

HISTORY 2112-A: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1877

Spring Semester, 2009
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This course surveys major themes in United States history from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Since this is a reading course, it is essential for each student to keep pace with assigned work in order to benefit from class lectures and discussions. Class attendance is also very important for success and will be taken every day. The syllabus lists reading assignments as they relate to the course outline and term calendar. Three tests and a final examination, each weighted equally, will determine final grades. Each exam will cover approximately 25% of the material in the course. The last day that you may withdraw from this course with a grade of "W" is **Friday February 27**. You will have received the grade from your first test well before that date, and a progress report evaluation will have been entered by **Friday February 13**. I strongly suggest that you discuss with the professor any decision to drop before doing so. Spring semester recess is from March 16 to March 20; there will be no classes that week.

GEORGIA TECH HONOR CODE:

Students in this class will be expected to abide by the honor code and avoid any instances of academic misconduct including but not limited to: 1) possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or oral information in the preparation of an exam or paper; 2) substitution of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another individual or individuals; 3) false claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the student. See published Honor Code for additional information (the full text of the code, the history of its development and implementation, and other related information may be found on the web at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>). Copies of exams previously given in this course will be available on the web at the Georgia Tech library home page and listed under "reserve readings" under Professor Giebelhaus' name and/or hist 2112.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (available at Georgia Tech and Engineer's Bookstores)

1. Pauline Maier, Merritt Roe Smith, Alexander Keyssar, and Daniel J. Kevles, *Inventing America*, Volume 2, 2nd. Edition (Norton, 2006, paper-bound); ISBN # 0-393-16816-6. You are strongly recommended to make use of a very helpful web site for this book found at www.norton.com/studyspace. <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/roark>. The site is free and open to all; you may access a number of learning activities including a recommended study plan, chapter outlines, time lines, maps, and practice quizzes. The site also contains a number of other useful materials.
2. Stephen G. Weisner and William F. Hartford (eds.), *American Portraits: Biographies*

in United States History, Volume II (third edition: McGraw Hill, 2008, paper-bound); ISBN #978-0-07-321027-8

CLASS CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

January 6, 8

Topic: I. The Frontier and the American West in Post-Civil War America

- A. The Turner Thesis and Its Critics
- B. Land Distribution Policies
- C. Native American Policy
- D. The American Cowboy: Myth and Reality

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 18, pp. 528-32; ch. 19, pp. 544-47; *Portraits*, “Philip H. Sheridan;” “Susan LaFlesche Picotte”

January 13, 15, 20

Topic: II. The Emergence of Industrial Society

- A. The Rise of “Big Business”
- B. Government Policy, the Supreme Court, and Antitrust
- C. Georgia Tech and the New South Creed
- D. Urbanization and Immigration

Reading: *Inventing*, chs.18 and 19 (entire); *Portraits*, “John D. Rockefeller”

January 22, 27

Topic: III. The Response to Industrialism

- A. The Farmer: The Populist Critique of Industrial America
- B. The Urban Worker: The Rise of Organized Labor
- C. The National Political Arena: The Congress, the Presidency, and the Courts
- D. Women and African Americans in an Industrial Age

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 20; *Portraits*, “Mary Lease;” “Henry McNeal Turner”

January 29 -- First Test

February 3, 5

Topic: IV. The Progressive Era of American History

- A. The Meaning of Progressivism
- B. Reform Politics at the Local, State, and Federal Levels
- C. Theodore Roosevelt and Republican Progressivism
- D. Woodrow Wilson and Democratic Progressivism

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 22; *Portraits*, “Theodore Roosevelt;” “Eugene V. Debs”

February 10, 12, 17

Topic: V. The Expansion of U.S. Foreign Policy

- A. Imperialism and the Spanish-American War
- B. The "Open Door" and the "Big Stick"
- C. The U.S. and World War I: From Neutrality to Versailles
- D. The President and the Congress: War and the Treaty-Making Process

Reading: *Inventing*, chs. 21 and 23

February 19, 24

- VI. The Roaring Twenties: Continuity and Change
- A. "Normalcy" and the Republican Political Ascendency
 - B. Social and Intellectual Trends
 - C. The "New Negro" and the Emancipated Woman
 - D. The Economics of Boom and Bust

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 24; *Portraits*, "W.E.B. DuBois;" "Margaret Sanger"

February 26 - Second Test

March 3, 5

Topic: VII. The Great Depression and the New Deal

- A. Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Revolution in American Politics
- B. Relief, Recovery, and Reform: Origins of the Welfare State
- C. The Politics of Bureaucracy and Interest Groups
- D. The Meaning of the Roosevelt Revolution

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 25; *Portraits*, "Eleanor Roosevelt;" "Huey Long"

March 10 12

Topic: VIII. The Era of World War II

- A. Neutrality and the Road to Pearl Harbor
- B. The Fighting Front and the Home Front
- C. The Diplomacy of Global Conflict
- D. Executive Agreements and the Conduct of Foreign Policy

Reading: *Inventing*, chs. 26 and 27; *Portraits*, "George Patton"

March 16-20 – Spring Break

March 24, 26

Topic: IX: The Cold War and American Security

- A. The Truman Presidency and the Origins of the Cold War
- B. Containment Doctrine in Europe
- C. Containment in Asia: Korea and the Concept of "Limited War"
- D. Containment at Home: Civil Liberties and the First Amendment

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 28; *Portraits*, "Joseph McCarthy"

March 31 - Third Test

April 2

Topic: X. The 1950s: Prosperity and Political Consensus

- A. American Society: Affluence and Anxiety
- B. Dwight Eisenhower and the Politics of Moderation
- C. The Cold War at Mid-Passage
- D. *Brown v. Board of Education*: "Separate but Equal" Revisited

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 29; *Portraits*, “Martin Luther King”

April 7, 9

Topic: XI. Coming Apart: America in the 1960s

- A. JFK and the New Frontier
- B. The Great Society and the Expansion of Federal Government
- C. Vietnam: History and Analysis
- D. Cultural Change and Social Ferment

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 30; *Portraits*, “Betty Friedan”

April 14, 16

Topic: XII. The 1970s: An Era of Uncertainty

- A. Nixon, Kissinger, and New Directions in Foreign Affairs
- B. Watergate and Constitutional Crisis
- C. The Ford Interregnum
- D. The “Man From Plains”

Reading: *Inventing*, ch. 31; *Portraits*, “Cesar Chavez”

April 21, 23

Topic: XIII. A Conservative Resurgence

- A. The “Reagan Revolution”
- B. Reagan, Bush (41), and the End of the Cold War
- C. Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party’s Shift to the Right
- D. Bush (43) and a New Set of Challenges

Reading: *Inventing*, chs. 32 and 34; *Portraits*, “Ronald Reagan,” “Bill Gates”

April 27 – May 1: Final Examination Period (Fourth Test): Our test is scheduled for Exam Period 7 on Wednesday, April 29, during the first examination period that day (8:00 – 10:50 A.M.). This exam will be the same length as tests 1-3, but we will take advantage of the schedule to give everyone more time if needed.

