

History 2112
American History Since 1865

Class time and location: Monday thru Friday, 11:45-12:45
LeConte Hall, room 321
Instructor: Robby Lockett
Email: robbyms@uga.edu
Office hours: By appointment only
Office location: LeConte Hall, room 133

This course syllabus is a general plan for the course: deviations announced to the class may be necessary.

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of American history since 1865. We will study major people, events, and eras, especially in the South, including Reconstruction, the Great Depression, FDR, the Cold War, the civil rights movement, feminism, the 1980s, Ronald Reagan, and others. We will also examine less well-known figures and moments that have informed the dominant narrative of American history. We will particularly look at the roles of women, minorities, and the working class in this story.

Most classes will be reserved for lecture. Because much of modern American history has been recorded on film, we will view a substantial number of videos as well. All videos will be considered to be the equivalent of lectures, and you should treat them as such. You should take notes on them, be prepared to discuss them, and study them as you would your lecture notes for the exams.

We will have discussion days as well that will focus on various readings. As noted, participation will be a part of your final grade, so be prepared to contribute in class. In-class writing assignments, group projects, and pop quizzes may also take place on those days.

History is much more than dates and figures and names. What has happened in the past is important but even more so is how people conceptualize what has happened in the past. Critical and analytical thinking and especially writing are essential in this process.

With that in mind, this class centers on reading and writing assignments. The ability to analyze a document beyond what is presented and to express that critique on paper is an invaluable skill outside of a history class. In the end, I hope you will come to see the study of history as a dynamic and revealing process and gain an appreciation for the complexity of history as an intellectual endeavor and for the capacity of history to inform our choices and the world today.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class. I WILL TAKE ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY. If you have an excused absence, please notify me well before the scheduled class time.

Four (4) unexcused absences (i.e. without documentary evidence of a medical or family emergency or similar event) will result in a half-letter grade deduction from your overall grade. If your overall grade was going to be an A-, then it would be a B+ instead. Every two (2) unexcused absences after that will result in another half-letter grade deduction. If you are late to class, you will be counted as tardy, and every three tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence. If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you will receive an unexcused absence. *We will begin taking official attendance on June 9.*

Book Reviews

There is one book assigned for this course: Lynda Van Devanter's *Home Before Morning*, on which you will be expected to write a three- to five-page book review. This review can cover specific questions that I will provide ahead of time or any aspect of the book that you would like to discuss, but they should NOT regurgitate the material. In writing these, you can assume that I have read it, and you can focus on an extended analysis of relevant topics. I am not looking for you to talk about whether or not you liked the book. Instead, I want you to analyze the text. Explain your arguments, and follow them to their logical conclusions. For every point you address, ask yourself if there are other underlying issues.

We will talk more about the review as it approaches, but a few pointers here may help. You do not need to do any outside reading or bring in any outside sources. Simply focus on the book at hand. If you paraphrase or use a direct quote, you should cite it in parentheses with a page number. I do not need a full citation. If you do not turn in your review on time, there will be a full-letter grade penalty for each day that it is late. Correct spelling and grammar are an essential part of writing; PROOFREAD your papers.

You should also be sure to address some aspect from each part of the book: her experiences before, during, and after Vietnam. You will lose a full letter grade for each part you do not discuss. The best papers will be able to offer substantive analysis on all three and tie them neatly together. Look for common themes, and attempt to move beyond a superficial rehashing of the book.

Exams

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. These will be written exams and will most likely include some identifications, short answers, and essays. The final exam will NOT be cumulative; it will only cover the material presented after the midterm. The exams will test you on the lecture material.

Extra Credit

There will be opportunities for extra credit over the course of the semester. Take advantage of them because, unless I have made a blatant error, grade-grubbing will NOT help you.

WebCT

We will be using WebCT this summer to post important information from time to time. If you do not know what WebCT is or how to use it, come to see me or ask one of your fellow students. Do NOT use WebCT to contact me; I do not check the e-mail tool on it. Please use my regular UGA e-mail instead.

Disability or Health Related Issue

Students with a disability or health related issue who need a class accommodation should speak with me.

A Culture of Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible for becoming informed about those standards before performing any academic work.

Required Reading

Lynda Van Devanter *Home Before Morning*

All of our other required reading will either be online or posted to WebCT.

Class Assignments and Grades

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|---------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Participation | 10% | Book Review | 25% |
| Midterm | 30% | Final Exam | 35% |

Schedule

Week 1

June 5 Introduction
June 6 The Civil War and Freedom

Week 2

June 9 Reconstruction
June 10 Discussion
Reading
Booker T. Washington:
Speech before the Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=69>
W.E.B. DuBois: *Of Booker T. Washington and Others*
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1111>
W.E.B. DuBois: *The Talented Tenth*
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=174>
June 11 The American West
June 12 The Spanish-American War
June 13 Discussion

Reading

Frederick Jackson Turner: *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1428>
Theodore Roosevelt: *The Strenuous Life*
<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=608>

Week 3

June 16 Immigration and Industrialization
June 17 From Populism to Progressivism
June 18 Discussion
Reading
Upton Sinclair: *The Jungle*, Chs.1-3
http://www.online-literature.com/upton_sinclair/jungle/
June 19 Ida B. Wells-Barnett
June 20 Marcus Garvey

Week 4

June 23 World War I and the End of Progressivism
June 24 The Great Migration
June 25 Discussion
Reading
James Allen: *Without Sanctuary*, www.withoutsanctuary.org
June 26 The Great Depression
June 27 The New Deal

Week 5

June 30 World War II and the Cold War
July 1 **Review for Midterm**
July 2 **Midterm**
July 3 View Film: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter*
July 4 **NO CLASS—4th of July**

Week 6

July 7 The Rise of Suburbia
July 8 McCarthyism and Korea
July 9 Discussion

Reading

Joseph McCarthy: *Speech Explaining the Communist Threat*
<http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=858>
Betty Friedan: *The Feminine Mystique*
<http://www.h-net.org/~hst203/documents/friedan1.html>

July 10 The NAACP and *Brown*
July 11 Emmett Till, Montgomery, and Little Rock

Week 7

July 14 The Civil Rights Movement: 1960-1964
July 15 Discussion

Reading

Math 254 Essays, WebCT
JFK and Foreign Policy of the 1960s
The Vietnam War
Discussion

July 16
July 17
July 18

Reading

Linda Van Devanter: *Home Before Morning*

Book Review Due

Week 8

July 21 LBJ and the Great Society
July 22 Malcolm X and Black Power
July 23 Second-wave feminism and the ERA
July 24 Discussion

Reading

Malcolm X, WebCT: *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
Phyllis Schlafly: "The Phyllis Schlafly Report"
<http://www.eagleforum.org/era/psr/psrnov81.pdf>

July 25 The 1970s

Week 9

July 28 Ronald Reagan
July 29 **Review for Final**
July 31 **Final Exam—noon to 3 p.m.**