

U.S. HISTORY 1865 TO PRESENT HIST 2112H: Honors Survey

Fall 2006
MWF 10:10-11:00am
LeConte Hall, Rm. 221

Professor Shane Hamilton
Office: 306 LeConte Hall
Phone: (706) 542-2538
Email: shamulto@uga.edu
Office Hours: M&W, 2:30-4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the social, political, and economic history of the United States since the end of the Civil War. The primary objectives of the course, as with any history course, are to develop your skills as critical readers and interpreters of primary and secondary historical documents, to improve your ability to communicate in an organized and analytical fashion, and to provide you with knowledge about the events, people, and institutions that have shaped the American experience. A central theme of the course is the changing notion of citizenship—encompassing ideas of freedom, independence, rights, and responsibilities—over the long twentieth century. 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 growth of the federal government, the rise of the United States as a global superpower, and the ways in which mass social movements from Populism to civil rights to feminism reshaped the nation's political culture, its institutions, and individuals' experiences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Attendance at *every* class meeting is mandatory. All absences are considered unexcused. In other words, there is no such thing as an excused absence, for any reason whatsoever. After your third absence from class, I will deduct *one percentage point* from your final course grade for each subsequent absence.

Reading and Discussions

Required readings are listed below. Students are expected to prepare for discussions (which will normally take place on Fridays) by reading the assigned materials and by writing formal response essays (see below). Active participation in the discussions is required.

Writing Assignments

One of the chief objectives of this course is to engage students 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." Writing history is furthermore a way to practice the valuable communications skills of critical analysis, construction of arguments, and coherent transmission of ideas. Students will therefore be required to complete four different kinds of writing assignments:

Reading Responses: Each student will write **three** short (1-page, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt. font) **critical** responses to selected assigned readings. (Further instructions and a sample response are available on WebCT.) These responses must be uploaded to WebCT by 10pm the night before discussion (i.e., 10pm Thursday night) so that I can incorporate them into Friday discussion.

Short Research Paper: Each student will also write a short (2-3 page, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt. font) paper based on original research into primary sources (in this case, newspaper and magazine articles relating to Upton Sinclair's *Jungle*). More information is available on WebCT.

Book Review: Each student will write a 4-5 page (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt. font) book review, based on either an academic history book or a piece of fiction of your choice. Further instructions are available on WebCT.

Final Exam: There will be a final take-home exam. This will take the form of an 8-10 page (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt. font) essay, in which you synthesize the material from the final three books of the course, discussing the nature of social and political change in the United States after World War II. Further instructions are available on WebCT.

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. This means that 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). Visit the following website for more information: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm

GRADING

Discussion & Reading Responses	20%
Research Paper (<i>Jungle</i> essay)	20%
Book Review	30%
Final examination	30%

READING LIST

The following books are required reading, and will be available for purchase at the bookstore. Because this is an honors course, a textbook is not required; however, if you feel you need a basic text as a "backup," please see me for recommendations. Other documents, marked by an asterisk (*) in the schedule, will be made available on the course website as PDFs. Students who provide me with a blank CD-R can also have all the PDFs burned onto the disk.

Eric Foner, *Nothing but Freedom* (LSU Press)
Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward* (Penguin)
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (Signet 2001 Reissue)
Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice* (Owl)
Richard Polenberg, *The Era of Franklin D. Roosevelt* (Bedford)
Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound* (Basic)
Robert Pratt, *We Shall Not Be Moved* (UGA Press)
Dan Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich* (LSU Press)

SCHEDULE

Part I: Creating an Industrial Society

- Aug. 16 Introduction to the Course
Aug. 18 Discussion Section: Introductions
Begin reading Foner, *Nothing but Freedom*, pp. 1-38.
- Aug. 21 Lecture: Reconstructing the Nation
Aug. 23 Lecture: The New South
Aug. 25 Discussion Section
Required Reading: Foner, *Nothing but Freedom*, 39-110.
- Aug. 28 Lecture: American Wests
Aug. 30 Lecture: The Politics of Industrialization
Sep. 1 Discussion Section
Required Reading: *Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"; Bellamy, *Looking Backward*, pp. 35-138.
- Sep. 4 NO CLASS—LABOR DAY
Sep. 6 Lecture: Industrial Work and "Wage Slavery"
Sep. 8 Discussion Section
Required Reading: Bellamy, *Looking Backward*, pp. 139-234
- Sep. 11 Lecture: Urbanization and Immigration
Sep. 13 Lecture: The Imperial Republic
Sep. 15 Discussion Section
Required Reading: Sinclair, *The Jungle*, pp. 1-175.
- Sep. 18 Lecture: The Age of Reform—Protest
Sep. 20 Lecture: The Age of Reform—Politics
Sep. 22 Discussion Section
Required Reading: Sinclair, *The Jungle*, pp. 176-401

Part II: Prosperity, Depression, and War

- Sep. 25 Lecture: World War I
Sep. 27 Film: *Reds* (1981)
Sep. 29 *****Jungle essay due**
Begin reading Boyle, *Arc of Justice*.
- Oct. 2 Lecture: All that Jazz
Oct. 4 Lecture: Modernism and Anti-Modernism
Oct. 6 Discussion Section
Required Reading: Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, entire

Oct. 9 Lecture: The Great Depression
Oct. 11 Lecture: The New Deal
Oct. 13 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: Polenberg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, pp. 1-24, 39-132.

Oct. 16 Lecture: World War II—Abroad
Oct. 18 Lecture: World War II—At Home
Oct. 20 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: Polenberg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, pp. 24-35, 184-227.

Oct. 23 Film: *Rabbit in the Moon* (on Japanese internment)
Oct. 25 Lecture: Creating the Postwar Order
Oct. 27 NO CLASS—FALL BREAK

Part III: Liberalism and Its Discontents

Oct. 30 Lecture: The Coils of Cold War
Nov. 1 Lecture: The Culture of Containment
Nov. 3 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: May, *Homeward Bound*, pp ix-29, 80-99, 119-162.

Nov. 6 Lecture: Kitchen Politics
Nov. 8 Lecture: Civil Rights I
Nov. 10 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: Pratt, *We Shall Not Be Moved*, pp. 1-66.

Nov. 13 Lecture: Civil Rights II
Nov. 15 Lecture: Liberalism in the 1960s
Nov. 17 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: Pratt, *We Shall Not Be Moved*, pp. 67-159.

Nov. 20 Lecture: Vietnam
Nov. 22 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING
Nov. 24 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

Nov. 27 Lecture: Second-Wave Feminism
Nov. 29 Lecture: Rights Revolutions
Dec. 1 Discussion Section
 Required Reading: May, *Homeward Bound*, pp. 186-203; Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, pp. xi-23.

Dec. 4 Lecture: Rambo (I), Rocky (IV), and Reagan
Dec. 6 Discussion
 Required Reading: Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*, pp. 24-123.

TBA Final Exam due