

**U.S. HISTORY 1865 TO PRESENT  
HIST 2112**

**Fall 2008**

Lecture  
M&W 11:15a-12:05p  
Instructional Plaza, N106

**Dr. Hamilton**  
**Office:** 306 LeConte Hall  
**Email:** shamilto@uga.edu  
**Office Hours:** M&W, 2:30-4pm,  
(and by appointment)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Objectives**

This course provides an introduction to important aspects of the social, political, and economic history of the United States since Reconstruction. The primary objectives of the course are to develop your skills as critical readers and interpreters of primary and secondary historical documents, to improve your ability to communicate in an organized and analytical fashion, and to provide you with fundamental knowledge about the events, people, and institutions that have shaped our world. In doing so, you will be exposed to ideas that you may disagree with, to people and events that you have never heard of before, and to the exciting realization that you can and should be curious about the wider world around you.

**Themes**

The central theme of this course is the nature of American citizenship as it has been forged and re-forged since Reconstruction. We will trace the bitter conflicts, impressive achievements, and promises unkept in constructing the core values of American citizenship—encompassing ideas of freedom, independence, rights, and responsibilities—from Reconstruction to the present. Key topics will include the rise of industrial capitalism, the impacts of immigration and urbanization on the nation's social fabric, the emergence of mass consumer culture, the transformation of federal governance, the relationship of the United States to the rest of the world, and the ways in which mass social movements from Populism to civil rights to feminism to neoconservatism reshaped the nation's political culture, its institutions, and individuals' experiences.

**READING LIST**

The following books are required reading, and will be available for purchase at the bookstore (or online), as well as placed on hold in the library. Other documents, marked in the schedule by an asterisk (\*) will be made available on WebCT as PDFs.

James Roark, et al., *The American Promise*, Value Edition (2008) [TAP]

Michael P. Johnson, *Reading the American Past*, Fourth Edition, Volume II (2008) [RAP].

Laura Wexler, *Fire in a Canebrake: The Last Mass Lynching in America* (2003)

James S. Olson and Randy Roberts, *My Lai: A Brief History with Documents* (1998)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Effort**

Your experience in this class will be determined primarily by the amount of effort you put into it. I will do my best to make the classes interesting and enjoyable. In particular, I will give lectures that do not replicate or rehash the reading materials, but that will help you to *understand* and *interpret* the reading material by thinking about it analytically. If you come to class each day expecting to have the exam answers spoon-fed to you, you will do quite poorly in this class. If you do the required reading, attend class regularly, take good notes, *review* your notes, and develop independent insights into the course material, you will receive a grade commensurate with your effort. Please note that on WebCT I have posted helpful tips on how to take notes, improve your writing, and develop the skills needed to get an A in this class. (See: "Get an A" on the WebCT homepage for 2112.)

**Attendance**

Attendance at *every* class meeting is expected. Furthermore, you and you alone are responsible for knowing anything said by the instructor in any class session that you miss, including announcements regarding changes in the syllabus or schedule.

**Discussion Sections:** Attendance will be taken by section leaders, and *all* absences are considered unexcused. In other words, there is no such thing as an excused absence, for any reason whatsoever. You can skip two discussion sessions without penalty should an illness, job interview, or other unpreventable event keep you from attending. After your second absence from

discussion section, however, we will deduct *two percentage points* from your final course grade for each subsequent absence.

**Lectures:** To encourage punctual attendance at lectures, there will be five pop quizzes, each administered at exactly 11:15am or 12:00pm on the chosen (random) day; the doors will be barricaded for students who arrive late. The quizzes will be based on material we have covered in previous lectures, so they will be easy if you've been keeping up with the class, and nearly impossible if not. Four of the five top scores will account for 2 percent of your grade.

**Exams:** If you fail to show up for an exam, you will automatically receive a course grade of WF.

### **Discussions and Reading Responses**

Active participation in discussions is required. Students are expected to prepare for discussion sections, which will take place each week on Friday, by reading the assigned materials prior to class and composing a 150-word analytical response to the reading (see WebCT for further details). Required readings are listed in the schedule below. Pop quizzes and in-class writing assignments may also be administered by your TA to make sure you are doing the required reading.

### **Writing Assignments**

One of the chief objectives of this course is to engage you in the creative and analytical methods required to do history. Writing history is a way of gaining a better understanding of the structures and shifts in society that affect us as individual citizens, rather than just passively consuming professional historians' efforts to make sense of the "big picture." Researching and writing history is furthermore a way to practice the valuable communications skills of critical analysis, construction of arguments, and coherent transmission of ideas. You will therefore be required, in addition to the weekly reading responses, to write two relatively short essays—one based on secondary documents, the other based on primary documents.

The first of these essays is due by the start of class August 29. This will be a 500- to 750-word essay on conflicting historical interpretations of Reconstruction (see WebCT).

The second writing assignment is a 1000- to 1500-word essay based on primary documents: namely, the first issue of *Ms. Magazine* and your choice of documents from two approved online historical archives. This paper essay assignment will be due in class November 21st, uploaded to WebCT and a hard copy provided for your TA. (See WebCT for full assignment.)

### **Late Papers**

Any written assignment turned in late will be penalized 5 points (one half letter grade) for every 12 hours past due. If you submit any written work 96 hours past the due date, or do not submit it at all, you will automatically receive a course grade of withdraw failing (WF). No exceptions will be made.

### **Exams**

There will be three exams: two in-class midterms and a comprehensive final exam. The midterms will combine multiple-choice questions and short-answer identifications. The comprehensive final exam will involve both short-answer identifications and longer analytical essays. Extensive study guides will be posted on WebCT for each of the exams to help you prepare.

### **Note on Requirements**

Please note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Course readings and requirements are subject to change at the professor's discretion.

### **Academic Integrity**

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. In short, do not plagiarize. Any infringement of the University's Academic Honesty Code—no matter how minor—will result in an automatic "0" (zero, F, *nada*). 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)

### **Accommodations**

Students who have registered, or plan to register, with the Disability Resource Center for help taking notes, extra time on exams, or other accommodations should contact Dr. Hamilton at the beginning of the semester. It is the student's sole responsibility to schedule exam appointments with the DRC .

## GRADING

Lecture Quizzes	2%
Discussion Participation	10%
Reading Responses (top 8)	8%
Essay I	5%
Essay II	15%
Exam I	15%
Exam II	20%
Final exam	25%

*For information on how we determine letter grades, visit the "Grading Policies" section of WebCT.*

## SCHEDULE

Aug. 18	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 20	Lecture: Reconstructing the Nation
Aug. 22	Discussion Section (meet in LeConte Hall rooms) <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 16; RAP viii-xiv, 1-8, 18-21.
Aug. 25	Lecture: The "New South"
Aug. 27	Lecture: American Wests
Aug. 29	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 17; *Richard White, "Frederick Jackson Turner and Buffalo Bill," in <i>The Frontier in American Culture</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), pp. 7-65. <b>Essay I (on Reconstruction) due: upload to WebCT and bring hard copy to TA</b>
Sept. 1	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY
Sept. 3	Lecture: Workers in an Industrial World
Sept. 5	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 18, 19; RAP 41-55, 60-67.
Sep. 8	Lecture: Urbanization and Immigration
Sep. 10	Lecture: The Age of Reform—Agrarian Protest
Sep. 12	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 19; *Samuel Gompers, "Meat vs. Rice: Some Reasons for Chinese Exclusion; American Manhood against Asiatic Coolieism: Which Shall Survive?" U.S. Senate, 57th Cong., 1st sess., S. Doc. 137 (Washington: GPO, 1902).
Sep. 15	Lecture: The Age of Reform—Progressive Politics
Sep. 17	Lecture: The Imperial Republic
Sep. 19	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Chs. 20, 21; RAP 102-110, 97-100.
<b>Sep. 22</b>	<b>Exam I (in class)</b>
Sep. 24	Lecture: World War I and American Citizenship
Sep. 26	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 22; RAP 123-143.
Sep. 29	Lecture: All that Jazz
Oct. 1	Lecture: Modernism and Anti-Modernism
Oct. 3	Discussion Section <i>Required Reading:</i> TAP Ch. 23; RAP 115-122, 144-163.

- Oct. 6 Lecture: The Great Depression  
 Oct. 8 Lecture: The New Deal  
 Oct. 10 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* TAP Ch. 24; RAP 164-186.
- Oct. 13 Exam II (in class)**  
 Oct. 15 Lecture: World War II—The Homefront  
 Oct. 17 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* TAP Ch. 25; RAP 187-208.
- Oct. 20 Lecture: Forging the Postwar Order  
 Oct. 22 Lecture: The Coils of Cold War  
 Oct. 24 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* TAP Ch. 26, 27. Begin reading Wexler, *Fire in a Canebrake*.
- Oct. 27 Lecture: The Culture of Containment  
 Oct. 29 Lecture: Kitchen Politics  
 Oct. 31 NO CLASS—FALL BREAK  
 Continue reading Wexler, *Fire in a Canebrake*.
- Nov. 3 Lecture: Civil Rights I  
 Nov. 5 Lecture: Civil Rights II  
 Nov. 7 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* TAP Ch. 28; Have Wexler, *Fire in a Canebrake* completed.
- Nov. 10 Lecture: Liberalism in the 1960s  
 Nov. 12 Lecture: Vietnam—America's Longest War  
 Nov. 14 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* Olsson and Roberts, *My Lai*, pp. 1-55, 75-83, 88-102, 108-112, 127-128, 133-135, 146-151, 172-199.
- Nov. 17 Lecture: Second-Wave Feminism  
 Nov. 19 Lecture: Rights Revolutions  
 Nov. 21 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* \*Excerpt from Betty Friedan, *Feminine Mystique* (1963); \*Excerpts from first issue of *Ms.* magazine (January 1972).  
**Essay II (on 2nd-Wave Feminism) due: upload to WebCT and bring hard copy to TA**
- Nov. 24-28 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 1 Lecture: Rambo (I), Rocky (IV), and Reagan  
 Dec. 3 Lecture: Oil!  
 Dec. 5 Discussion Section  
*Required Reading:* TAP Chs. 30, 31; \*Paul Kramer, "The Water Cure," *New Yorker*, Feb. 25, 2008.
- Dec. 8 Lecture: An Age of Inequality and Uncertainty  
 Dec. 9 Discussion Section (Friday sessions meet on *Tuesday* Dec. 9—in LeConte)  
 Review Session: Bring analytical questions (not ID questions)
- Dec. 12 Final Exam, 12pm-3pm**