

Syllabus for United States History II

HIS 101-005, Spring 2010, 3 Credit Hours, M/W/F 12:20-1:10 pm
University of Northern Colorado, Ross 1060

DESCRIPTION: This course surveys events, trends, peoples, groups, cultures, ideas, and institutions in North American and United States history, including the multiple perspectives of gender, class, and ethnicity, from the end of Reconstruction to the present day. A principle focus of this course is on developing, practicing, and strengthening the skills historians use while constructing knowledge in the discipline. This course meets the state requirements for guaranteed transfer (State Guaranteed Transfer Course), and also meets competencies as set by the state for Critical Thinking and Writing in the Social Sciences.

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Patrick (Pat) Massengill
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TEXTBOOK: Foner, Eric; Give Me Liberty! an American History, Vol. II: since 1865; Second Seagull Edition; (New York, NY: Norton, 2009). ISBN 978-0-393-93256-0
This is available at the UNC BOOKSTORE and THE BOOKSTOP

TENTATIVE DEADLINES:

August 25	Questionnaire due for MAX. credit	October 20	MIDTERM EXAM (Objective)
August 30	Chapter 16 Quiz Due	October 22	MIDTERM EXAM (Essay)
September 3 and	Chapter 17 Quiz Due Assignment Contract Due	October 29	Chapter 25 Quiz Due
September 10	Chapter 18 Quiz Due	November 1	Map Exercise #3 Due
September 13	Map Exercise #1 Due	November 5	Research Paper EARLY Deadline
September 17	1st Supplemental Reading Due	November 8	Chapter 26 Quiz Due
September 20	Chapter 19 Quiz Due	November 12	3rd Supplemental Reading Due
September 24	Chapter 20 Quiz Due	November 15	Chapter 27 Quiz Due
September 27	Chapter 21 Quiz Due	November 19	Chapter 28 Quiz Due
October 1	Map Exercise #2 Due	November 22	Research Paper FINAL Deadline
October 4	Chapter 22 Quiz Due	Nov. 24-26	Fall Break
October 8	2nd Supplemental Reading Due	November 29	4th Supplemental Reading Due
October 11	Chapter 23 Quiz Due	December 3	Map Exercise #4 Due
October 15	Chapter 24 Quiz Due	December 8 and	FINAL EXAM (<u>Wednesday</u> 1:30-3:00 pm) Last chance to submit any assignments

GRADING POLICY: Your final grade will be based on the completion of FOUR assignments (detailed below), each counting a maximum of 400 points toward a total of 1600. Based on that point total, the grading scale will be:

A (93%) = 1488-1600 points	A- (90%) = 1440-1487 points	B+ (87%) = 1392-1439 points
B (83%) = 1328-1391 points	B- (80%) = 1280-1327 points	C+ (77%) = 1232-1279 points
C (73%) = 1168-1231 points	C- (70%) = 1120-1167 points	D+ (67%) = 1072-1119 points
D (63%) = 1008-1071 points	D- (60%) = 960-1007 points	F (<60%) = 959 points or less

THE FOUR INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS AND OPTIONS ARE:

NOTE: Students MAY complete more than four assignments, but I will only count the Quizzes/Maps, the best Exam, the best Written Assignment, and the BEST ONE of any others toward your final grade. An online "Assignment Contract" specifying your choices should be submitted by Sept. 3.

1) CHAPTER QUIZZES and MAPS (worth 400 points)

This assignment is **MANDATORY!**

For this assignment, students are required to complete a QUIZ for each of the Chapters 16-28 of "Give Me Liberty!", PLUS, there are four Map Exercises. These are located on the class Blackboard "Quizzes & Maps" page. Each Quiz/Map is DUE by 11:55 PM, the DUE DATES being noted on both the "Quiz" page and previously in the syllabus. They can also be submitted LATE for up to seven days, with a 1 point per day deduction.

It is recommended that you "preview" each Quiz/Map and "print" a copy for you to work from. *To do this, right-click on the body of text (not on an answer block or on an image) -- then click "Print" -- then exit by clicking the "X" in the upper-right corner. DO NOT click "Finish" at the bottom of the page until you have found the answers and actually finish the Quiz/Map.*

2) MIDTERM EXAM or FINAL EXAM (worth 400 points) ONE of these is MANDATORY! (The other is optional)

Each exam will cover **ANYTHING** that is presented in class and the Chapter Quizzes. The exam will have two parts. PART A will include 60 "objective" questions, including such as multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, matching, ordering, etc., and will count a total of 300 points. PART B will require answering two essay questions, worth 50 points each. The potential essay questions are shown on the last page of the syllabus. The Midterm Exam will cover two class periods, and you will have the entire class period to complete each part. The Final Exam (100 minutes during the one Final Exam period) will NOT be comprehensive.

The exams will NOT allow open text or notes. You ARE permitted to have ONE SIDE of ONE 5.5" x 8.5" SHEET, with anything written, typed, or copied on it you want. This "cheat sheet", IF USED, must be shown to me (or the proctor) before beginning your exam. A second one-sided sheet can be used for the essay portion of the Midterm. One 8.5" x 11" sheet is allowed for the Final.

You MAY take BOTH EXAMS and have the SECOND ONE counted as your fourth assignment. However, since neither individual Exam is required, there will be NO opportunity to "make it up". If you want a particular exam score -- take it when it's offered!

YOUR THIRD ASSIGNMENT (worth 400 points) must be one of the following two options (3A or 3B), each of which is designed to meet State competencies in critical thinking and writing outcomes for students.

3A) RESEARCH PAPER

This is one of two OPTIONS for Assignment #3!

For this assignment, the topic is fairly open-ended, provided it pertains to U.S. History since 1876 and that it have a narrow focus. As an example, I don't want a broad synthesis such as "World War II", but something more like "WWII Medicine". You MUST submit your topic to me using the "Assignment Contract" NO LATER THAN September 3rd for my approval! This written approval is worth 10% of the score for this assignment IF it is completed.

A research paper should use AT LEAST FIVE varied sources (NO more than one website w/o my approval and NO Wikipedia), have AT LEAST 1600 of your own words of text (this works out to about 5-6 full pages of text, typed, double spaced, with 12 pt. type and normal margins), plus have an annotated bibliography. You need to footnote only "direct quotes" from other sources. These are due November 22nd. However, if you desire, you may submit it NO LATER THAN November 5th and I will "pre-grade" it. If you are satisfied with your "pre-grade", you can let it stand; but if you want to re-write it taking my comments into consideration, you can re-submit it by the November 22nd due date; and if it deserves a better score, I'LL SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE between the pre-grade and the re-grade scores. **Research Papers MUST be submitted both as a paper copy AND electronically.**

NOTE: Neither I nor my outlines or lectures may be used as a source without my permission. See the "Bibliography" link on the course Blackboard homepage for examples of an annotated bibliography.

3B) SUPPLEMENTAL READING ESSAYS

This is one of two OPTIONS for Assignment #3!

For this assignment, you must write reaction essays to FOUR of the eight readings that I have placed on the Web. Each reading gives you specific questions that MUST be answered. Each reaction essay MUST have a minimum of 400 words. While the content is the most important aspect, college level composition is expected and lack of such will detract from your overall score.

The FIRST Essay is due Sept. 17th; the SECOND is due Oct. 8th; the THIRD is due Nov. 12th; the FOURTH is due Nov. 29th.

SEE "SUPPLEMENTAL READING ESSAYS" LINK ON THE BLACKBOARD "COURSE MATERIALS" PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.

YOUR FOURTH ASSIGNMENT (worth 400 points) can be EITHER of the following two options.

NOTE: You CANNOT write two Research Papers, OR a second set of Supplemental Reading Essays.

4A) FINAL EXAM: If you took the Midterm Exam for Assign. #2 -- you make take the Final Exam to fulfill this assignment, **OR**

4B) RESEARCH PAPER or (4) SUPPLEMENTAL READING ESSAYS:

(Whichever you did NOT do for Assignment #3; SEE information and deadlines for assignments 3A or 3B above.)

DEADLINES: One thing that I take seriously is deadlines -- assignments are either on time or they are late. Quizzes and Map Exercises are ALL due (online) at 11:55 PM. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due dates (**Essays in paper form only -- emailed copies are NOT acceptable, even as proof of their being done!**). I will accept any assignment late (except exams), but there will be a 10% deduction from your score PER CLASS. Even "excused" Absences do NOT alter deadlines! Any assignment can be turned in EARLY and I encourage you to do so.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE: The purpose of this course is to train students to analyze, examine, reflect, and communicate about historical events and personalities, and their relevance to the present and future. There will be valuable material presented in class which is not in the text (and vice-versa); students will therefore be expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions.

The other thing I take seriously is attendance -- you are either present or you are absent. I allow students **FOUR** absences (about 10% of the course) without question, without need for explanation or note from anyone. After these first four, the **ONLY** excused absences are those for official school activities explained in writing, on school stationary with a verifiable phone number or email address, and signed by a school official.

EVERY absence after the fourth "freebie" will result in a 12 Point (3/4%) DEDUCTION from your overall score. (In other words, if you miss 10 classes, you'll lose 4.5% from your score -- almost half a grade.) I will normally pass around an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. If you come in late, it is **your responsibility** to get your name on the list. ***This list is the final arbiter of attendance.*** I update attendance every weekend. If you think I have made an error, it **MUST** be brought to my attention within 7 days.

To encourage exceptional attendance, I will ADD 12 points (3/4%) to the overall score of anyone who only misses three times, ADD 24 points (1.5%) for anyone who only misses once, ADD 36 points (2.25%) for anyone who only misses once, or ADD 48 points (3%) for anyone with PERFECT ATTENDANCE.

IF your attendance becomes a continuing problem due to unforeseen family, health, or work difficulties, PLEASE discuss the situation with me ASAP so that some accommodation might be negotiated.

TEACHER CONFERENCE TIME: My "official" conference time is on Monday and Wednesday from 11:30-Noon in a location TBD. If you wish to schedule a formal conference -- either talk to me, or email/call at least 24 hours in advance. If you don't necessarily need to meet but have questions or comments, you can always email through the Blackboard system and I'll reply ASAP.

SPECIAL NEEDS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students with documented special needs may be entitled to "reasonable accommodations". Students should notify me at their earliest convenience of such a need, and must show documentation provided to them by the ***Disability Support Service***. If you haven't been evaluated for special needs, please contact the DSS at 351-2289 or in Michener L80.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Violation of academic integrity may be defined to include the following: cheating, plagiarism, falsification or fabrication, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and personal misrepresentation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty. Sanctions for violating the standards of academic integrity may include warning, probation, suspension, and/or failure of the assignment or course at the discretion of the instructor.

FINALLY, it is my desire that all students be provided an optimum learning environment for achieving whatever goals (and grade) they are willing to work for. If there is anything about the class that concerns you, I invite you to privately bring it to my attention and we'll work toward a mutual solution. I also hope no student withdraws from the class without first discussing their situation with me – as there may be a better solution. **The last day to drop this class and receive a refund is September 3rd. The last day to withdraw from this class individually with a “W” recorded and no refund, is October 15th (this is before the Midterm Exam).**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and/or calendar and due dates with at least seven days notice to all students.

Getting into Your Blackboard Course at UNC

1. Logging In: Go to the school's Homepage, click on “Current Students”, click on “Blackboard”, click on “User Login”. Enter your “Username” and “Password” (the same as you use to register for classes).

2. Enter this Course: Click on this course (HIST 101-005). The course will always open on the “Announcements” page. From there, using the navigation buttons on the left, you can link to Faculty (my) Information, a copy of this Syllabus, Quizzes and Maps, Course Material (Source Maps, further instructions for the Supplemental Readings and Public Histories), and other useful information.

3. Doing “Quizzes and Maps”: The one assignment you are required to do involving Blackboard is completing Chapter Quizzes and Map Exercises. These are always due on a class night (Monday or Friday) at 11:55 PM (Midnight). Each Quiz/Map usually becomes available 14 days before it is due – giving you two weeks to complete on time. They also will remain open after the DUE DATE for seven days, but one point is deducted each day they are completed late (they all start out worth 23 points).

The Quizzes and Maps are not like “pop quizzes” – they are more like “take-home quizzes” – because you complete them outside of class time and are allowed plenty of time to find the answers before submitting them. In other words, there is a “due date” but no online “time limit” to get them done.

a) Click on the “Quizzes and Maps” button. Once each Quiz/Map is available (at least 2 weeks before it is due), click on its link. Click “OK” to begin (don't worry, this first time is ONLY to print out the questions – NOT to take the quiz for real).

b) Once the Quiz/Map displays, RIGHT CLICK on it (but not inside an image or answer box). You should get a small pop-up window with several options on it.

c) Left-click on PRINT to print a copy of the Quiz/Map (assuming you are attached to a printer). [IF saving paper is important to you, you could also COPY and PASTE the Quiz into a word processor, OR if you are ready to read the chapter, you could just leave it on your screen and fill it out as you read.] For most students, printing it out seems to work best.

d) Once you have the Quiz/Map printed out (or copied), EXIT the Quiz/Map window by clicking on the browser window “Close” button (red X in the upper-right corner). By exiting this way you can re-enter the Quiz/Map again at your convenience and “take it” for real once you have located the answers. DO NOT hit “Save” and “Submit” at the bottom of the Quiz until after you enter the answers.

e) Once you have read the chapter and written the answers on your paper copy, re-enter the Quiz/Map and input your answers. You must hit “Save” to record your answers – either immediately after each answer, or collectively at the bottom. After hitting “Save”, you can still change an answer, but then you must hit “Save” again. Once you have entered and “Saved” all your answers, hit “Submit” at the bottom. It will warn you with a pop-up if you failed to answer any questions. If you want to go back and complete any you missed, hit “Cancel”. If you are done, click “OK” – and then “OK” once more to confirm. Once you hit “Save”, “Submit”, “OK”, and “OK” your answers are submitted to me for grading and you cannot re-enter the Quiz/Map.

f) Your Quiz/Map will usually be graded and the score released within 48 hours. Click on “Student Tools” and “My Grades” to see your scores. Usually a couple of days after the “Due Date”, I will release the answers so you can see exactly what you got right or wrong. To view the graded Quiz/Map, click on the blue underlined score.

4. The optional “**Questionnaire**” (due Aug. 25 for maximum extra credit) is also on the “Quiz/Map” page.

THEMES AND ESSAYS for U.S. History II

The themes below will be the subjects of our classroom discussion, lectures, and media presentations. A few may be concluded in one session; some may take two or more sessions to cover adequately. **There is no direct correlation with your text chapters**, except a general chronological progression. The first six themes will form the “pool” of potential essay questions for the Midterm Exam; the last six are for the Final Exam.

Potential Essay Questions for the Midterm Exam (from which I will select three and students must answer two of those)

- 1 In the aftermath of Reconstruction, many Southerners liked to brag about the “New South”; discuss Reconstruction and how “new” the South really was.
- 2 The *Old West*: Draw a comparison between the popular perceptions and the realities, and discuss the treatment and fate of Native Americans in the “conquering” the West.
- 3 Describe the impact of the Industrial Revolution on Americans, and the rise of “Pop Culture” as a means of regaining their humanity.
- 4 White Man’s Burden: Discuss the Western Imperialism of the late 19th century -- compare this to the earlier American idea of *manifest destiny*.
- 5 The “war to end all wars” has been labeled by many historians as the darkest period in human existence. Describe why it could be called that, and the effects it had on the remainder of the 20th century.
- 6 *Grapes of Wrath*: Explain the factors that caused the *Great Depression*, and how FDR’s New Deal “alphabet agencies” brought Americans hope on the road to recovery.

Potential Essay Questions for the Final Exam (from which I will select three and students must answer two of those):

- 7 President Harding called it a “return to normalcy”; show how the conditions left by the catastrophe of the “Great War” and subsequent depression gave rise to the totalitarian wave that led to World War II.
- 8 Discuss the use of propaganda by both the Allied and Axis powers during World War II, and to what extent the same techniques are still used today in the American political arena.
- 9 Labeled by some as “the imperial presidency” and explained by others as “presidential machismo”; cite specific examples of Presidents whose deception and penchant for using unilateral military force have greatly expanded the constitutional limits of executive authority.
- 10 The post-WWII period was an age fraught with nuclear proliferation, doomsday anxieties, and the threat of Armageddon. Explain how the *Cold War* began, evolved, and ended, and what can be done to continue survival in the post-Cold War, but still nuclear, future.
- 11 Detail some of the ways that America dominates in the world today, and argue, yea or nay, whether “pop culture” is simply the latest weapon in American *manifest destiny*.
- 12 Describe the two axial principles of our age -- tribalism and globalism -- and why both are threats to democracy.