

History 4472
The Rise of Modern America: The U.S. 1920-1945
Spring 2015

Professor: Steve Goodson

Place and Time: Pafford 208, MW 3:30-4:50

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E-mail: hgoodson@westga.edu **Office Hours:** MTWTh 1:00-3:00, or by appointment.

Course Description and Goals: In this course we will explore the social, political, economic, military, and cultural history of the United States from 1920 through the end of World War II. This course will expose students to the major trends, events, and personalities of the period, as well as exploring the lives of more ordinary people. Assignments will allow students to sharpen their writing and interpretive skills.

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, from class discussions, from lectures, and from any other material (films, music, handouts, etc.) presented in class. The final exam will not be cumulative. Make-up exams will be given only if the student provides a written doctor's excuse, and it is the student's responsibility to let me know in advance if he or she will have to miss an exam.

Class Participation: **History is a reading-intensive discipline.** Nothing is more crucial to a good historian than the ability to read carefully, analytically, and critically. In order to be prepared and to participate in discussions, students will need to do the required reading *in advance* of each class session. In order to encourage students to do the reading, there may be short in-class writing assignments as well as unannounced quizzes. Attendance will be taken daily and a student's attendance record will play a significant role in determining his or her final grade. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and to remain until class is ended. Inappropriate classroom behavior (talking out of turn, sleeping, texting, etc.) will *severely* damage a student's final grade. *Please* turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices before entering class!

Paper Assignments: Each student will be required to prepare three-to-four-page papers on *Arc of Justice*, *Run With the Horseman*, and *With the Old Breed*. In addition, each student will write an end-of-term paper (seven to nine pages). Papers must be submitted in hard-copy form and through the appropriate drop box on Course Den. In order to pass the course, students must submit all required work. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course. For the History Department's plagiarism policy, see: <http://www.westga.edu/~history/statementonplagiarism.pdf>.

Evaluation: Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade, the three book papers for a total of 20%, the final paper for 20%, and class participation for 10%.

Required Books: Some copies of these book should be available at the campus bookstore, and they can be purchased very inexpensively online:

William E. Leuchtenburg, *The Perils of Prosperity, 1914-1932*

David M. Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945*

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice*

Ferrol Sams, *Run With the Horsemen*

E. B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*

Tentative Class Schedule

Date and Required Reading:

January 5 – Introduction

January 7 – *Perils*, Chaps. 5, 6

January 12 – *Perils*, Chaps. 7, 9

January 14 – *Perils*, Chaps. 10, 11

January 19 – MLK Birthday – No Class

January 21 – *Perils*, Chaps. 12, 13

January 26 – *Freedom*, Chap. 5: “The Hundred Days”

January 28 – *Freedom*, Chap. 6: The Ordeal of the American People”

February 2 – ***Arc of Justice***

February 4 – *Freedom*, Chap. 7: “Chasing the Phantom of Recovery”

February 9 – *Freedom*, Chap. 8: “The Rumble of Discontent”

February 11 – *Freedom*, Chap. 9: “A Season for Reform”

February 16 – *Freedom*, Chap. 10: “Strike!”

February 18 – *Freedom*, Chap. 11: “The Ordeal of Franklin Roosevelt”

February 23 – **Midterm**

February 25 – *Freedom*, Chap. 12: “What the New Deal Did”

March 2 – ***Run With the Horsemen***

March 4 – *Freedom*, Chap. 13: “The Gathering Storm”

March 9 – *Freedom*, Chap. 14: “The Agony of Neutrality”

March 11 – *Freedom*, Chap. 15: “To the Brink”

March 14-22 – Spring Break

March 23 – *Freedom*, Chap. 16: “War in the Pacific”

March 25 – *Freedom*, Chap. 17: “Unready Ally, Uneasy Alliance”

March 30 – ***With the Old Breed***

April 1 – *Freedom*, Chap. 19: “The Struggle for a Second Front”

April 6 – *Freedom*, Chap. 20: “The Battle for Northwest Europe”

April 8 – *Freedom*, Chap. 21: “The Cauldron of the Home Front”

April 13 – *Freedom*, Chap. 22: “Endgame”

April 15 – *Freedom*, Epilogue

April 22 – **Final Exam (2:00-4:30)**