

American History Since 1865
History 2112

Spring 2008
Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:15 pm
SLC 150

John Inscoe, Instructor
jinscoe@uga.edu
Office: LeConte 111
Phone: 542-8848

This course is an introductory overview of the major themes and issues that shaped the American nation and its place in the world from the late 19th century through the full span of the 20th century, or as far as time allows us to get. The basic format of the course will be, as it must in a class this size, lectures; but we will also use several films and a variety of readings -- including a novel, a memoir, and other types of historical narratives -- to explore the different ways in which we understand and interpret our past. Both the films and the assigned books will emphasize the human and personal dimensions of the historical past and the extent to which individual experiences and feelings contribute to our understanding of the larger forces at play in these particular lives.

Required Readings: The following books are required for the course and are available, new or used, at the campus bookstore and, most likely, at off-campus bookstores.

Murrin, et al., *Liberty, Equality, Power*, Vol. II, Compact 5th ed.
Davidson & Lytle, *After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, Vol. II, 5th ed.
Doctorow, *Ragtime*
Brady, *Flags of Our Fathers*
Hunter-Gault, *In My Place*

The textbook, designated below as LEP, and the reader, *After the Fact*, designated as AF, will be used throughout the course. The other three books are to be read at one time, as indicated on the schedule below. A brief quiz on each of those three will be given at the beginning of the class period for the date indicated on the syllabus.

Teaching Assistants: We are fortunate to have six students in the history graduate program serve as teaching assistants for this class. Each one of these will be responsible for grading the work of a sixth of the students in the course, and each will be available to meet with his or her students before and after each exam and at any other time by request. Assignments to T.A.s will be made after the class roll settles into place, but for your future reference, the T.A.'s and their e-mail addresses are:

Chase Hagood tch315@uga.edu	Zac Smith zcsmith@uga.edu
Joshua Haynes jhaynes@uga.edu	Elizabeth Stephens lizzy@uga.edu
Jason Manthorne jman@uga.edu	Drew Swanson swanson7@uga.edu

Grades: Grades for this course will be based on two exams (25 % each); quizzes (25% cumulative), a paper (20%) and attendance (5%). The exams will be a combination of essay, ID's, and multiple choice questions. Up to half the questions will be based on the assigned

readings; the other half will come from class lectures. **Make-ups:** To be allowed to make up an exam or quiz, you must present a validated excuse at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled test. Make-ups will be entirely different from and more challenging than the exams/quizzes taken by the class as a whole.

Films: Three films are included as required parts of the course. Each will be shown in late afternoon/early evening sessions (times to be determined), though you are also free to view them on your own instead of with the group.

Paper: Students will write a paper (4 to 5 pp.) on one of several topics based on readings and/or films. Topics and guidelines will to be distributed soon after the semester begins. Paper will be due toward the latter part of the course.

Attendance Policy: Seating in the class will be arranged alphabetically, and attendance will be recorded at each class meeting based on the seating chart. More than four absences will mean a drop in grade for the course. No distinction is made between excused or unexcused absences. (For extreme circumstances, see me.) **Tardiness:** Coming to class late can be a major distraction for the instructor and for your classmates, so make a habit to be in class on time. T.A.s will make note of tardiness; every three tardies will count as an absence. Students are not to leave class before it ends; this too is a major distraction to instructor and classmates.

Class and Reading Schedule:

(dates are approximate – subject to revision)

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 8 | Introduction : The Meaning of the Civil War |
| Jan. 10 | Reconstruction
<i>LEP:</i> Chapter 17
<i>AF:</i> “The View from the Bottom Rail” |
| Jan. 15 | The Gilded Age – Industrialization & Urbanization
<i>LEP:</i> Chapters 19, pp. 695-717 (skim) |
| Jan. 17 | Age of Revolt – Labor and Farmers
<i>LEP:</i> Chapter 19, pp. 718-732 |
| Jan. 22 | The American Road to Empire
<i>LEP:</i> Chapter 22 |
| Jan. 24 | The Spirit of Reform: Progressivism
<i>LEP:</i> Chapter 21
<i>AF:</i> “USDA Government Inspected” |
| Jan. 29 | <i>Ragtime</i> (Quiz) |
| Jan. 31 | The Onslaught of Jim Crow |

LEP: Chapter 18, pp. 685-689; Chapter 21, pp. 792-795

- Feb. 5 The Taft and Wilson Era
LEP: Chapter 21, pp. 800-805
- Feb. 7 World War I
LEP: Chapter 23
- Feb. 12 The 1920s: Opportunity and Oppression
LEP: Chapter 24
AF: “Sacco and Vanzetti”
- Feb. 14 Economic Crash and Depression
LEP: Chapter 25, pp. 919-828
- Film: “The Grapes of Wrath” (times to be announced)
- Feb. 16 “We Are the People”
AF: “The Dust Bowl Odyssey” (quiz)
- Feb. 19 FDR and the New Deal
LEP: Chapter 25, remainder
- Feb. 21 MIDTERM EXAM
- Feb. 26 From Neutrality to World War II
LEP: Chapter 26, pp. 963-973
- Feb. 28 World War II -- Europe
LEP: Chapter 26, pp. 974-979
- Mar. 4 World War II -- Pacific
LEP: Chapter 26, pp. 979-1002
Flags of Our Fathers (Quiz)
- Mar. 6 The Atomic Age Begins
LEP: Chapter 26, pp. 982-985, 1003-1007
AF: “The Decision to Drop the Bomb”
- Mar. 8-15 SPRING BREAK
- Mar. 18 The Cold War and Red Scare
LEP: Chapter 27, pp. 1009-1034
- Mar. 20 Post-War Americans at Home
LEP: Chapter 27, pp. 1034-48, Chapter 28, pp. 1060-1088
AP&P: “From Rosie to Lucy”

- Mar. 25 A New Frontier: The Sixties
LEP: Chapter 28, pp. 1091-1100
- Mar. 27 Film: “Dr. Strangelove” (shown in class)
- Apr. 1 Hunter-Gault, *In My Place* (quiz)
- Apr. 3 From Civil Rights to Great Society
LEP: Chapter 28, pp. 1097-99; Chapter 29, pp. 1103-1112
- Apr. 8 The Cold War and Vietnam
LEP: pp. 1059, 1095-96, 1112-1118, 1132-33
AF: History and Myth in the Films of Vietnam”
- Film: “Born on the Fourth of July
- Apr. 15 The Sixties Counterculture and Conservative Backlash
LEP: Chapter 29, pp. 1118-1136
- Apr. 17 The Nixon Era and Watergate
LEP: Chapter 29, pp. 1136-1153
AF: “Breaking into Watergate”
- Apr. 22 Jimmy Carter and 1970s Malaise
LEP: Chapter 30, pp. 1155-1165
- Apr. 24 Reagan and the End of the Cold War
LEP: Chapters 30, pp. 1165-1201
- Apr. 26 The Clinton Era and Beyond
LEP: Chapter 32

FINAL EXAM -- Thursday, May 1 (3:30 – 6:30)