

AMH 2020: U.S. History from 1877
University of Florida, Fall 2017
CBD 0210, MWF Period 7 (1:55pm-2:45pm)

Instructor: Matt Simmons
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Office Hours: TBD

Grade breakdown is as follows:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Quizzes	15%
Paper	20%
Midterm	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale:

A 93 - 100

A- 90 - 92

B+ 87 - 89

B 83 - 86

B- 80 - 82

C+ 77 - 79

C 73 - 76

C- 70 - 72

D+ 68 - 69

D- 64 - 65

F <64

Course Description:

This is an undergraduate survey course of U.S. History from 1877 to the present day. Together we will explore the historical trends and processes that have resulted in the world we live in today. Throughout the course we will engage with many different ways of analyzing the past i.e. viewing the past from political, economic, cultural, and social points of view. Themes of race, class, and gender will also be emphasized in such a way as to always keep the individual in the center of our discussion. History is much more than remembering a collection of dates, important events, and “great” leaders; history, at its core, is about everyday individuals and their interactions with the world around them. This course is designed to not only provide you with a rudimentary knowledge of our national past (and where applicable its international context), but also to develop transferable skills that will serve you well beyond the classroom. Consequently, this course will help to develop reading comprehension, critical thinking, and cogent writing. The format of this course is lecture and discussion. Generally, Mondays and Wednesdays will be lecture days, whereas Friday will be a day to discuss specific readings from *Women, Families, and Communities* and *After the Fact*. This is not to say that students are not expected to participate in lectures when appropriate-I expect students to be prepared to contribute to the learning process every day we have class-however, the bulk of a student’s participation grade will be based on Friday discussions. My teaching approach heavily emphasizes collaboration and student-generated analysis of past events thus making student engagement with the material and participation in discussions essential.

Readings:

Women, Families, and Communities: Readings in American History, Volume II. Hewitt & Deleard-2nd Edition 2008 (Listed in Syllabus as **WFC**)

After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, Volume II. Davidson & Lytle. 6th Edition 2010. (Listed in Syllabus as **ATF**)

Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II. Blackmon. Anchor Books, 2008. (Listed in Syllabus as **SBAN**)

The American Yawp. Locke & Wright. <http://www.americanyawp.com/> (Listed in Syllabus as **Text**)

Course requirements and expectations:

Students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to participate in discussions about the weekly readings. Students are allowed **two unexcused absences** during the semester. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a student's final course grade being lowered by one letter grade. I realize that many students use laptops for note-taking; I also realize that laptops can also be used for a variety of things which have absolutely nothing to do with learning. Should it become apparent laptops and/or smartphones, tablets etc....are impeding the learning process I reserve the right to ban them from the classroom.

Exams:

You will have two major examinations in this class-a midterm and a final exam. The format will be the same for both, although the midterm will be shorter in duration. Each exam will consist of short identification questions and one essay for the midterm and two essays for the final. The midterm will take place on **Friday, October 13th** during our regular class period. The final exam will take place on **Thursday, December 14th** from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Both examinations will take place in our normal classroom.

Quizzes:

There will be **six unannounced quizzes** given throughout the semester. They will be short in duration (5-10 minutes) and consist of fill-in-the blank and multiple-choice questions. Only five quizzes will count toward your final grade-the lowest quiz score will be dropped. If you are absent on a quiz day that quiz will count as your lowest quiz score. These quizzes are given to ensure you are keeping up with the readings/lectures.

Paper:

You will write a **short paper (4-6 pages)** on a question related to Blackmon's *Slavery by Another Name*. You will receive a handout on this assignment within the first two weeks of class. This assignment will be **due November 13th**. Assignments are due in **hard copy** on the date indicated in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day late. All papers are due in Times New Roman with 1-inch margins.

Students with Disabilities:

I am committed to accommodating students with disabilities. Please notify me early in the semester if you have a disability and require special accommodations. If you have questions about disability services, please consult the Disability Resource Center website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>.

A Note on Academic Honesty: I encourage you to talk to, study with, and learn from your classmates. However, I expect you to do your own work. If I discover that you have engaged in dishonest activities, you WILL FAIL the course and I will report you to the academic dean for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions, please talk to me or consult the Dean of Students website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>

Class Schedule:

(All assignments and dates are subject to change, but with plenty of advance warning)

Week One: August 21 – August 25th

Introduction & Reconstruction in the South

- Text-Chapter 15: Reconstruction
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 1: Not that Sort of Woman

Week Two: August 28th – September 1st

The New South & Conquest of the Far West

- Text-Chapter 17: Conquering the West
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 2: Hull House in the 1890s/ATF-Chapter 8: The View from the Bottom Rail

Week Three: September 4th – September 8th (No class Monday)

Industrial Supremacy & Age of the City I

- Text-Chapter 16: Capital & Labor
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 3: Coming of Age/ATF-Chapter 9: The Mirror with a Memory

Week Four: September 11th – September 15th

Age of the City II & American Empire

- Text-Chapter 18: Life in Industrial America/Chapter 19: American Empire
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 4: Putting on Style

Week Five: September 18th – September 22nd

The Progressives

- Text-Chapter 20: The Progressive Era
- Discussion: Chapter 5: I Had My Own Business/ATF-Chapter 10: USDA Government Inspected

Week Six: September 25th – September 29th

World War I & The New Era

- Text-Chapter 21: World War I and its Aftermath & Chapter 22: The New Era
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 6: Women and the KKK/ATF-Chapter 11: Sacco and Vanzetti

Week Seven: October 2nd – October 6th (No class Friday)

Global Crises (interwar years)

- Text-Chapter 22: The New Era
- **Read first half SBAN and be prepared to discuss**

Week Eight: October 9th – October 13th

The Great Depression & the New Deal I

- Text-Chapter 23: The Great Depression
- **Midterm Exam: Friday October 13th – class period**

Week Nine: October 16th – October 20th

The Great Depression & the New Deal II

- Text-Chapter 23: The Great Depression
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 7: Women of the Depression/ATF-Chapter 12: Dust Bowl Odyssey

Week Ten: October 23rd – October 27th

World War II & the Cold War

- Text-Chapter 24: World War II & Chapter 25: The Cold War
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 8: Women Under Fire/ATF-Chapter 13: The Decision to Drop the Bomb

Week Eleven: October 30th – November 3rd

The Affluent Society

- Text-Chapter 26: The Affluent Society
- Discussion: Chapter 9-American Families in the 1950s
- **Read second half SBAN and be prepared to discuss**

Week Twelve: November 6th – November 10th (No Class Friday)

The Civil Rights Movement

- Text-Chapter 27: The Sixties
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 10: It Was Like All of Us Had Been Raped/ATF-Chapter 15: Sitting-In

Week Thirteen: November 13th – November 17th

The Vietnam War & the Crisis of Authority

- Text-Chapter 28: The Unraveling
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 16: Breaking into Watergate/ATF-Chapter 17: Where Trouble Comes
- **Paper Due November 13th**

Week Fourteen: November 20th – November 24th (No Class Wednesday & Friday)

From the Age of Limits to the Age of Reagan

- Text-Chapter 29: The Triumph of the Right

Week Fifteen: November 27th – December 1st

Age of Globalization

- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 11: Moral Mothers and Goldwater Girls
- Text-Chapter 30: The Recent Past

Week Sixteen: December 4th – December 8th (No Class Friday)

- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 13: Domestica
- Course Review & Why History Matters

Final Exam: Thursday December 14th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in our classroom.