scale A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (0-59)

Other Things to Know:

- 1) Make sure all noisemaking electronic devices (cell phones, etc.) remain silent during class. Leaving class to take a call or texting during class are not permitted. (If you have a special circumstance to where you must leave your phone on, please let me know as soon as possible.)
- 2) Laptops are permitted in class, provided that you are using them in a manner related to the class. Engaging in other activities (such as web browsing, playing games, etc.) will result in a loss of laptop privileges for the semester.
- 3) Food and drinks are permitted in the classroom – just make sure you clean up when you leave.
- 4) All communication from me outside of class will come through your UNCG email account. Make sure you check it regularly.

Course Calendar

August 27 – Course Introduction; Reconstruction

Readings: Foner, Ch. 15

September 3 – Industrial Growth and Changes in the West

Readings: Foner, Ch. 16; Rampolla, pgs. 70-75 (Bottom of 75 through 83 are optional, but useful)

September 10 – Populism and Imperialism

Readings: Foner, Ch. 17; Rampolla, Ch. 2

Research Topic Due

September 17 – The Progressive Era

Readings: Foner, Ch. 18; Rampolla, pgs. 38-42

September 24 – World War I

First Exam (Chapters 15-18)

Readings: Foner, Ch. 19 – **No Reading Quiz This Week**

October 1 – The 1920s

Readings: Foner, Ch. 20; Rampolla, Section 3b-2 (pgs. 29-31)

October 8 – The Great Depression & New Deal

Readings: Foner, Ch. 21

Preliminary Annotated Bibliography Due

October 15 – World War II

Readings: Foner, Ch. 22

Note – October 16 is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic penalty.

October 22 – The Cold War

Second Exam – Chapters 19-22

Readings: Foner, Ch. 23 - **No Reading Quiz This Week**

October 29 – The Affluent Society and the Other America

Readings: Foner, Ch. 24; Rampolla Ch. 4

November 5 – The 1960s

Readings: Foner, Ch. 25; Rampolla, Ch. 6

November 12 – Conservatism and the Rise of the New Right

Readings: Foner, Ch. 26

Rough Draft of Research Paper Due (optional)

November 19 – Globalization

Readings: Foner, Ch. 27

December 3 – Last Day of Class

Readings: Foner, Ch. 28

No Reading Quiz

Research Papers Due

Final Extra Credit Assignments Due

December 10 – **Final Exam** (Chapters 23-28) – Meet at regular time