AMH 2020: American History since 1877

Fall 2012, Section 05GA

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Period 4 (10:40 – 11:30), Keene-Flint 117

Instructor: Scott Huffard

Office Hours – Wednesday 11:30-12:30, Keene-Flint 009 or by appointment

Contact Info – shuffard@ufl.edu

Course Website: UF E-Learning Site

Course Description

This American History course will cover the history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present. We will focus on a number of key themes, including the emergence of the United States as a world power, the industrialization of the American economy, the growing authority of the federal government, efforts of minorities to win greater civil rights, and reform movements that swept the nation. In exploring these themes, we will examine how American history since 1877 has shaped the world and defined how Americans understand who they are today.

Grade Breakdown

25 % Midterm

30 % Final Exam

20 % Paper Assignments

15 % Quizzes

10 % Participation

Grading Scale:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Required Books

Copies of all of these books should be available at the UF bookstore. Feel free to order these online, or use e-books if they are available. For the Foner book and After the Fact, make sure you have the right edition and volume. You will definitely be able to find used copies of the Nelson and Tyson books online, but just be sure to order them soon to make sure they come in on time.


Scott Reynolds Nelson, *Steel Drivin’ Man John Henry: the Untold Story of an American Legend*

Timothy Tyson, *Blood Done Sign My Name*

Expectations/Important Deadlines/Dates

The first, and most basic expectation is that you be in class on time. While I will not officially take attendance, 10% of your grade is based on participation, which can be earned by showing and being engaged in both lectures and discussion. Coming late will irritate me, and adversely affect this portion of your grade. On the days when I give a quiz, the quiz will come at the beginning of the class, so if you are late, you miss the quiz. I also ask you to be respectful and silence cell phones and refrain from texting or chatting with your friends on Facebook or Gmail the whole period.

The midterm will be held in class on **Oct 12**, and the final will be **7:30 to 9:30 AM on Dec 11**. Both exams will consist of essay questions and short-answer IDs. You will be provided with a review sheet a week in advance for each of these exams. You will also be required to write two paper assignments based on the books we read, and you will have to submit these via the e-learning site. You will get the writing assignment well in advance of this due date.

If you have any conflict, or potential conflict with any of these assignments please let me know ahead of time. As a general rule, I will not accept late assignments or give make-up exams, but I will be understanding in the case of emergencies or unforeseen circumstances.

Throughout the course of the semester I will give 10 short quizzes. Some will be standard quizzes with multiple choice/short answer questions, while others will be brief (10 minutes) in-class writing assignments where I ask you to respond to a question or statement. Unless otherwise announced, these will be on Fridays, and they will cover both the week’s readings and lectures.
Generally, I will lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays will be more discussion-oriented. Most of our discussions will be drawn from After the Fact, and the required readings for each week are marked on the syllabus. That being said, I highly encourage questions and participation on lecture days as well. We have a small class, so hopefully everyone will feel comfortable sharing their opinions.

Please be aware of the University’s policy on plagiarism. I have caught plagiarists in the past, and I will catch them again (hopefully not in this class). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism please ask me. All plagiarism offenses will be reported on a Faculty Adjudication Form and forwarded to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. More information on this unsavory process can be seen at this link:

http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php

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/.

Course Schedule:

Below is a broad outline of our schedule for the semester. For each week, you are expected to have the readings done by Friday’s discussion period.

**Week 1** (Aug 22 to 24): Course Introductions and American at 1877

*Give Me Liberty* (GML), Ch.15

**Week 2** (Aug 27 to 31) Big Business, Big Cities

GML, Ch. 16, *After the Fact* (ATF) Ch. 8

**Week 3** (Sept 3 to 7) The West – No Class Sept 3 (Labor Day)

ATF Ch. 9, Start *Steel Drivin’ Man*

**Week 4** (Sept 10 to 14) The New South/ The Labor Movement

**Paper #1 (John Henry) due by class time on Sept 14**

**Week 5** (Sept 17 to 21) Gilded Age Politics and the Origins American Imperialism

GML Ch. 17, ATF Ch. 10

**Week 6** (Sept 24 to 28) Progressives go to War

GML Ch. 18 and 19, ATF Ch. 11

**Week 7** (Oct 1 to 5) Return to Normalcy and the Jazz Age
Week 8 (Oct 8 to 12) The New Deal

GML Ch. 21

MIDTERM Oct 12 (in class)

Week 9 (Oct 15 to 19) World War Two

GML Ch. 22, ATF Ch. 13

Week 10 (Oct 22 to 26) The Cold War at Home and Abroad

GML Ch. 23 and 24, ATF Ch. 14

Week 11 (Oct 29 to Nov 2) The Tumultuous 60s - No Class November 2 (Scott out of town)

GML Ch. 25, ATF Ch. 15

Week 12 (Nov 5 to 9) Vietnam War – No Class November 9 (Homecoming)

GML Ch. 26, ATF Ch. 17, Start reading Blood Done Sign My Name

Week 13 (Nov 12 to 16) The Great Society - No Class November 12 (Veterans Day)

Paper #2 (Blood Done Sign My Name) due Nov 16

Week 14 (Nov 19) Watergate – No Class November 21 and 23 (Thanksgiving)

Week 15 (Nov 26 to 30) From Malaise to the Reagan Years

GML Ch. 27, ATF Ch. 16

Week 16 (Dec 3 to 5) Globalization and the New Millennium

GML Ch. 28

Last Day of Class December 5

Course Final, December 11, 7:30 to 9:30

Have a great winter break!!!