

History 212-06
United States History Since 1865

Instructor: Dr. Michael Sistro
Office Hours: 10:00-11:50 MWF, 2:00-3:00 TTh
and by appointment.
Office: McIver 208, 334-5488
Home Phone: (919)419-1119
Email: mpsistro@uncg.edu

Spring 2003
028 McIver
TTh
3:30-4:45pm

Course Objectives:

When Americans are shocked by foreign attack, such as on September 11th, or rocked by political turmoil, such as in November 2000, it is natural for us to reach into our past, as we perceive it, for explanation. History does not repeat itself, but there are important lessons to be drawn, both from the similarities and the differences between, for example, September 11th and the attack on Pearl Harbor and its aftermath, or the 2000 presidential imbroglio and the contests of 1960 or 1876. Historical reflection, however, is not purely objective. Succeeding generations interpret the same historical event differently and how we choose to remember history is almost as important as what “actually happened.” For example, your grandparents learned one version of the history of Reconstruction in the postCivil War South that was very different from what you learned in high school and will be taught in this course. Your grandchildren, in turn, will understand the 1980s or 1990s very differently than you do, to say nothing of the fact that what are current events to you will be history to them.

Our main objective this semester is to understand your America, and this state in particular, by discovering how it stemmed from your parents’ and grandparents’ generation and from even deeper roots. Through lectures, readings, audio-visual material, and in-class discussions, we will examine major groups of people, individuals, events, as well as certain reoccurring themes that all help to define modern and contemporary America. Those themes are: changes in race relations and racial policy as well as competing definitions of American citizenship based on race and ethnicity; the rise of an activist federal government and its role as a broker between competing groups; the modernization of the economy and its social effects; the emergence of the United States as a world power and the conflicts which the exercise of that power has produced; and the evolution of a mass, popular culture. A second objective, which involves the reading assignments and audio-visual material, is to explore different and interesting sources for learning American history. The final objective, which involves the writing assignments, is to train you as an historian to make clearly organized and well supported arguments.

Course Requirements:

Readings: The reading assignments will come from one textbook and a course packet. The book is available at the bookstore.

James L. Roark, Michael P. Johnson, et al., The American Promise: A History of the United States From 1865 (Vol. II)

The course pack contains documents, introductory material, and links to several web sites where other supplemental readings are located. You will need to have ready access to the Internet, either from campus or at home and you will need to give yourself time to consult the web-based sources before the assigned class time.

The readings should be completed in advance of each class meeting. My lectures will not be drawn primarily from the readings, so attendance and note taking will not substitute for doing the readings. In addition, on many days, class discussions of the assigned reading and/or video and audio material, will take up a good portion of the class time. This, of course, requires that you have done the reading before hand.

Web Material: The course pack and other course material are accessible on-line at Blackboard. [<http://blackboard.uncg.edu>] Note: this is a new server for BB. In addition, you should now only use INTERNET EXPLORER rather than Netscape to access BB. Login with your UNCG username and your NOVELL (Netware) password. Anyone who does not know their Novell password can reset their password at <http://accounts.uncg.edu>. You do NOT need to know your current password to do this. To access BB, you need to have first activated your UNC-G e-mail account. Accounts can be activated at <http://accounts.uncg.edu> by selecting Unix Communications, Netware & Campus Pipeline Account Creation. If you are not sure if you have an account, complete the form and the system will either give you an account or will tell you the account username if you already have one. To access BB the first time, use your UNC-G user name. The password will be "password" until you change it. The simplest thing to do is to download the course packs, exams and other files from Blackboard onto your own computer. If you have trouble accessing Blackboard, let me know and I can e-mail you the files. You should also check the announcements section of BB regularly.

Movies: Since most of this course will deal with twentieth century history, we will utilize a good deal of visual sources, especially movies and documentaries, in place of written material. You are to pay as close attention to these visual sources, however, as you do the textbook or the supplemental readings. We will watch portions of videos in class, but we will also watch three one hour-long segments outside of class. (See syllabus for dates).

Exams: You will be responsible for two midterms and a final, each consisting of an in-class quiz and a take-home essay. (See the syllabus for exam dates. You will find the exam sheets and format on Blackboard.) No late essays will be accepted without prior permission, no exceptions.

Over the course of the semester, you will also be responsible for submitting fifteen (one paragraph) summaries of course pack documents for a given class. You can choose which fifteen days for which to write summaries. See handout on Blackboard for more detail.

Break Down of the Final Grade:

Participation:	10%
Readings Summaries	15% (15 worth 1% each)
First Midterm	20%
Second Midterm	25%
Final	<u>30%</u>
	100%

In my final analysis, these percentages can be somewhat flexible. I give weight to signs of improvement in your written work and to class participation.

Class Schedule

Tues. Jan. 14. Introduction: What is “America” Today and Why and How to Study How We Got Here? *The Civil War: Divided Legacies*, 1865

Part One: Competing Definitions of America’s Future, 1865-1941

Th. Jan. 16. Reconstruction and Redemption, 1866-1880s

Readings: James L. Roark, Michael P. Johnson, et al., *The American Promise: A History of the United States From 1865* (Vol. II) (hereafter cited as “text”), chap. 16, pp. 537-569, 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, p. A-19-21 course pack, pt I (see course pack on days noted for introductory comments, documents, and discussion questions)

Tues. Jan. 21. Modernization Pt I: The Northern Version, 1870s-1900

Reading: text, skim pp. 575-598 on the West. (We won’t discuss in class, but I expect you to know this material), read 598-636, skim 636-645, tables on pp. A-54, 55, and 60
course pack

Th. Jan. 23. Modernization Pt II: The Southern Version, 1880s-1900

View part one of documentary *Uprising of ‘34* in class.
Reading: text, review pp. 582-583
course pack

Tues. Jan. 28. Alternative Visions: Populism & Labor, 1870s-1890s

Reading: text, pp. 651-679, 685-686, 690-704, review pp. 642-645 on 1894 elections
course pack

Th. Jan. 30. Alternative Visions: Progressivism, 1890s-1900s

Readings: text, pp. 686-690, 725-761, progressive amendments (16th, 17th, 19th, pp. A-21-22), *Lochner v. New York* and *Muller v. Oregon* cases, p. A-50.
course pack

Tues. Feb. 4. Alternative Visions: Race, Ethnicity and Imperialism: 1890s-1910s

[Pick section of World War I web site to read and discuss on Feb. 11.]

Readings: text, review pp. 600-602, 655-656 on immigration, pp. 689-690 on Ida P. Wells, and pp. 759-761 on Progressive racism, read, pp. 704-719, *Plessy v. Ferguson* case, p. A-50, tables, p. A-61-62.
course pack

Wed. Feb. 5. Movie Night. Time TBA. View of portion of *The Birth of a Nation*. (See reference material in course pack for Thursday, Feb. 6.)

Th. Feb. 6. *The Birth of a National Culture*, 1900-1920s

Reading: text, review pp. 664-671

course pack

Tues. Feb. 11. The Disruptions of War: 1914-1920s
Small group reports on selected topics from “North Carolina and the Great War” web site. (See course pack for instructions)

Reading: text, review pp. 741-744, read pp. 769-800
course pack

Th. Feb. 13. Who’s America Was It, Pt I? Race, Ethnicity & Radicalism, 1919-1920s
Reading: text, pp. 802-804, 819-820, read pp., 833-834, tables A-59, 60

Part Two: Coming to Terms with Modern America, 1919-1950s

Tues. Feb. 18. 1st Midterm. In-class quiz and take-home essay due.
Business Confidence and Conservatism, 1919-1929
Reading: 800-804, 811-828

Th. Feb. 20. Who’s America Was It, Pt II? Culture and Morality
Reading: text, pp. 814-819, 828-839
course pack

Tues. Feb. 25. The Order Crumbles: The Great Depression and New Deal, 1929-1934
Reading: text, pp. 839-849, 855-872, table p. A-55
course pack

Wed. Feb. 26. Movie Night. TBA. Watch Pt II of The Uprising of ’34

Th. Feb. 27. Americans Debate the New Deal: 1934-1941
[Pick topic on World War II home front to read and discuss on March 6].
Reading: text, pp. 872-982
course pack

Tues. March 4. World War II, Pt I: The War Abroad, 1939-1945
Watch Part of documentary D-Day.
Reading: text, pp. 897-912, 927-936
course pack

Th. March 6. World War II, Pt II: The War at Home, 1941-1945
Small group reports on selected reading on World War II.
Reading: text, pp. 912-927
course pack

Tues. March 11-Thurs. March 13. Spring Break. **No Class.**

Tues. March 18. Consequences of the Cold War, Pt I: Asia & the Middle East, 1945-1960

Reading: text, pp. 943-956, 970-975, 986-992, table p. A-55

Th. March 20. The 1950s: Confidence, Conservatism, & Commercialism

Reading: text, pp. 957-970, 981-986, 992-1007
course pack

Tues. March 25. The Black Freedom Struggle, Pt I, 1945-1960

Reading: text, review pp. 962-964, read 1007-1014, Brown v. Board case, p. A-51
course pack

Part Three: Defining Contemporary America, 1960-

Tues. April 1. 2nd Midterm. In-class quiz and take-home essay due.

Political & Cultural Realignment: 1960 Election & Liberalism's Legacy

Reading: text, pp. 1021-1032, table p. A-55

Th. April 3. Consequences of the Cold War, Pt II: Cuba & Vietnam, 1963-1968

Reading: text, pp. 1061-1075
course pack

Sun. April 6. Movie Night. Time TBA. Watch Freedom on My Mind

(See reference material in course pack for April 8)

Tues. April 8. The Black Freedom Struggle, 1960-1968

Reading: text, pp. 1032-1046, MLK speech, p. A-37-38
course pack

Th. April 10. Rebellion, Radicalism and the Conservative Backlash, 1966-1968

Reading: text, pp. 1047-1055, 1075-1087
course pack

Tues. April 15. Nixonian Conservatism: Image vs. Reality, 1968-1974

Reading: text, pp. 1082-1091, 1097-1114, 1151-1153
course pack

Thurs. April 17. The Carter Malaise: Image vs. Reality, 1976-1980

Reading: text, pp. 1114-1116, 1154-1158, tables pp. A-54

Tues. April 22. The Reagan Era: Conservatism and Its Legacies, 1980-1992

Reading: text, pp. 1116-1129, 1158-1167, table p. A-55
course pack

Thurs. April 24. The Post Industrial Economy: Exuberance and Anxiety, 1990s-

[Pick topics on American foreign policy for small group reports on May 1 and 6.]

Reading: text, pp. 1108-1109, 1030-1032, 1138-1139, table p. A-55
course pack

Tues. April 29. Diagnosing Our Political Ills: 1992-2000

Reading: text, pp. 1133-1142, Bush v. Palm Beach County. case, p. A-53.
course pack

Thurs. May 1. Looking for America's Place in the World, 1992-

Small group reports on topics on American foreign policy.

Reading: text, pp. 1167-1180, tables A-61-62
course pack

Tues. May 6. Looking for Answers After September 11th

Reading: course pack

Final Exam: Thurs. May 8, 3:30-6:30pm