History 2111: American History to 1865
Summer 2020   100% Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Colleen A. Vasconcellos
Email: cvasconc@westga.edu or in CourseDen (no preference)

Office Hours: See CourseDen Announcements for each week's virtual office hours

Course Objectives
This semester, we will explore the major social, cultural, political, and economic themes in American history to 1865. This class puts less emphasis on dates and figures and more focus on change over time, the cause and effects of those changes, and specifically why those changes took place. Topics include but are not restricted to colonization, expansion, warfare, slavery and the slave trade, emancipation, immigration, gender, industrialization, and the changing role of the United States in foreign affairs. In order to examine American History from a well-rounded point of view, much of this class will take an Atlantic perspective in order to fully understand the peoples, events, and cultures that influenced and impacted this part of America's past.

This course is a 100% online course using CourseDen and your computer as the delivery medium. You are not required to attend class face to face. All assignments, quizzes, and exams will be submitted online, and there will be no proctored exams for this course.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will be expected to:
  • Identity and explain the political, social, economic, or cultural dimensions of US history.
  • Interpret primary and/or secondary sources.
  • Develop critical thinking skills

Special Note

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:
https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php

This link contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Course Readings: There is no specific textbook for this course. Everything you need is provided.

Accessibility
Please submit any SAR documentation to me within the first week of class, or once received if the semester is already in progress. I will make every effort to accommodate your needs as outlined in your paperwork. Please do not hesitate to ask if you need further assistance.

ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION

Please note that students who do not actively participate in the class within the first two weeks will be withdrawn by the course at the deadline set by the university. In this class, we will have three mandatory attendance checkpoints during the first week of class:

(1) introduction assignment   (2) the student contract quiz   (3) the plagiarism quiz

Students who do not fulfill all of these requirements, which can be found in the Start Here: Syllabus and Start Items module will be dropped for non-participation. If you are unable to complete these assignments in the allotted time-frame and/or have documentation to that effect should contact me as soon as possible to avoid being dropped after the deadline. Please note UWG's policy on attendance verification as outlined in Section 204 of the UWG Faculty Handbook: "In fully online or hybrid courses each instructor has the authority to specify in the syllabus what qualifies as attendance at the first class meeting and during the Drop/Add Period to drop students who fail to meet that requirement. Instructors may require students to attend a face-to-face meeting, to login in to the online course-delivery system by a specific date, or to take other specified steps at the beginning of the session."   If you are dropped and do not have sufficient documentation as to why you were unable to complete the attendance assignments as outlined here, that decision is final and you will not be reinstated in the course.

COMPUTER ACCESS
It is highly recommended that you have regular (daily) computer access, preferably a home computer with broadband Internet access. This course can be completed using public computers at UWG or other public access areas. However, be aware that using public computers may create a hardship. All course requirements remain the same whether your computer access is public or private (home).

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS
You should be comfortable with the following:
- using a word processor (changing font, spell check)
- using email for communication and sending an email attachment if necessary
- navigating the Internet

Online Help
- Have questions about our classroom navigation? Email me
- We have a couple discussion forums in the online classroom where you can post questions if you have them. Feel free to post them there!
- Have questions about getting into CourseDen? Contact the helpdesk:

UWG|Online HelpDesk (M-F 8-5pm) Phone: 678-839-6248
Their Email: online@westga.edu
24/7 HelpDesk https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu

COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

The course will be evaluated on a 10-pt scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59-0.

Emphasis will be on clarity of ideas, reading, writing, analytical and critical thinking skills, class participation, and overall presentation. Participation in class discussions and lectures is encouraged and will form a component of the written assignment grades. Grade calculations are as follows:

- Final Exam 20%   • Class Participation 30%   • Unit Quizzes 50%

Final Exam: 20%
You will have **one comprehensive essay exam at the end of the semester**. Late exams or exams submitted outside of the Exam Dropbox will not be accepted. If you miss it for properly documented reasons, you should make arrangements with me as soon as possible for a make-up exam. Failure to turn in that make-up exam within one week's time of it being scheduled will result in a 0.   See CourseDen for more details.

Unit Quizzes 50%
Each unit will have one unit quiz, with questions covering the materials read and discussed in that unit only. Failure to take the quiz by the scheduled deadline will result in a 0 without a properly documented excuse. Each quiz will consist of 20 questions, and students will have one attempt to take the quiz over a scheduled 40-minute time period. See the Quizzes Module and the weekly announcements for more information.

Class Participation 30%
Each unit, you will have one discussion activity based on that unit's course material. See the Course Overview Module for more information on Class Participation Guidelines and Grading.

A Note about Submitting Assignments to CourseDen

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT: All submitted assignments must be submitted in MS word format. Papers should be double-spaced and be written in size 12 Times New Roman font, black text, with 1" margins. Parenthetical references of (pg) are required for all paraphrased or directly quoted information. The usage of any source outside of CourseDen is not allowed.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS LATE OR OUTSIDE COURSEDEN: Late assignments submitted after the scheduled deadline or outside of the Assignments Dropbox will not be accepted unless you have a properly documented excuse. **Late assignments submitted without proper documentation will receive a 0. Please note that this rule is written in stone.**

THE RETURN OF GRADED WORK: Assignment grades will be posted within a week of the due date. Discussion grades will be posted within one week of the date of the discussion's end.

EXTRA CREDIT: There is no extra credit offered in this class.

IN THE EVENT OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES
It is **your responsibility** to see that your assignments have posted to CourseDen properly. Please check to make sure that your assignment was uploaded correctly and appears in the appropriate Dropbox. If it does not appear, I cannot grade it, so please make sure that your attachments upload properly, because I will not be contacting you to resubmit them.

In the event that you are having computer/wifi difficulties, please find an alternative source. **Please do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.** You are submitting items over the Internet, and sometimes the Internet Gods get angry and withhold access. There are many things that can go wrong in the path between your computer and CourseDen. Technical problems related to computer connections or equipment cannot be used as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or to participate online. **It is your responsibility to locate the computer hardware, software and Internet connections necessary to stay connected and current with your course work online.** Please be aware of alternate Internet connections and computers available through college computer labs, college Learning Resource Centers (libraries), the public library, and any friends, relatives, or neighbors and access them if my personal computer equipment is not working.

<u>A Note about Academic Honesty:</u>

I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty in this class and my policy is one of zero tolerance. All assignments and discussion posts submitted in class must be written in your own words. This includes paraphrasing, which is not necessarily taking a passage word for word, but certainly does not give credit to ideas and/or information. **All assignments will be monitored by Turnitin.**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and it can lead to your expulsion and/or suspension from the University. Every UWG student agrees upon their admission to the university to uphold the UWG Honor Code, which states: "[a]s a West Georgia student, I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly. I understand that if I violate this code, I will accept the penalties imposed, should I be found guilty of violations through processes due me as a university community member." UWG students further agree that they will "refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrications, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing."

In short, don't do it. Plagiarizers will automatically fail this course. I will also recommend that UWG administration take action.

You can find a link to the UWG Honor Code in the Course Overview Module, as well as links to pages on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in the Content Module. Also, the

mandatory plagiarism quiz will help you with this as well. Furthermore, assignment and discussion guidelines will give instructions on citation formats, but feel free to contact me with questions on how or what to cite. A good rule of thumb is "when in doubt, cite."

Tentative Course Outline

Course Introduction and Overview: June 26-July 2

- Mandatory Participation Deadline. Please note that your Introduction, Student Contract Quiz, and Plagiarism Quiz are **due by 11:59P EST, Thursday, July 2.** Failure to participate by the deadline will result in your removal from this course.

Unit 1—The Colonial Period

- No Class Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4. Happy Birthday, America!
- Unit 1's Discussion and Quiz are due by 11:59PM on Tuesday, July 7

Unit 2—The New Republic

- Unit 2's Discussion and Quiz are due by 11:59PM on Tuesday, July 14

Unit 3—Civil War and Reconstruction

- Unit 3's Discussion and Quiz are due by 11:59PM on Tuesday, July 21

Final Exams

- Your Final Exam is due by 11:59PM on Thursday, July 23
- Final Grades submitted to the Registrar no later than 12 noon on Monday, July 27