

**HIST 2112: The United States since 1865**

June Summer Session, 11:45am-2pm, LeConte 101

Dr. Melissa Estes Blair ([mblair@uga.edu](mailto:mblair@uga.edu))

Office Hours: T/Th 2-3:30, LeConte 310

**Course Description**

This course explores life in the United States since the end of the Civil War. Lectures will examine the economics, politics, and society of the period, and the connections between the three. Readings have been selected to complement, rather than duplicate, lecture material. Most of the readings are primary sources, that is, documents created by people living through the time or event being studied. Participation in daily discussion of these readings accounts for a substantial percentage of students' grades. It is therefore **vital** that students complete each reading assignment.

The June summer session is very intensive. You will have assigned readings every day, and an assignment of some kind – either a paper or exam – each week. It is important not to fall behind!

**Course Requirements**

In addition to discussion, students will write two three-to-four page reading response papers. Reading responses will analyze readings from multiple classes, making connections between the readings. More details will be given as the first paper due date approaches. In addition to discussion and reading responses, other requirements are a midterm and a final exam.

**A Note on the Readings**

Most of our readings for in-class discussion are primary sources. In discussion students will be engaging in the same exercises as professional historians: reading primary documents and drawing conclusions from those documents. When reading these documents, keep a few key questions in mind. Who is writing the document? Where was it originally published? Who is the audience for the piece? Keeping these things in mind as you read will help you prepare for our discussions in class.

There is no assigned textbook for the course; most readings can be found in the course packet available at Bel-Jean Copy Shop on Broad Street (just down the hill from Five Guys). For a few of the assignments, the readings are available on the class's WebCT page; these readings are noted on the syllabus. An optional textbook, *America: A Concise History, volume II* (fourth edition) is available at the campus bookstore for students who would like a text in which to follow along.

**Grade Breakdown**

Participation in Discussion: 15%

Reading Response 1: 15%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Reading Response 2: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

### **Academic Integrity**

All members of this class are expected to abide by the University's Culture of Honesty. It is students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with these policies. Violations of the culture of honesty will result in a zero for the assignment. Please visit the following website for more information: [http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm).

### **Attendance Policy**

I will take attendance every day. Students are allowed **one** absence from the class; other absences will have a negative impact on students' participation grades. Subsequent absences will only be excused for official university reasons (documented illness, death in the family, etc.). Again, summer school is very intensive, and it is easy to fall behind if you miss a day. I don't recommend it.

### **Schedule**

#### **June 5:** Introduction

The End of the Civil War

#### **June 8:** Reconstruction

Westward Expansion

**Readings:** Selections from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*: "Vigil Strange I Kept," "Hush'd Be the Camps Today," "I Hear America Singing," "Night on the Prairies"

#### **June 9:** Economy of Industrializing America

The New South

**Readings:** Chief Joseph, "An Indian's View of Indian Affairs" (**on WebCT**)  
 "Luther Standing Bear Recalls His Experience at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School" (1879) (**on WebCT**)  
 "Rose Cohen Describes her First Job in New York City, 1892"  
 "Immigrant Thomas O'Donnell Laments the Workers' Plight, 1883"

#### **June 10:** Working-Class Life

Politics of Industrializing America

**Readings:** "A Georgia Planter's Son Describes the Emergence of Sharecropping"  
 "Nate Shaw Aims to Make a Living Farming, 1907-1908"  
 "We Desire to Live Comfortably": Washer Women of the South

#### **June 11:** Foreign Policy of Industrializing America

**Reading:** Jacquelyn Dowd Hall et. al., "From the Cradle to the Grave," chapter three of *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*

#### **June 12:** Urban Life at the Turn of the Century

The Age of Reform: The Progressive Era

**Reading:** Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, introduction and chapters two and four

**Paper One Due**

**June 15:** Gender Upheaval I: “The New Woman”  
America and World War I

**Readings:** Kathy Peiss, “Cheap Theatres and the Nickel Dumps,” chapter six of *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York*  
Margaret Sanger, “I resolved that women should have knowledge of contraception...”

**June 16:** The “Roaring” Twenties  
Great Depression I

**Readings:** Marcus Garvey, “Africa for the Africans”

Alaine Locke, “The New Negro”

Langston Hughes, “Negro” and “I, Too” from *The Weary Blues* (1926)

**June 17:** Great Depression II

**Readings:** Selections from Robert McElvaine, *Down & Out in the Great Depression*: “This is a radical letter but the time is here to be radical”; “To have this baby come into a home full of worry and despair...”; “Cant sign my name Mr. President they will beat me up...”; “Some time we don’t have eni thing but we live...”; “It its colored + foreign your so interested in...”

**June 18: Midterm Exam**

**June 19:** America at War

Anticommunism and the Cold War

**Readings (all on webCT):** Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, “Final Report on Japanese Evacuation”

Masaoka, “Congressional Testimony”

Omura, “Let Us Not Be Rash”

Fair Play Committee Bulletins

**June 22:** Zenith of the New Deal Coalition: Politics of the Postwar Era

“The Good Life:” Society in the Postwar Era

**Reading:** Pete Daniel, “A Little of the Rebel,” chapter seven of *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*

**June 23:** The Civil Rights Movement

The Great Society

**Reading:** Charles Payne, “Slow and Respectful Work: Organizers and Organizing,” chapter eight of *I’ve Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*

**June 24:** Vietnam

Movements of the Sixties

**Readings:** Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton, “Black Power – Its Need and Substance” (1967)

Carol Hanisch, “The Personal is Political”

**June 25:** Gender Upheaval II: The Second Wave  
The Collapse of the New Deal Coalition  
**Paper Two Due**

**June 26:** The Collapse of “the Good Life”: Gas Lines and Stagflation  
Conservatism Ascendant: The Rise of the New Right  
**Reading:** “McGoff” and “Twymon,” chapters fifteen and sixteen of J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*

**June 29:** Reagan’s Foreign Policy and the End of the Cold War  
**Readings:** “Secretary of State Henry Kissinger Defines Détente, 1974”  
Daniel Yergin, “Oil, Revolution, and Jimmy Carter’s Iran Debacle”

**June 30:** “Morning in America”: Politics and Society in the 1980s  
**Reading:** Yuppie Articles (**on WebCT**)

**July 1:** America in the Clinton Years  
Final Exam Review

**July 2: Final Exam**