

HIST 2110
The United States: A Comprehensive Survey

Georgia Southern University
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Department of History

Fall Semester 2007

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Class Meets: TR, 3:30-4:45, 1232 Forest Drive

Overview

This survey of the United States from precolonial times to the present fulfills part of Area E in the University Core Curriculum as well as the Georgia History and U. S. History legislative requirements. The lectures are designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the major themes in American history from the pre-Columbian period through the 1990s. Our goal is not to memorize names and dates, but to develop a better understanding of why certain events happened in the past and to understand some of the interpretative problems that historians encounter during their research and exploration of those events. A final goal is to develop critical thinking skills that students can utilize in their personal and professional lives. Illustrative materials, including videos and maps, will be used to supplement the lectures.

Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be derived as follows:

First Test	25%
Second Test	25%
Book Review	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grading Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=59 or lower

The format for the tests will be multiple choice; the final exam will be essay and multiple choice. The final will include information covered since the second test and an essay section on Steinberg's *Down to Earth*. The tests and final exam are designed to demonstrate proficiency on this elementary level, but their difficulty will be determined by your level of preparation.

I will consider requests for makeup tests only in cases of emergency and only when requests are made before the scheduled test date. It's much easier—believe me—to meet the deadlines than to try to argue for an exception, so begin now to schedule time to complete the class readings and meet all the deadlines.

In this class, as in any other, students are responsible for meeting all the standards set by the GSU policy on academic dishonesty. Any student found in violation of academic dishonesty will receive an "F" in the course and face possible expulsion from the university. For more information, see the Student Conduct Code.

Please note that class attendance will be taken into account in determining course grades.

Readings

The required reading for this semester includes:

David Goldfield, *The American Journey* (Brief 4th Edition--Combined)
Roberta Price, *Huerfano: A Memoir of Life in the Counterculture*
Ted Steinberg, *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*

You are responsible for all assigned reading whether covered in class or not. You will get more out of the lectures if you complete the relevant reading before each class. Study tools for the Goldfield text can be found at <http://www.prenhall.com/goldfield> (click on the appropriate cover).

Participation

Classes will meet as scheduled on the syllabus. Attendance is mandatory. Please do not come to class late or leave early. Late arrivals and early departures are disruptive and signal to me a certain amount of indifference on your part toward the course. Attendance means that your mind as well as your body is in class. Do not come to this room to do other homework, socialize, or sleep. Those activities again suggest apathy on your part.

I encourage all students to participate in discussions. You should always feel free to offer comments or ask questions whether for clarification or for further information.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must 1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and 2) provide a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating your needs for academic accommodation. This should be done within the first week of class. The SDRC is located in Building 805 on Forest Drive; phone 871-1566; or check their website at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/disability/index.htm>

Accessibility

My office hours and contact information are listed above. Please feel free to come by and see me at any point during the semester that you need help.

Tips for Success

The following are a few tips that, if followed, can lead to a better grade in this course:

- Do the reading as assigned—avoid procrastination. There is nothing worse than trying to read and comprehend 100 pages of history the day or two before a test.
- Take good notes and review them before and after each lecture.
- If you have special academic concerns (such as a scholarship requiring a minimum 3.0 GPA or the desire to go on to a graduate or professional school) think about them now. Do not wait until the last week of class and tell me that you have to make an “A” in the course to stay in school. You do not have the right to an “A”; you do have the right to earn an “A”.
- Never be afraid to ask a question if you need help.

Civility and Common Sense

- Respect the opinions of your classmates, especially if they differ from your own.
- Never, ever, sleep in class.
- Turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom. Incoming phone calls and text-messaging will not be tolerated.

University Calendar

August 13-16 Drop/Add
September 28 Mid-term grades for Freshmen due
October 8 Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
November 21-23 Thanksgiving holidays for students - Administrative offices closed
November 29 Last day of classes
December 3-6 Final exams

COURSE SCHEDULE

***This is an approximation of our schedule and is subject to change.

WEEK 1: Read David Goldfield, *The American Journey*, Chapters 1-2; Ted Steinberg, *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*, Prologue and Chapter 1

Topics: Introduction to history
America before Columbus

WEEK 2: Read Goldfield, Chapters 3-4; Steinberg, Chapter 2

Topics: Settling the Chesapeake and Massachusetts Bay
The Great Awakening
Colonial conflict and the advent of revolution

WEEK 3: Read Goldfield, Chapters 5-6; Steinberg, Chapter 3

Topics: George Washington and the strategy of attrition
The war in the South

WEEK 4: Read Goldfield, Chapters 7-8

Topics: The creation of a national government
Troubles at home and abroad

WEEK 5: Read Goldfield, Chapters 9-10; Steinberg, Chapter 4

Topic: The cultivation of sectionalism

WEEK 6: Read Goldfield, Chapters 11-12

*****Test #1*****

Topics: The Peculiar Institution
Religion, reform, and utopian activity

WEEK 7: Read Goldfield, Chapters 13-14; Steinberg, Chapter 5

Topics: Manifest Destiny and continental expansion
The politics of the 1850s

WEEK 8: Read Goldfield, Chapters 15-16; Steinberg, Chapter 6

Topics: "Turning Points" of the Civil War
Reconstructing the Union

WEEK 9: Read Goldfield, Chapters 17-18; Steinberg, Chapter 7

Topics: The segregated South
Labor and the Republic

WEEK 10: Read Goldfield, Chapters 19-20; Steinberg, Chapters 8-9

Topics: Transforming the West
 Politics in the Gilded Age

WEEK 11: Read Goldfield, Chapters 21-22; Steinberg, Chapter 10

Topics: The Progressive Era
 Rise to Globalism

WEEK 12: Read Goldfield, Chapter 23-24; Steinberg, Chapter 11

***** TEST #2 *****

Topics: America and the Great War
 The Culture Wars

WEEK 13: Read Goldfield, Chapters 25-26; Steinberg, Chapters 12-13

Topics: The Great Depression
 FDR and the New Deal
 World War II

WEEK 14: Read Goldfield, Chapters 27-28; Steinberg, Chapters 14-15

Topics: The Cold War at home and abroad
 The Affluent Society
 The Kennedy Years

WEEK 15: Read Goldfield, Chapter 29; Steinberg, Chapter 16 and Conclusion

Topics: Stirrings of civil rights
 The Counterculture
 Vietnam

WEEK 16: Read Goldfield, Chapters 30- 31

Topics: The United States in a changing world
 Learning from history