

History 2112—U.S. History since the Civil War (Fall 2007)

Instructor: Mao Lin

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Office Hours: M&W, 9:00-10:00am or by appointment

Class Call #: 05-557

Classroom: 101 LeConte Hall

Meeting Times: MWF 8:00-8:50 am

Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of American history since the Civil War. In this course we will focus on three basic themes. First, we will discuss how the United States of America, as a political entity, developed since the Civil War by examining the major historical events and themes. Second, we will discuss the changing meanings of freedom and equality over the course of American history. We will also examine how the different understandings and different standards of freedom and equality shaped American history, and we will explore the historical context within which men and women met and made their history in North America. Third, we will explore the tools and methods of history as a field of professional learning. Our major goal is to promote critical thinking; that is, how to arrive at conclusions through gathering and weighting of evidence, logical argument, and analyzing the hidden assumptions and agendas of evidence.

Required Reading (you can purchase these books in UGA bookstores or online):

James A. Henretta, *America: A Concise History*, vol. 2: Since 1865 (3rd edition)

Peter Hoffer and William Stueck, *Reading and Writing American History*, 3rd ed., vol. 2.

(We will have 4 sections discussing the following 4 books, respectively.)

E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime*

Laura Wexler, *Fire in a Canebrake*

Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*

Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*

Grading:

Test 1: 20%

Test 2: 20%

Final Exam: 20% (Five points of the final exam will be determined according to your performance during the discussion sections.)

Two Book Reviews: 10% each, 20% Total

4 Quizzes: 2.5% each, 10% Total

Reaction Essays: 10% Total

Book Reviews:

There are 4 books for you to read in this course. You are required to write two book reviews—you can pick up any two books. You can also write more than 2 book reviews, and I will count the two with highest grades at the end of this course. The book review is due at the

beginning of the section when we will discuss that book, and I will **NOT** accept any late reviews. The book review must be typed and printed out to be acceptable. It should be typed in font 12 with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and at least 5 pages in length.

Quizzes:

A Quiz will be given for each of the four sections when we will discuss the books. The quiz will be given at the beginning of the section, and once you miss it, there will be **NO** make-up quizzes.

Reaction Essays:

We will cover eight chapters of *Reading and Writing American History*. You are required to answer the questions from each chapter, and your answer is due at the beginning of each discussion section. I will **NOT** accept any late essays. The essay must be printed out to be acceptable. If you miss 3 or more reaction essays, you will lose all of the 10%.

Makeup Tests:

Students may make up (**not retake!**) one of the two tests. No excuse is necessary to do so. However, **all** makeup tests will be given, **without exception**, at 9 A.M., Saturday, Nov. 18 in LeConte Hall. Students who miss a test and do not take the makeup at that time will automatically receive a failing grade for that test. Students should expect the makeup tests to be much harder than the regularly scheduled ones.

Makeup for/Optional Early Final Exam:

Students may make up the final exam after 11 AM on Dec. 10 only if they have a legitimate excuse (oversleeping or forgetting or not knowing the time of the exam is **NOT** a legitimate excuse!). With few exceptions, a legitimate excuse is limited to the following categories: (1) death in the immediate family; (2) student illness (verified by a doctor's letter or dated prescription with the student's name on it); (3) participation in a university-sponsored activity (intercollegiate athletic even, required field trip, etc.). In each case, it is the student's responsibility to provide verification of the excuse acceptable to the instructor.

Students have the option of taking the final exam on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 9 A.M. in LeConte Hall. This option is offered for the convenience of students who have a conflict at the regularly scheduled time. However, it is the student's responsibility to follow the policies regarding final exam schedule conflicts.

For such policies, see www.bulletin.uga.edu and www.curriculumsystems.uga.edu

Attendance:

Attendance in class is mandatory. A student with more than five absences cannot pass the course. **There is no such thing as an excused absence**, unless a student misses the final exam. Missing a test does NOT count as an absence. Students who miss a class are responsible for knowing anything said by the instructor in that class, including announcements regarding changes in this syllabus. On the other hand, you can gain extra points by maintaining a good record of attendance: If you have no absences then five points will be added to your final

exam.

Dropping the Class:

Students with 50 or more points on the first test or a C or better on the first book review may drop the course with a W anytime until mid-semester (Oct. 12). To receive a W, you also need to submit all the reaction essays assigned before Oct. 12. **A missed exam is considered a 0 until it is made up.** Once a student has decided to drop the class, he/she should go through the drop procedure immediately, as more than five absences or a missed test may result in a WF or F. The instructor may drop any student from the class for excessive absences, or for failing to abide by the rules or protocol of the class (see “Additional Protocol” below) as outlined herein or announced by the instructor in class.

Additional Protocol:

- (1) Students who enter the classroom after the instructor has begun his lecture or discussion must stay at the side of the classroom. Any student arriving after 8:15 A.M. will be marked absent and not be admitted to the class. Any student leaving before the class is dismissed will be marked absent.
- (2) Students are not permitted to record the lectures or discussions.
- (3) Students may contest grades on their exams only 24 hours after they receive their grades.
A student contesting a grade will face the possibility of having her/his grade lowered as well as raised or left unchanged, as the instructor may re-grade the whole exam.
- (4) Students are not permitted to talk in class unless called upon to do so by the instructor.
- (5) Students are not permitted to sleep in class or to read or to use the internet while the instructor is conducting class.
- (6) Students are expected to avoid any activity that will distract other students or the instructor, including bringing a phone to class that is not turned off.
- (7) Additional rules may be added during the course of the semester as the instructor sees fit.

Cheating:

The instructor has “zero tolerance” for cheating. Any work in infringement of the university academic honesty code (<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academichonesty.htm>) will at a minimum receive a 0 grade in the assignment involved, which will be given extra weight in calculating the final grade. The consequences for what the instructor considers significant plagiarism on a paper or major cheating on an exam in this course can be (and has been) suspension or expulsion from the university.

Note:

The instructor reserves all the rights to change the syllabus as he sees fit.

Class Schedule:

Aug. 17 (F) Introduction

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 1

Aug. 20 (M) Lecture: Reconstruction

*Drop/add ends on Aug. 21

Aug. 22 (W) Lecture: New South and the Rise of Jim Crow

Aug. 24 (F) Lecture-discussion: primary sources

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 2

Reaction Essay: exercise 4-10

Aug. 27 (M) Lecture: The West and the Internal Expansion

Aug. 29 (W) Lecture: From Old Diplomacy to the New

Aug. 31 (F) Lecture-discussion: historical schools

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 3

Reaction Essay: exercise 1-3

Sept. 3 (M)—**Labor Day No Class**

Sept. 5 (W) Lecture: Industrialization

Sept. 7 (F) Lecture: labor

Sept. 10 (M) Lecture: Immigration

Sept. 12 (W) Lecture: American Imperialism

Sept. 14 (F) Lecture-discussion: Gilded Age

Reading: *Ragtime*

***Quiz 1, Book Review Due**

Sept. 17 (M) Lecture: Populism

Sept. 19 (W) Lecture: Progressivism

Sept. 21 (F) Lecture-discussion: The Progressive Era

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck: Chapter 4

Reaction Essay: exercise 3, 9.

Sept. 24 (M) Lecture: WWI

Sept. 26 (W) Lecture: WWI

Sept. 28 (F) **Test 1**

Oct. 1 (M) Lecture: The 1920s

Oct. 3 (W) Lecture: The 1920s and Americans Abroad

Oct. 5 (F) Lecture-discussion:

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck: Chapter 5

Reaction Essay: exercise 1-5

Oct. 8 (M) Lecture: The Great Depression
Oct. 10 (W) Lecture: FDR and the New Deal
Oct. 12 (F) Lecture: Road to WWII

***Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline**

Oct. 15 (M) Lecture: WWII
Oct. 17 (W) Lecture: WWII
Oct. 19 (F) Lecture-discussion: WWII
 Reading: The Rape of Nanking
 ***Quiz 2, Book Review Due**

Oct. 22 (M) Lecture: The Early Cold War
Oct. 24 (W) Lecture: The Early Cold War
Oct. 26 (F)—**Fall Break No Class**

Oct. 29 (M) Lecture: Cold War at Home
Oct. 31 (W) Lecture: The Affluent Society
Nov. 2 (F) Lecture-discussion: historical causation
 Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 6
 Reaction Essay: exercise 1-4

Nov. 5 (M) **Test 2**
Nov. 7 (W) Lecture: The Civil Rights Movement
Nov. 9 (F) Lecture-discussion: The Civil Rights Movement
 Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 7
 Reaction Essay: exercise 1-3

Nov. 12 (M) Lecture: Cold War Crisis
Nov. 14 (W) Lecture-discussion:
 Reading: Fire in a Canebrake
 ***Quiz 3, Book Review Due**

Nov. 16 (F) Lecture: Vietnam

Nov. 17 (Saturday), 9:00 A.M., Makeup tests

Nov. 19 (M) Lecture: Vietnam
Nov. 21 (W)—**Thanksgiving No Class**
Nov. 23 (F)—**Thanksgiving No Class**

Nov. 26 (M) Lecture: the post-Vietnam America
Nov. 28 (W) Lecture: the post-Vietnam America
Nov. 30 (F) Lecture-discussion:
 Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 8
 Reaction Essay: exercise 1-5

Dec. 3 (M) Lecture: The End of the Cold War

Dec. 4 (Tuesday)—**Friday Class Schedule in Effect**

Lecture-discussion: Beyond the Cold War

Reading: Hoffer & Stueck, Chapter 9

Reaction Essay: exercise 1-3

Dec. 5 (W)—Class ends

Lecture-discussion:

Reading: The New American Militarism

***Quiz 4, Book Review Due**

Dec. 8 Saturday, 9:00A.M, LeConte Hall, Make-up Final Exam.

Final Exam: Mon, Dec 10 8:00 - 11:00 am