

History 212-07
United States History Since 1865
Class web page: <http://bb/uncg.edu>

Instructor: Michael Sstrom
Office Hours: 11:00-1:00pm, MWF
and by appointment.
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Fall 2002
225 McIver
TTh
2:00-3:15pm

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 what we perceive to be our past 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 is 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 course pack is available on-line or as downloadable files. 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 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. A portion of each exam will also cover material found only in the readings.

Web Material: The class web site is located on UNC-G's Blackboard system. To access Blackboard, you need to have first activated your UNC-G e-mail account. If you have not done so, go to www.uncg.edu/cis. To access Blackboard the first time, use your UNC-G user name. The password will be "password" until you change it. The web site has a copy of the syllabus, exam material and the course packs.

The class web site has a copy of the syllabus, exam material and the course pack. The course pack contains documents, introductory material, and links to several web sites where most of the supplemental readings are located. This approach avoids the high cost to you of purchasing either a published document reader or a printed course pack that includes copywrited material. 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.

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 two one hour-long segments in evenings outside of class. (See syllabus for dates). If you have an excused absence from the showings, you may borrow a copy of the video.

Exams: In the first third of the semester there will be an in-class, short answer, objective question quiz. Its main purpose is to diagnose any problems in time for early grade reports. You will also be responsible for a midterm and a final, each consisting of one take-home essay. The final exam will also have a short answer quiz. (See the syllabus for exam dates. You will find the exam sheets and format at the class web site.) No late essays will be accepted without prior permission, no exceptions. Calling me after the fact to tell me why you missed the deadline does not count as prior notice.

Break Down of the Final Grade:

Participation:	20% (includes small group reports and sign-up days)
Quiz:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final:	<u>40%</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. Aug. 20. 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. Aug. 22. Reconstruction and Redemption, 1866-1880s

Readings: 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, pp. A-19-A-21 course pack, pt I (see course pack on days noted for introductory comments, documents, and discussion questions)

Tues. Aug. 27. 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. Aug. 29. 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. Sept. 3. 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. Sept. 5. 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. Sept. 10. Alternative Visions: Race, Ethnicity and Imperialism: 1890s-1910s

Pick section of World War I web site to read and discuss on Sept. 17.
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. Sept. 11. Movie Night. Time TBA. View of portion of *The Birth of a Nation*.

(See reference material in course pack for Thursday, Sept. 12)

Th. Sept. 12. The Birth of a National Culture, 1900-1920s

Reading: text, review pp. 664-671
course pack

Tues. Sept. 17. 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. Sept. 19. In-class Quiz

Business Confidence and Conservatism, 1919-1929

Reading: 800-804, 811-828

Tues. Sept. 24. Who’s America Was It, Pt I? Race, Ethnicity and Radicalism, 1920s

Reading: text, review pp. 802-804, 819-820, read pp., 833-834, tables A-59, 60
course pack

Th. Sept. 26. Who’s America Was It, Pt II? Culture and Morality

Reading: text, review pp. 814-819, read pp. 828-839
course pack

Tues. Oct. 1. The Order Crumbles: The Great Depression and New Deal, 1929-1934

Reading: text, pp. 839-849, 855-872, table p. A-55
course pack

Thurs. Oct. 3. Americans Debate the New Deal: 1934-1941

Pick topic on World War II home front to read and discuss on Oct. 10.

Watch Pt II of “The Uprising of ’34”

Reading: text, pp. 872-982
course pack

Tues. Oct. 8. 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. Oct. 10. 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. Oct. 15. Fall Break. **No Class.**

Part Two: Defining Contemporary America, 1945-

Th. Oct. 17. Midterm essay due.

Consequences of the Cold War, Pt I: Asia and the Middle East, 1945-1960

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

Tues. Oct. 22. The 1950s, Pt I: Confidence, Conservatism, & Commercialism

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

course pack

Th. Oct. 24. The 1950s Pt II: The Struggle for Civil Rights, 1945-1960

View Part I of Freedom on My Mind

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

course pack

Tues. Oct. 29. Political & Cultural Realignment s: 1960 Election & Liberalism's Legacy

Reading: text, pp. 1021-1032, 1138-1145, 1062-1067, table p. A-55

course pack

Th. Oct. 31. Consequences of the Cold War, Pt II: Vietnam, 1963-1968

Reading: text, pp. 1061-1062, 1067-1075

course pack

Mon. Nov. 4. Movie Night. Time TBA. Watch Pt II. of Freedom on My Mind

(See reference material in course pack for Tues. Nov. 5)

Tues. Nov. 5. The Black Freedom Struggle, 1960-1968

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

course pack

Th. Nov. 7. Rebellion, Radicalism and the Conservative Backlash, 1966-1972

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

course pack

Tues. Nov. 12. From Nixon to Carter: Image vs. Reality, 1972-1980

Reading: text, pp. 1087-1091, 1097-1116, 1149-1158

course pack

Th. Nov. 14. The Reagan Era: Conservatism and Its Legacies, 1980-1992

Reading: text, pp. 1116-1128, 1158-1167, table p. A-55

course pack

Tues. Nov. 19. The Post Industrial Economy: Exuberance and Anxiety, 1970s-1990s

Reading: text, review, pp. 1108-1109, 1115-1116, 1118-1120, read pp. 1130-1132, 1138-1139, tables pp. A-54

course pack

Th. Nov. 21. Diagnosing Our Political Ills: 1992-2000

Pick topics on American foreign policy for small group reports on Dec. 3.

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

course pack

Tues. Nov. 26. Who Are We? Implications of the 2000 Census

Reading: text, pp. 1128-1129, 1170-1171, 1177-1178, tables A-61-62

course pack

Th. Nov. 28. Thanksgiving. **No class.**

Tues. Dec. 3. Looking for America's Place in the World, 1992-

Small group reports on topics on American foreign policy.

Reading: text, pp. 1167-1180

course pack

Th. Dec. 5. Looking for Answers After September 11th

Reading: course pack

Final Exam: Fri. Dec. 13. 3:30pm-6:30pm