United States History since 1877

Georgia Regents University—Spring 2014 HIST 2112, Monday/Wednesday 1:00pm-2:15pm, 3 credit hours
Professor—Dr. Abdelnur, Office at Allgood E211, Classroom location Allgood Hall 257
In-Office Hours—Tuesdays 10:30am-2:30pm on campus, or by prior appointment
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Updated December 30, 2013

A. REQUIRED TEXTS and WEBPAGES:


4. Norton StudySpace for Give me Liberty is free online at http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/

5. Georgia Regents University Desire2Learn (D2L) https://lms.gru.edu/

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This class is a survey of U.S. History from post-Reconstruction (meaning after the period immediately following the U.S. Civil War) to the present. In this primarily lecture format class, students will learn about the social, economic, political, and international, aspects of this short, but very eventful, late 1800s through the early 2000s.

C. COURSE GOALS:
By the end of this course you, the student, should be able to more than adequately identify major trends, forces, persons, and events that have contributed to the creation of the modern United States. While we cannot cover each and every aspect of the historical past or any one event in great detail, you will be exposed to a variety of sources and learn the basics of the “craft” of History while surveying the last 125 years or so of the U.S. You will also improve your critical thinking and writing skills, proving useful in other courses. Interest gained from this survey is intended to spur students into enrolling in more specialized upper-level courses in History that are regularly offered by GRU faculty dealing with topics related to women/gender, the military, minority Americans, international relations, as well as encouraging participation in Study Abroad programming with the History faculty. There is some emphasis on this particular class related to the “immigrant” experience in modern U.S. History.

D. GRADING:
This class will have 3 non-cumulative in-class Exams worth 200 points each. They will be multiple choice, true/false, and matching and entirely on ScanTron, so please bring a pencil and your 927# each time. There will also be online Discussions through Desire2Learn (D2L) on visual items of historical importance; your contributions to the discussion will be worth 25 points each. There will be 2 Essays, one in the first half, and the other in the second half of the semester worth 150 points each; they will be based on in-class videos/documents discussion, online documents and/or the assigned text The Tortilla Curtain.

***ALL written assignments require the use of the online Style Guide & Assessment page for this course and I strongly suggest those of you who are not strong in writing or who have never taken a History course before at the college level to make use of the Robert Frakes .pdf listed above and visit the GRU Writing Center. Or, purchase A Student’s Guide to History by Jules R. Benjamin. It’s the 12th edition and is from Bedford/St. Martin’s Press, 2013.
E. ATTENDANCE
Students who attend each and every class this semester will automatically receive 2 points added to their final grade point average! Missing 6 unexcused classes and the student will be dropped with a WF. Tardies will result in verbal warnings and habitual tardiness will turn into recorded absences in my grade log. Late entrants might find the classroom door locked to prevent disruption to the students who arrive in a timely fashion.

Since all assignments are posted in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and are electronically copied on D2L, late assignments are not accepted. This does not apply to documented, legitimate excuses (physicians note, GRU official letter, work-related event, court, etc.). If a student is absent due to documented excuse approved by the professor, student has 2 class periods upon return to class to complete missed work. Note: it is the responsibility of the student, not the professor, to ensure any make-up assignments/exams are scheduled and completed within the allotted time. Student athletes must meet with me at the start of semester and submit a detailed, verifiable calendar of conflicting days in the semester. Likewise, if a student has a disability, the student must meet with the professor within the first two weeks of class to discuss potential accommodation, otherwise, no accommodation will be deemed necessary.

F. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
We are all members of the academic community of this college and, as such, we must all treat each other with respect and courtesy, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender or any other category that can possibly be considered. On another note, academic honesty is imperative to maintain your good standing at Georgia Regents University; cheating, plagiarism, overt paraphrasing, fabrication, falsification, and complicity will not be tolerated and, if found, will result in a zero for the assignment or for a final course grade, at my discretion; this includes checking cell phones during an in-class quiz or exam. Texting is not allowed in class at any time, nor is recording of lecture (sorry). Cell phones should be off or on silent during class time; with possible reactions ranging from public embarrassment or student being asked to leave the class until next meeting. All laptops or computer devices must be in the last row of the classroom so as not to disturb your classmates with note-taking and, hopefully not, web surfing.

G. Class Communication/Online Information
I will attempt to respond to all JagMail email within 24 hours, except from Friday 5:30 pm-Monday 8:30am. This class requires computer literacy and internet usage as all grades, class information, and assignments will be on the D2L page for this class. Please routinely check JagMail and D2L newsfeed in case I send you updated materials, class cancellation announcements, extra credit opportunities, or other course-related information; the suggestion of your GRU handbook is every 24 hours. All take-home assignments must be submitted online in D2L on the date due; if you miss the deadline by even 1 minute, the program will lock you out of the DropBox. You may, however, always do the assignments early.

***TENTATIVE*** DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

WEEK I—January 2014
Monday 1/6—Introduction: Syllabus; Desire2Learn; Martinez; Humanities v. Soc. Sci.
  o Assignment—Buy your texts, investigate your syllabus, and explore the listed internet sources!
  o Reading Assignment for next 3 classes—Ch. 17
Wednesday 1/8—Lecture Topic: Far West
  o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 17
  o Assignment—Take the DropBox Test (5 points) and Discussion Test (5 points)

WEEK II—January 2014
Monday 1/13—Lecture Topic: Industrialization
  o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 16
Wednesday 1/15—Lecture Topic: Big Business
  o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 16
Assignment—Online Discussion #1—Go into D2L Discussions tab for instructions.

WEEK III—September 2014
Monday 1/20—NO CLASS; Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday all campus closed
Wednesday 1/22—The War of 1898 and U.S. Imperialism
   o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 18
   o Assignment—Online Discussion #2 http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/ch/18/visions.aspx

WEEK IV—September 2014
Monday 1/27—Lecture Topic: Rise of the City/Urban America
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 18
Wednesday 1/29—Lecture Topic: Progressive politics, TR, Taft and Wilson
   o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 19
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 19

WEEK V—February 2014
Monday 2/3—Lecture Topic: The Big Stick, $ Diplomacy, Morality and WWI
   o Study for Exam 1
Wednesday 2/5—Exam 1 in class
   o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 20
   o Assignment—Online Discussion #3 http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/ch/20/visions.aspx

WEEK VI—February 2014
Monday 2/10—Lecture Topic: Roaring Twenties
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 20
   o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 21
Wednesday 2/12—Lecture Topic: Great Depression

WEEK VII—February 2014
Monday 2/17—No Class Meeting; Watch PBS online Jesse Owens
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/jesseowens/player/?flavour=mobile
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 21
Wednesday 2/19—Lecture Topic: The New Deal Part I & II
   o Reading Assignment for next class—Ch. 22
   o Assignment—Online Discussion #4 http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/ch/22/images.aspx, please look at images 7-11

WEEK VIII—February 2014
Monday 2/24—Lecture Topic: WWII
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 22
   o Reading Assignment for next class—Ch. 23
Wednesday 2/26—Lecture Topic: Truman’s “Fair Deal”
   o Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 23
   o Study for Exam #2

WEEK IX—March 2014
Monday 3/3—Exam #2 in class
   o Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 24
   o Assignment—Complete Essay #1 in D2L DropBox
Wednesday 3/5—Lecture Topic: 1950s “Happy Days” of consumerism
Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 24
Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 25
Assignment—Online Discussion #5 http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/ch/24/visions.aspx

WEEK X—March 2014
Monday 3/10—Lecture Topic: 1950s Cold War
Wednesday 3/12—Lecture Topic: 1950s Civil Rights and Culture Clash

WEEK XI—March 2014
Monday 3/17—In-Class Movie—Hispanic Civil Rights and discussion/Bracero Program
Wednesday 3/19—In-Class Movie—Hispanic Civil Rights and discussion/Operation Wetback
Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 25 (30 Mult. Choice)

WEEK XII—March 2014
Monday 3/24—Lecture Topic: Early 1960s
Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 26 to page 1021.
Wednesday 3/26—Lecture Topic: Late 1960s

WEEK XIII—March/April 2014
Monday 3/31—Lecture Topic: Nixon
Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch. 26 (22 Mult. Choice)
Reading Assignment for next class—Ch. 26 page 1021 to end.
Wednesday 4/2—Lecture Topic: 1970s Ford to Carter
Reading Assignment over break—Read The Tortilla Curtain for Essay #2

WEEK XIV—April 2014 (Spring Break April 7-April 11)
Monday 4/14—No Class Meeting; Watch PBS “Stonewall” at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANexperience/films/stonewall/player/
Wednesday 4/16—Lecture Topic: 1980s
Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 27
Assignment—Read The Tortilla Curtain for Essay #2

WEEK XV—April 2014
Monday 4/21—In-Class discussion—The Tortilla Curtain
Wednesday 4/23—Lecture Topic: 1990s Clinton to H.W. Bush
Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch27 (27 Mult. Choice)
Reading Assignment for next 2 classes—Ch. 28
Assignment—Online Discussion #6 http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/give-me-liberty3/ch/28/visions.aspx

WEEK XVI—April 2014
Monday 4/28—Lecture Topic: Early 2000s
Suggested Assignment—StudySpace Ch28 (26 Mult. Choice);
Assignment—Complete Essay #2 in D2L DropBox
Wednesday 4/30—Lecture Topic: Late 2000s; ESSAY #2 DUE!
Study for EXAM 3

FINAL EXAM 12/10 is Exam #3 for Chapters 24-28
***Final Grades are determined as A:100-89.6; B: 89.5-79.6; C: 79.5-69.6; D: 69.5-59.6; F: 59.5-0