

SYLLABUS

HISTORY 211: U.S. TO 1865

Spring 2002 MWF 10:00-10:50 am Section 06
Instructor: Susannah Link McIver 228
Phone: 334-5992 (Hist. Dept.), 256-0472 (voice mail), or 275-8475 (home)
E-mail: susannah_link@yahoo.com
Office hours: MW 2-3 pm or by appt. (McIver 334C)

Required books:

- ?? Alan Brinkley, The Unfinished Nation (Vol. 1, 3rd. ed.).
- ?? William A. Link and Marjorie Spruill Wheeler, The South in the History of the Nation (Vol. 1).
- ?? Jules R. Benjamin, A Student's Guide to History (8th ed.)
(Books are available at the University Bookstore and possibly at Addam's on Tate St.)
- ?? One book from the list supplied by the instructor for your assigned group (for your book review/oral presentation). You should be able to find this book in Jackson Library; you shouldn't have to buy it.

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of American history before 1865. The subject matter will be diverse and will focus chronologically on the various factors--including politics, race, economics, gender, and culture--that have combined to create the United States through the mid-19th Century.

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussion, oral presentations, and writing assignments. In addition, there will be two midterms and one final exam, each of which will focus on one third of the course material. The reading material is an important component in each of these assignments, so students will be expected to keep up with the reading. You will have an average of 100 pages per week to read, so plan your time accordingly. Each student will be responsible for reading one extra book, writing a two-page book review of it, and giving a five- to ten-minute oral presentation about it. The presentation and book review should include the thesis (or argument) of the book, a brief summary (including examples from the book that illustrate the argument), and your reaction to the book. This review should be drawn **entirely** from your own observations and reflection. You **may not** use any outside sources for background or information, including sparknotes. Correct grammar and spelling are important components of a polished history paper, so spend some time editing your work.

Regular class attendance is required, and roll will be taken daily. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Exam makeups will be granted only in rare cases, and there will be no incompletes. Students are responsible for ALL of the material in the

lectures and readings. Please use bluebooks for the exams (available at the University Bookstore and

Addam's).

Evaluation: In-class participation and attendance: 10 percent; weekly writing assignments: 10 percent; oral presentation: 10 percent; book review: 10 percent; midterms #1, #2, and #3 (final exam, which will cover only the last third of the class material): 20 percent each (60 percent total).

Dates to note: **Jan. 23:** first writing assignment due (weekly writing assignments will be **due every Monday** or the following Wednesday, if no Monday class); **Jan. 30:** students in Group I bring to class selected book for book review/oral presentation; **Feb. 13:** students in Group II bring to class selected book for book review/oral presentation; **Feb. 20:** midterm #1; **Feb. 27:** Group I oral presentations/book reviews due; Group III brings to class selected book for book review/oral presentation; **Mar. 20:** Group II oral presentations/book reviews due; Group IV brings to class selected book for book review/oral presentation; **Mar. 27:** Group III oral presentations/book reviews due; **April 3:** Group V brings to class selected book for book review/oral presentation; **April 5:** midterm #2; **April 17:** Group IV oral presentations/book reviews due; **May 1:** Group V oral presentations/book reviews due; **May 6:** last class; **May 10:** final exam (12-3 pm).

There will be **no class** on the following dates: **Jan. 21** (UNCG), **Jan. 28**, **Feb. 1**, **Feb. 22**, **Mar. 11-15** (UNCG), **Mar. 29** (UNCG).