

SYLLABUS

HISTORY 212: U.S. FROM 1865

Spring 2003 MW 2:00-3:15 pm Section 10
Instructor: Susannah J. Link McIver 225

Phone: 256-0472 (voice mail only)
 334-5992 (History Dept.)-(ask whoever

answers

to leave a note in my mailbox)

E-mail: susannah_link@yahoo.com (definitely the
best

way to reach me)

Office hours: MW 1-2 pm or by appt. (McIver 334E)

Course information: <http://blackboard.uncg.edu>

Required textbook:

- ? Mary Beth Norton *et al.*, A People and a Nation
(Vol. 2)-(available at the UNCG Bookstore and
probably at Addam's on Tate St.)

Required materials:

- ?? Loose-leaf binder or spiral notebook for taking
notes in class and on textbook reading. Bring
to class each day, along with textbook and pen
or pencil.
- ?? Separate spiral notebook for reading journal
(see below).
- ?? Three bluebooks for midterms and final exam.

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of American history after 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 in which we live today. At the conclusion of the course, students should have a clear understanding of the following: the significant legal, technological, social, economic, and intellectual contributions to the development of the U.S. during the late 19th and 20th centuries; the major time periods/topics we will cover: Reconstruction, Industrialization, Progressive Era, World War I, Great Depression/New Deal, World War II, America in the Cold War Era (1950s-1980s), post-Cold War; and the origins of current conflicts involving the U.S. In addition, students should gain a basic understanding of the historical process and a greater ability to communicate their own ideas both orally and

in written form.

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussion, and a variety of writing assignments. In addition, there will be two midterms and one final exam, each of which will be based on one third of the course material and will include both short-answer identifications and longer formal essays. **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 be assigned an average of one or two chapters per week (approximately 30-60 pages), and you should plan to read each chapter carefully at least two times (taking notes as you read). We will spend time throughout the course discussing not only the chronological details of American history, but also how historians do research and analyze data to create their interpretations of particular events or periods. **Bring your textbook to every class, so that you will be ready to use it for class discussions.**

Keep track of this syllabus; it includes reading assignments, important dates, and other pertinent information that you will need throughout the semester. In case you should lose it, you will find a copy of it linked to Blackboard (see address above). Blackboard also has the list of terms you will need to study for the short-answer identification section of the midterms and final exam. If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, go to the following website for help: <http://www.uncg.edu/aas/itc/bborient>.

Short-answer identification terms: The terms that will be on the midterms and final exam can be found on Blackboard. You are not required to turn these in, but I highly recommend that, as you read a chapter, you write a paragraph, in your own words, describing and giving the significance of each term. In other words, know the answers to the following questions for each term: Who? What? Where? When? Why (significance)? I will use terms from the first list on the first midterm, from the second on the second midterm, and from the third on the final exam. I would strongly encourage you to memorize these terms as you would the lines in a play.

Regular class attendance is required, and roll will be taken daily. Each unexcused absence beyond three will result in a five-point reduction in the attendance grade. After three consecutive unexcused absences, the student will be dropped from the class. Excessive absences, even if not consecutive, might lead to a student's being dropped from the course, at the instructor's discretion. Chronic tardiness will also affect your attendance grade.

Exam and in-class writing 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 in the UNCG Bookstore and Addam's for a small fee).

Evaluation: Class participation, 15 percent; attendance, 5 percent; pop reading quizzes, 5 percent; midterm #1, 20 percent; midterm #2, 25 percent; and the final exam (which will cover only the last third of the class material), 30 percent. Grading is on a 10-point scale: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 84-86=B; 80-83=B-; etc. A "C" is average, so if a student does average work, expect a "C."

Class participation includes a variety of factors: reading journals, willingness to ask and answer questions in class, enthusiastic participation in class discussions and small-group work, attentiveness. It also includes reading the assigned chapters and/or documents **before** coming to class, so that you will be prepared to participate in a discussion of that material. Please turn off cell phones during class.

Reading journals: In a separate spiral notebook (with your name on it), keep a reading journal in which you write at least one page on each chapter. **In your own words**, write about either **the most significant person or theme** in each chapter and explain why that person or theme stands out. See the list of reading assignments for due dates. You may bring the journals to class or put them in a box outside my office door (McIver 334E) on the assigned day.

Pop reading quizzes: There will be four unannounced reading quizzes during the semester, based on the most current reading assignment for that week. I will drop the lowest grade, but there will be no makeups on the quizzes for any reason.

Dates to note: **midterm #1:** Monday, February 17 (covers Chapters 16-21); **midterm #2:** Monday, March 31 (covers Chapters 22-27); **final exam:** Monday, May 12, 12-3 pm (covers Chapters 28-33); **no class on the following dates:** January 20, March 10-14; **last class:** Monday, May 6; **last day to drop with refund:** January 22; **last day to drop without academic penalty:** March 19.

Reading assignments:

By Wednesday,	Jan. 22:	Chapter 16
" "	Jan. 29:	Chapters 17 & 18
" "	Feb. 5:	Chapters 19 & 20: reading journal due
" "	Feb. 12:	Chapter 21
" "	Feb. 19:	Chapters 22 & 23
" "	Feb. 26:	Chapter 24
" "	Mar. 5:	Chapter 25: reading journal due

" " Mar. 19: Chapter 26
" " Mar. 26: Chapter 27
" " Apr. 2: Chapter 28
" " Apr. 9: Chapter 29: **reading journal due**
" " Apr. 16: Chapters 30 & 31
" " Apr. 23: Chapter 32
" " Apr. 30: Chapter 33: **reading journal due**