

History 212-07
United States History Since 1865

Instructor: Dr. Michael Sistro
Office Hours: 10:00-11:50 MWF, 2:00-3:00 TTh
and by appointment.
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028 McIver
MWF
12:00-12:50

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 brief (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

Mon. Jan. 13. Introduction, Pt I: What is “America” Today and Why and How to Study How We Got Here?

Part One: Competing Definitions of America’s Future, 1865-1919

Wed. Jan. 15. Introduction, Pt II.

Fri. Jan. 17. The Civil War: Divided Legacies, 1865

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 (537-549), 13th Amendment, p. A-19 course pack, pt I (see course pack on days noted for introductory comments, documents, and discussion questions)

Mon. Jan. 20. MLK Birthday. **No Class.**

Wed. Jan. 22. The South Pt I: Reconstruction 1866-1870s

Readings: text, pp. 549-562, 14th and 15th Amendments, pp. A-19-A-21

Fri. Jan. 24. The South Pt. II: Redemption, 1870s-1880s

Readings: text, pp. 562-569, review pp. 558-559 on the Klan and 560-562 on tenancy and sharecropping
course pack

Mon. Jan. 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

Wed. Jan. 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

Fri. Jan. 31. Alternative Visions: Labor, 1870s-1900

Reading: text, pp. 651-679, 694-699

Mon. Feb. 3. Alternative Visions: Populism: 1880s-1890s

Readings: text, pp. 685-686, 690-694, 699-704, review pp. 642-645 on 1894 elections.
course pack

Wed. Feb. 5. Alternative Visions: Progressivism, 1890s-1900s

[Pick topic on North Carolina and World War I for Wed. Feb. 12.]

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

Fri. Feb. 7. Who is an American? Race, Ethnicity, and Imperialism: 1890s-1910s
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 704-719, Plessy v. Ferguson case, p. A-50, tables, p. A-61-62.
course pack

Sun. Feb. 9. Movie Night. Time TBA. View of portion of The Birth of a Nation.
(See reference material in course pack for Mon. Feb. 10)

Mon. Feb. 10. The Birth of a National Culture, 1900-1920s
Reading: text, review pp. 664-671
course pack

Wed. Feb. 12. The Disruptions of War: 1917-1919
Small group reports on selected topics from “North Carolina and the Great War” web site. (See course pack for instructions)
Reading: text, review 741-744, read pp. 769-800
course pack

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

Fri. Feb. 14. 1st Midterm. In-class quiz and take-home essay due.
The Fear of Foreigners, 1919-1930s
Reading: text, pp. 802-804, 819-820, tables p. A-59 and 60

Mon. Feb. 17. Options for Black America, 1919-1920s
Reading: text pp. 833-834
course pack

Wed. Feb. 19. Business Confidence and Conservatism, 1919-1929
Reading: 800-804, 811-828

Fri. Feb. 21. The Roaring Twenties, Pt I: Youthful Rebellion and Conservative Backlash
Reading: text, review pp. 814-819, read pp. 828-839
course pack

Mon. Feb. 24. The Roaring Twenties, Pt II

Wed. Feb. 26. The Order Crumbles: The Great Depression, 1929-1941
Reading: text, pp. 839-849
course pack

Fri. Feb. 28. The Order Reformed: The New Deal: 1933-1934
Reading: text, pp. 855-872, table p. A-55

Sun. Feb. 30. Movie Night. Time TBA. Watch Pt II of The Uprising of '34. (See reference material in course pack for Monday, March 3)

Mon. March 3. Americans Debate the New Deal: 1934-1941
Reading: text, pp. 872-982
course pack

Wed. March 5. The War in Europe, 1939-1945
Reading: text, pp. 909-912, 927-931
course pack

Fri. March 7. War in the Pacific, 1941-1945
[Pick topics for small group reports on World War II home front for March 17 and 19.]
Reading: text, review pp. 909-910, read 931-936
course pack

Mon. March 10-Fri. March 14. Spring Break. **No Class.**

Mon. March 17. The Home Front, Pt I, 1941-1945
Small group reports on selected reading on World War II.
Reading: text, pp. 912-927

Wed. March 19. The Home Front, Pt II
Continue small group reports

Fri. March 21. 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

Mon. March 24. The 1950s, Pt I: Confidence and Conservatism, 1948-1950s
Reading: text, pp. 957-970, 981-986, 992-1001

Wed. March 26. The 1950s Pt II: Rock & Roll Generation: Rebellion to Commercialism
Reading: text, pp. 1001-1007
course pack

Fri. March 28. 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-

Mon. March 31. 2nd Midterm. In-class quiz and take-home essay due.
Political Realignments: The 1960 Election & the Kennedy Legacy
Reading: text, pp. 1021-1027

Wed. April 2. Consequences of the Cold War, Pt II: Cuba and Vietnam, 1963-1968
Reading: text, pp. 1061-1078
course pack

Fri. April 4. Consequences of the Cold War, Pt II continued

Sun. April 6. Movie Night. Time TBA. Watch Freedom on My Mind
(See reference material in course pack for Mon. April 7)

Mon. April 7. The Black Freedom Struggle, Pt. II, 1960-1965
Reading: text, pp. 1032-1039, MLK speech, p. A-37-38
course pack

Wed. April 9. The Black Freedom Struggle, Pt III, 1965-1970s
Reading: text, 1039-1046
course pack

Fri. April 11. Rebellion, Radicalism and the Conservative Backlash, 1964-1968
Reading: text, pp. 1046-1055, review 1075-1078, read 1078-1082
course pack

Mon. April 14. Nixonian Conservatism: Image vs. Reality, 1968-1974
Reading: text, pp. 1082-1091, 1097-1114, 1151-1153
course pack

Wed. April 16. The Carter Malaise: Image vs. Reality, 1976-1980
Reading: text, pp. 1114-1116, 1154-1158, tables pp. A-54

Fri. April 18. Spring Holiday. **No Class.**

Mon. April 21. The Reagan Era: Conservatism's Legacies, 1980-1992
Reading: text, pp. 1116-1129, 1158-1165, table p. A-55
course pack

Wed. April 23. Poverty and the Welfare State, 1964-1996
[Pick topics on American foreign policy for small group reports, April 30-May 5.]
Reading: text, pp. 1027-1032, 1108-1109, table p. A-55

Fri. April 25. The Post Industrial Economy: Exuberance and Anxiety, 1990s-
Reading: text, pp. 1130-1132, 1138-1139
course pack

Mon. April 28. Diagnosing Our Political Ills: 1992-2000
Reading: text, pp. 1133-1142, Bush v. Palm Beach County case, p. A-53.
course pack

Wed. April 30. Debating America's Role in the World, 1992-2001, Pt I
Small group reports on topics on American foreign policy.
Reading: text, pp. 1165-1180, tables A-61-62
course pack

Fri. May 2. Debating America's Role in the World, Pt II
Continue small group reports on topics on American foreign policy.

Mon. May 5. Looking for Answers After Sept. 11th
Small group reports on war on terrorism.
Reading: course pack

Final Exam: Wed. May 14, 12:00-3:00pm