

THE UNITED STATES: A GENERAL SURVEY SINCE 1865

HIS 212 Sec. 03

Spring Semester 2003

TIME: Mon. 7:30-10:20

PLACE: McIver 140

INSTRUCTOR: P. Stephens

e-mail: p_stephe@uncg.edu

OFFICE: MCVR 223

Telephone: 334-5732 (office)

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 6:15-7:15

910-673-2979 (home)

or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HIS 212 will survey both chronologically and topically the development of American civilization from 1865 to the present. Course design aims to familiarize students with major trends, ideas, problems and achievements of the United States since 1865, and to stimulate student interest. Reading assignments and class sessions attempt to facilitate students becoming citizen-leaders able to take historically informed position on 21st Century issues.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & READER

1. Brinkley, Alan. AMERICAN HISTORY: A SURVEY, Vol. II: Since 1865 (11th edition), 2003, McGraw Hill Companies, Inc..
2. Madaras, Larry and James M. SoRelle, editors, etc. TAKING SIDES: CLASHING VIEWS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, VOL. II, RECONSTRUCTION TO THE PRESENT (10th edition), 2003, McGraw Hill/Duskin.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

(1) To develop a framework for viewing U.S. history from the Civil War to the present. Students will be able to recognize names and events in terms of time and place, and identify their significance to major movements.

(2) To develop ability to analyze and assemble information and ideas significant to the discussion of major issues and movements. (Students will be able to trace major movements of U.S. history--e.g. growth of the powers of the Presidency, evolution of democracy, emergence of U.S. from an isolationist policy to that of world power, growth of federal government's role in economy, etc.--showing understanding of the significance of events and cognizance of differing viewpoints in their discussion. (Course emphasis is on the scope and depth of insight rather than on memorization of facts as presented by any one author or lecture.)

(3) To become familiar with sources of historical information: Students will be able to locate and utilize standard reference works, collective histories, special studies, primary sources and sources of

current information. Students will begin to analyze and detect an author's point of view and evaluate the use and validity of on-line sources.

(4) To become aware of significant contemporary issues and their historical roots: Students will begin to utilize historical data to illuminate and bring perspective to discussion of current issues. Students will increasingly ask probing questions, explore resources, and contribute voluntarily to small group and on-line discussions utilizing Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) READING assignments from text on time; assignments are designed to be completed prior to class the day listed (see attached schedule).

Reading schedule is sometimes fairly heavy; look ahead; plan.

2) Class ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION. Everyone is expected to attend class regularly, on time, and having read assignment. (More than 2 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade.) Participation may take the form of active listening, written quizzes, oral contributions, small group contributions in class, resourcing, and on-line discussions prior to class.

3) Keep a JOURNAL recording of your thoughts & understandings as you read two points of view on at least 12 issues from your reader, TAKING SIDES. (You may also report on SUPPLEMENTARY readings /viewing /exploratory on-line searches on these issues or other topics of your own personal interest)

Use a separate folder or thin notebook for recording journal entries (separate from class lecture notes); a hard copy will be taken up twice during term and just prior to final exam; individual entries may be requested by e-mail at an earlier date. (If journal is handwritten, use pen, not pencil.)

(4) Satisfactory performance on mid-term exams and COMPREHENSIVE final exam. Blue books are necessary & can be purchased in book store.

(Attention to contemporary events of historic significance through use of newspapers, magazines, journals, and other media is encouraged and often the basis for bonus points)

BASIS ON WHICH GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED:

	<u>%</u>	<u>Points</u>
Mid-term exams (2)	40%	400
Class Participation: Short in-class writings, quizzes on weekly readings; maps; reports	20%	200
small group work, on-line discussion etc.;reports		
Journal	20%	200
Comprehensive Final Exam	20%	200

MAKE-UP POLICY: No make-up for weekly reading quiz; make-up on announced exams granted for **EXCUSED** absences **ONLY** (arrange immediately--within 24 hrs.).

HONOR POLICY: Each student is obligated to be familiar with the Academic Integrity Policy (see <http://www.uncg.edu/saf/studiscp/Manual.html>) and to comply with its provisions.

GRADES WILL BE COMPUTED ON THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

A = 90-100 (900-1000 points)
B = 80-89 (800- 899 points)
C = 70-79 (700- 799 points)
D = 60-69 (600- 699 points)
F = 0-59 (0- 599 points)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS: The following schedule lists textbook readings. It is a tentative assignment sheet that may be adjusted during the quarter. READING ASSIGNMENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE READ **PRIOR** to class lectures and discussions to provide background for good listening, comprehension of major trends and movements, and active participation.

- Jan. 13 INTRODUCTION: Who are We? What is History? Overview of course & objectives; LEADERSHIP: Civil War & Reconstruction & more current leaders.
- Jan. 20 NO CLASS: MLK Holiday. Special Assignment: Attend one MLK special event during January and write about it in journal as supplementary event; (Background reading on MLK: Brinkley, pp. 836-38).
- Jan. 27 RECONSTRUCTION AND THE NEW SOUTH: Brinkley, *pp.406-438; Take notes & do additional research for 2 questions; TAKING SIDES, Issue 1: Was It Wrong to Impeach Andrew Johnson? Issue 6: Did Racial Segregation Improve the Status of African Americans?
- Feb. 3 THE GILDED AGE: INDUSTRIAL SUPREMACY / INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN THE NEW ECONOMY: Brinkley, pp. *472-97; TAKING SIDES, Issue 2: Was John D. Rockefeller a 'Robber Baron'? THE AGE OF THE CITY, read pp. 498-506; skim pp.506-529.
- Feb. 10 TAKING SIDES, Issue 4: Was City Government in Late-Nineteenth Century America a 'Conspicuous Failure'?
JOURNALS DUE
NATIONAL POLITICS, 1877-1900: Brinkley, *pp. 530-550; 467-69.
- Feb. 17 **Exam I on 1865-1900 (Bring Blue Book)**
ISOLATION TO EMPIRE: Brinkley, pp. 552-572
TAKING SIDES, Issue 5: Did Yellow Journalism Cause the Spanish-American War?
- Feb. 24 THE RISE OF PROGRESSIVISM: MUNICIPAL AND STATEHOUSE PROGRESSIVISM; Brinkley pp.574-599; TAKING SIDES: Issue 3: Did the Industrial Revolution Disrupt the American Family?; PROGRESSIVISM: THE BATTLE FOR NATIONAL REFORM UNDER ROOSEVELT, TAFT, & WILSON; Brinkley, *pp.602-613.
- Mar. 3 ROOSEVELT, TAFT, & WILSON'S FOREIGN POLICY: Brinkley, 613-619; AMERICAN AND THE GREAT WAR, Brinkley, 620-40.

EXAM #2 on 1897-1918 Domestic and Foreign Policy;**Bring Blue Book**

Mar. 10 SPRING BREAK

Mar. 17 Catchup, Brinkley 640-47;THE NEW ERA: Brinkley 648-673;
TAKING SIDES: ISSUES 7 & 8, Was the Ku Klux Klan an
Extremist Movement? & Did the Women's Movement Die in the
1920's?

Mar. 24 THE GREAT DEPRESSION: H. HOOVER: Brinkley, pp.674-700;
FDR & THE NEW DEAL: Brinkley, *pp.702-726.

- Mar. 31 THE GLOBAL CRISIS: Brinkley 728-746; TAKING SIDES, Issue 9, Was Information About the Attack on Pearl Harbor Deliberately Withheld From the American Commanders? AMERICA IN A WORLD AT WAR, Brinkley, pp. 750-775.
- Apr. 6 POST WORLD WAR II FOREIGN POLICY: THE COLD WAR: Brinkley, pp. 776-797; TAKING SIDES, Issue 10, Did Communism Threaten America's Internal Security after World War II? & Issue 11: Should President Truman Have Fired General MacArthur?
- Apr. 13 POST WORLD WAR II DOMESTIC POLICY: THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY, Brinkley, pp. 798-829; TAKING SIDES, Issue 12, Was Dwight Eisenhower a Great President?
- Apr. 20 JFK/LBJ/NIXON: THE CRISIS OF AUTHORITY, Brinkley 830-857; 858-891 (specified portions); TAKING SIDES, Issue 13, Did President Kennedy Effectively Manage the Cuban Missile Crisis
- Apr. 27 TAKING SIDES, Issue 14 Should America Remain a Nation of Immigrants; THE AGE OF REAGON, Brinkley 892-915 (specified portions); TAKING SIDES, Issue 15 Did President Reagan Win the Cold War? & Issue 16 Will History Consider William Jefferson Clinton a Reasonably Good President?
- May 5 THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION: Brinkley, pp. 918-951 (specified portions) CATCHUP, REVIEW, EVALUATION: TAKING SIDES, Issue 17, Is America Entering the Twenty-First Century in a Period of Decline?
- May 12 FINAL EXAM: Comprehensive (Bring blue books)

