

HISTORY 2112
UNITED STATES HISTORY II (SINCE 1865)
FALL SEMESTER 2016

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Hild

Office: TLC 3103 (Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, Noon-1:55, 4:50-5:20, 6:50-7:20, or by appointment)

Office telephone: (678) 839-6508 (for messages only)

E-mail address (best means of contact outside of office hours): mhild@westga.edu (Send e-mails directly to this address; do not use Course Den to send e-mails.)

Required books:

David Emory Shi & George Brown Tindall, *America: A Narrative History*, Brief 10th ed., Vol. 2

Julian E. Zelizer, *Jimmy Carter*

Course description and learning outcome:

This course will utilize lectures, reading assignments, and occasionally films to examine the social, political, and economic history of the United States since 1865. Topics will include Reconstruction, American industrialization, two world wars, the Great Depression and the New Deal, the civil rights movement, and the Cold War. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic development of the people and institutions of the United States during the era since 1865.

Exams and grading:

--There will be three multiple choice exams in this course, including a non-comprehensive final exam. Each of these exams will constitute one fourth (25%) of the course grade. **Students must purchase a long-form (100 question) green and white Scantron sheet at the UWG bookstore or at the concession stand on the first floor of the TLC building and bring that form to class on the date of each of these exams along with a # 2 pencil.** Makeup exams will only be given to students who provide documentation verifying a valid excuse (such as illness, a car accident, court summons, or death in the family). Makeup exams will be written rather than multiple choice.

--In keeping with departmental requirements, the final exam will also include a short essay requirement based on primary sources. This component of the exam will be discussed in more detail during the final week of class.

--There will also be a short written assignment based on a primary source. This is to be done outside of class and turned in on Wednesday, November 16. This will count for one fourth (25%) of the course grade.

--During a class period shortly before each multiple choice exam, a documentary film will be shown pertaining to some topic(s) in United States history relevant to the era being covered by that exam. Any student who writes an acceptable paper of at least 600

words (typed and double-spaced) summarizing that film in his or her own words will receive up to five bonus points on that exam. The paper must be turned in (in typed and printed form, not electronically) no later than the class period in which that exam is given. These papers will not be accepted via e-mail or late. Also, there are no “makeups” for these extra credit opportunities even if a student misses a class period during which a film is shown; nor will the instructor loan students the DVD or videotape of a film for any reason. These three papers are the only opportunity for extra credit in the course.

--Each student’s course grade will be determined according to the following scale, with no exceptions: A= 89.50 or above; B=79.50-89.49; C=69.50-79.49; D=59.50-69.49; F=less than 59.50.

Classroom etiquette:

All participants in this class (students and instructor alike) will be expected to refrain from rude or disruptive behavior in class, to keep their cell phones turned off in class, and to stay awake in class.

For information regarding accommodations for disabilities, UWG e-mail policy, credit hour policy, and the honor code, please see this link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Schedule of topics, reading assignments, and exam dates:

(Reading assignment chapters and page numbers refer to the textbook, *America*. You should read the biography of Jimmy Carter in its entirety before the final exam.)

Week 1 (August 10) Course introduction

Week 2 (August 15 & 17) Topic: Reconstruction
Reading assignment: chapter 16

Week 3 (August 22 & 24) Topics: Big Business and Labor in the Late Nineteenth Century; The New South and the New West
Reading assignment: chapters 17 & 18

Week 4 (August 29 & 31) Topics: American Politics and Culture during the Gilded Age; the Spanish-American War and the Birth of American Imperialism
Reading assignment: chapters 19 & 20

Week 5 (September 7) Topic: The Progressive Movement
Reading assignment: chapter 21

Week 6 (September 12 & 14)

No reading assignment

First multiple choice exam, Wednesday, September 14 (covers material from weeks two through five)

Week 7 (September 19 & 21) Topics: World War I; the Roaring Twenties

Reading assignment: pages 817-901

Week 8 (September 26 & 28) Topics: The Great Depression and the New Deal

Reading assignment: pages 901-945

Week 9 (October 3 & 5) Topic: World War II

Reading assignment: chapter 26

Week 10 (October 10 & 12)

No reading assignment

Second multiple choice exam, Wednesday, October 12 (covers material from weeks seven through nine)

Week 11 (October 17 & 19) Topics: The Cold War and the Baby Boom

Reading assignment: pages 1001-1052

Week 12 (October 24 & 26) Topics: Cuba, Camelot, and Civil Rights

Reading assignment: pp 1052-1098

Week 13 (October 31 & November 2) Topic: The Vietnam War

Reading assignment: pp. 1098-1150

Week 14 (November 7 & 9) Topics: Watergate, the Carter Years, and the Reagan Revolution

Reading assignment: pages 1150-1191

Week 15 (November 14 & 16) Topics: The End of the Cold War; America at the End of the Twentieth Century and Dawn of the Twenty-First Century

Reading assignment: pages 1191-1224

Written assignment due Wednesday, November 16

Week 16 (November 21-25) Thanksgiving break

Week 17 (November 28 & 30) No reading assignment

Final exam:

HIST 2112-02 (2:00 class) Monday, December 5, 2:00

HIST 2112-03 (3:30 class) Wednesday, December 7, 2:00

(You must take the final exam with your class period. No section switching will be allowed.)