

History 204: United States History Since 1865

Section 001 TT 10:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. in Brock 402

Section 002 TT 9:25-10:40 a.m. in Brock 206

Fall 2009

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History is not merely reading about things that happened a long time ago. Rather, it is an active engagement with artifacts and texts that we organize into arguments about our shared past, our present condition and our imagined future. In our class-time, we will not attempt to be comprehensive. We will examine several large themes through specific examples. Such an approach, I believe, will provide a foundation on which to base further investigation of the world and our place in it. A major goal of our class is to become active historians rather than passive readers. To achieve this goal we will divide our class time between lectures, discussion, debates, and other practical exercises in interpreting the material of the past.

To make the most of your class you must engage the material, both reading and lectures, and use them to form your own opinions, arguments, and questions. If you have questions about lectures, assignments, exams, or any other issue related to the class, please do not hesitate to email me, come by my office hours, or set up an appointment. This course fulfills a general education requirement in Humanities and Fine Arts. If you are a student with a disability requiring special assistance or accommodation, please call the Office for Students with Disabilities at 425-4006 and talk to me immediately so we can figure out how to best accommodate your needs.

Readings: Reading is a required part of this class. Simply put, if you don't read and understand you will not pass. Students are expected to do the reading BEFORE each class. While the lectures will often expand on the readings, there will be days on which the lecture does not directly relate to the reading assignment. Furthermore, the reading provides essential background for the issues and themes we cover in lecture. If you have not done the reading, the lectures will not make sense. I will assume that you know the broad context of the period for each lecture because you have already done the reading. We will occasionally refer to the textbook in class or do close analysis of images or passages. Therefore, you should always bring your textbook to class with you. *****On exams you will be responsible for all the material covered in the reading whether or not we go over it in lecture.*****

Exams: Due to the length of period covered by this course there will be three (3) exams. It is vital that students keep up to date with all readings and course work. I will provide neither lecture notes nor study guides. Students are encouraged to borrow missed notes from fellow classmates. All exams will follow the same format. The exams will consist of six essay questions from which students will choose three. The best answers (i.e. "A" answers) will draw from both lecture and readings. You will ONLY be able to make-up a missed exam if you provide appropriate, written documentation of your absence: a doctor's excuse, a signed letter from the court, or a letter of explanation from the Dean of Students or the Counseling Center. Letters must be on official letterhead. All make-up exams will be given at 8:00 a.m. on the Reading Day (December 1, 2009) in Brock 402. Bring a blue book to all exams. The honor code will be strictly enforced.

Class Discussions: Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the course there will be class discussions at regular intervals. These discussions will either take the place of lectures or make up part of the class time. They will require students to complete assigned readings, watch a documentary, examine a painting, etc. and engage in class discussions. The failure to participate in these class discussions will result in a failing participation grade.

Attendance: Obviously, your attendance in class is pivotal to your good performance this semester. In addition to the reading, you are responsible for all the material covered in lectures. I will NOT provide Study Guides for the exams. Do not expect them. The books and your notes from lectures *are* your study guides. Therefore, you need to be in class to take the notes that will enable you to succeed on the exams. Your attendance at all classes is **expected**. Persistent unsupported absences will result in a failing grade. In an effort to encourage your good performance, I will be taking attendance daily. It is your responsibility to be in class AND to be here on time. It is disruptive to me and to your classmates who are here on time when you show up late. Further, if you are more than 5 minutes late to class, do not bother coming at all. This policy also applies to exams. If you are more than 5 minutes late to an exam, you will not be permitted to sit the exam. And you will only be allowed to make it up if you provide one of the excuses listed above.

Participation: Finally, it is not enough simply to show up to class. You should have the reading done BEFORE class and be prepared to contribute to discussion and to in class activities. To get a good participation grade, which is 15% of your final grade, you must demonstrate your engagement with the material and the course. If you have questions about your performance and/or your participation, do not hesitate to come by office hours or to set up an appointment to talk to me.

Hunter Visits: A large portion of your participation grade will depend on our visits to the Hunter Museum of American Art. Three times this semester (once for each exam period) we will meet at the Hunter Museum for a discussion of relevant art from each period. Adera Causey, the Curator of Education, will be leading these sessions. In order to participate, you need to be a member of the museum. Student Memberships cost \$10.00 and last a full year. The benefits of membership include unlimited admission for a year, discounts at area merchants, and invitation to Hunter special events. You must purchase your membership BEFORE the first Hunter visit on September 8. You may NOT purchase it on the day of the program. Class will begin 10 minutes after our regularly scheduled time to allow you sufficient travel time from campus. (So, section 001 will meet at the Hunter at 11:00 a.m. and section 002 will meet at 9:35 a.m.) Visit the Hunter Website for directions and hours: <http://www.huntermuseum.org>

Policies: There will be no cell phone/portable music device use of any kind in class. If you demonstrate such a lack of respect and interest in the class, you will be asked to leave and you will be marked absent for that day. It is your responsibility to keep track of your assignments and their due dates. This includes exams. When students get up in the middle of the class it is disruptive to everyone. You are adults, if you need to go to the bathroom either go before class or *hold it*. There is no need to talk to other students during class. If we are having a class discussion then all comments should be addressed to the entire class. If you have a question, raise your hand and I will answer it as soon as possible. Talking in class or asking questions of your fellow students is distracting to me and disruptive to those around you. Students exhibiting this behavior will be asked to leave. Students should refer to the *Students Handbook* for university policies on cheating in exams or plagiarizing papers.

Grades, Exam Dates, and Makeup Exam:

25% Exam 1 (September 10)	A= 90-100%
30% Exam 2 (October 13)	B= 80-89%
30% Exam 3, "Final" Exam (December 3 or 8)	C= 70-79%
15% Participation	D= 60-69%
Makeup Exam: December 1, 8:00 a.m. in Brock 402	F= 0-59%

Texts:

George Brown Tindall and David Emory Shi. *America: A Narrative History*, 7th ed., vol. 2 (New York: W. W. Norton, 2007).

Anne Moody. *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (New York: Dell, 1968)

Other texts may be distributed in class or made available online.

Weekly Schedule:

NB: All readings in *America: A Narrative History* unless otherwise indicated.

Week One: America after the Civil War

Reading: Chapter 18, "Reconstruction: North and South," pp 659-699

Tues, August 18: Introduction/Reconstruction I

Thurs, August 20: Reconstruction II

Week Two: A New Economy

Reading: Chapter 19 and 20, pp 702-778

Tues, August 25: The New South and Urbanization

Thurs, August 27: The West: Image and Reality

Week Three: Labor and Leisure

Reading: Chapter 21 and 22, pp 779-853

Tues, Sept 1: Incorporation of America and the Johnstown Flood

Thurs, Sept 3: Cities: Beautiful and Brutal

Week Four: Envisioning America

Tues, Sept 8: Art as Argument, part one (at the Hunter Museum)

Tues, Sept 10: Exam#1

Week Five: Expanding America: Progressives, Populists, and Politicians

Reading: Chapter 23 and 24, pp 859-928

Tues, Sept 15: Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders

Thurs, Sept 17: Eugenics: Race and Reform

Week Six: The Great War and its Aftermath

Reading: Chapters 25 and 26, pp 930-990

Tues, Sept 22: World War I

Thurs, Sept 24: Modernism and Mickey Mouse

Week Seven: Depression and the New Deal

Reading: Chapters 27 and 28, pp 991-1062

Tues, Sept 29: "Normalcy" to Crisis

Thurs, Oct 1: FDR

Week Eight: The Changing World

Reading: Chapter 29, pp 1063-1090, and part of 30, pp 1094-1102, 1129

Tues, Oct 6: Art as Argument, part two (at the Hunter)

Thurs, Oct 8: WWII

Week Nine: Exam#2 and the Changing World

Reading: Chapter 31, pp 1137-1170 (for Thursday)

Tues, Oct 13: Exam #2

Thurs, Oct 15: The Cold War

Week Ten: Fall Break

Reading: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

Tues, Oct 20: No Class Fall Break

Thurs, Oct 22: No Class: READ THE MOODY BOOK!

Week Eleven: From the Suburbs to the Revolution

Reading: Chapter 32 and 33, pp 1171-1224

Tues, Oct 27: The 1950s: Plenty and Paradox

Thurs, Oct 29: the Civil Rights Movements, part 1

Week Twelve: New Frontiers

Reading: Chapter 34 and 35, pp 1226-1311

Tues, Nov 3: Civil Rights Movement, part 2

Thurs, Nov 5: Vietnam

Week Thirteen: The Rise of Conservatism

Reading: Chapter 36, pp 1313-1341

Tues, Nov 10: From the Space Race to the Kitchen Debate (JFK to Nixon)

Thurs, Nov 12: Reaganomics and it's Legacy

Week Fourteen:

Reading: Chapter 37, pp 1342-1390

Tues, Nov 17: Art as Argument, part three (at the Hunter)

Thurs, Nov 19: Looking back: The Fog of War

Week Fifteen:

Reading: Catch up for the Exam!

Tues, Nov 24: The Fog of War, conclusion

Thurs, Nov 26: No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

Final Examinations:

section 001 (TT 10:50-12:05): Dec 3, 11 am-1 pm

section 002 (TT 9:25-10:40): Dec 8, 8-10 am