Kennesaw State University
History 2112/4: America Since 1890
FALL 2011, Mon/Weds 9.30AM – 10.45AM
ROOM: Social Sciences Bldg, Room 3029

Instructor: Casey Cater
Office: Social Sciences Bldg, 4005
Office Hours: 11.00AM – 12.00PM M/W, or by appointment.
Phone: 770-423-6294
Email: ccater1@kennesaw.edu

Course Description:
From the founding of the American nation to the present day, a (perhaps the) fundamental concern of the people of the United States has been the role of government in everyday life. While this central concern may seem timelessly fused to our current political spectrum (that is, Right = government is bad, and Left = government is not so bad), it has actually been an issue marked by a great deal of complexity and mutability. Thus this course will survey American history from the years following the Civil War to the present day with a focus on significant people and events in the context of the constantly changing understandings, perceptions, and applications of government involvement in Americans’ lives.

Goal:
While this course seeks to acquaint students with the grand narrative of American history since the late 19th Century—with an eye particularly focused on the role of government in that time frame—it will proceed topically; strive to offer some challenges to the standard account of American history; seek to equip students with a more in-depth knowledge of several key events and people in American history; and help foster the ability to think critically about the American past and (dare I say?) present.

Required Text:
Course Policies

In-class Policy:
The short version: Respect your classmates and your instructor. Your classmates and I will show you the same respect.
The long version: Any use of cellular phones, PDAs, iPods, MP3 players and/or any/all other electronic communication/entertainment devices in class is strictly prohibited. When class begins, your cell phone, iPod, etc needs to be put away (placed face-up on your desk, or in your lap, does not qualify as put away). Moreover, cellular phones, PDAs, etc, are not to ring or beep, etc. in class (that means you will need to switch your phone to silent mode or even turn it off). Laptop use in class is not allowed without my personal permission. If you want to use a laptop to take notes in class, you need to introduce yourself to me at the start of the semester and explain why the laptop is necessary. Afterwards I reserve the right to ask you during or at the end of any class period to show me the work you have completed on the computer; I also reserve the right to revoke laptop privileges. Excessive side-conversations, passing notes, etc. are things that distract you, your classmates and me. The above listed, and any other, disruptions of class could result in a reduction of your final grade and, if serious enough, could result in removal from the class and/or withdrawal from the course.

Make-Ups/Late Work:
Make-up exams will take place on Wednesday, November 30 during regularly scheduled class time. Because you will have had more time to prepare, make-up exams will consist of several essay questions that will be evaluated according to a rigid standard. Make-ups for “pop” reading quizzes will not be permitted.

Attendance/Participation:
Attendance and participation in class are expected and strongly encouraged. After missing 3 classes, your final grade will fall by 5 points for each missed class. Disruptions of class could also adversely affect your final grade and, if serious enough, could result in your withdrawal from the course. Please note that I make no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.

A bit more on attendance/participation: Attendance is a crucial component of your success in this course, and in college in general. Note-taking, which can really only be done in class, is an important skill—all the more important since 1) exams will derive solely from in-class materials (i.e. not from the text book), and 2) I will not post lecture notes or power point presentations in any format (that is, on a website or GA View) for any reason. Please do not email me asking for lecture notes or power point slides; I will not respond. You should, however, get to know a classmate or two so you can get lecture notes, etc. if you miss class. Beyond just lectures though, we will also be discussing readings and other materials, so your active participation in class is central to your success as well.

Communication:
Please check your GA View account regularly as I will post important messages about the course there frequently; I will also post your grades on GA View. If you want to contact me, the quickest way to get in touch with me is via email (ecater1@kennesaw.edu), though I do check my GA View account from time to time.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
**Students with Disabilities:**
If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation from DisAbled Student Support Services. Questions or concerns? Contact: Carol Pope, Assistant Director; Student Center, Suite 267; 770-423-6443; cpope@kennesaw.edu

**Academic Honesty:**
Read the section on academic honesty in the student handbook found here: http://www.kennesaw.edu/inst_res/2001gcat/2000gpolic.html#Academic%20Honesty. It is expected that all submitted work be completed without outside assistance or collaboration. Plagiarism is easier to spot than you think. University rules require faculty to report suspected cases of plagiarism to the administration. Being found guilty of this offense can result in severe penalties, including expulsion from the University. In addition, if you’re found guilty of plagiarism you will automatically fail the course. Cheating on quizzes or exams in any form, including providing answers or information (passively or actively) to other students, will also result in course failure.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**Questions or concerns:**
Please contact me at any time (email is the best way to do so, but please give me 48 hours to respond) with any questions or concerns you may have. You can of course drop by the office if you prefer a face-to-face meeting, although I would strongly encourage you to make an appointment if you want to meet. If you’d like, we can even talk over the telephone. In any case, if you are having problems with the course and/or are experiencing personal problems that are affecting your ability to perform well in the course, please let me know as soon as you possibly can. Don’t wait until the day of the Final Exam or until you see your final grade to make me aware of any difficulties you’re having or that you’re in jeopardy of losing your HOPE scholarship, etc. By then it’s almost certainly too late. It is much easier to prevent a bad grade than to repair a bad grade after the fact.

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Course Requirements and Grading

Course Requirements:
The requirements for this course will be met through 4 exams, based on lectures, and other in-class materials; and 6 “pop” reading quizzes based on assigned readings from the textbook.

Instructions for Completing Course Requirements:
• Exams will consist of a variety of objective items (multiple choice, matching, etc) derived solely from in-class material (lectures, films, etc). Though some of the material in the text overlaps with what we will cover in class, I do not lecture from the textbook. Exams will not be cumulative.
• “Pop” Reading Quizzes will evaluate whether you have read and become acquainted with the assigned reading for the week. Quizzes—which, when “popped” on you, will be at the beginning of class—may consist of objective items (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc), and/or a subjective item (short identification, short essay). Reading quizzes may come on any class-day during the semester; I will not announce quizzes in advance—hence the “pop.” It is your responsibility to read the section assigned for the week (readings are due at the beginning of the week for which they are listed) but, because I know you’re busy and it’s tough to keep up all the time, I’ll drop your lowest reading quiz grade.

Grading for the Course:

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<tr>
<th>Components/weights</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 = 15%</td>
<td>A= 90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 = 20%</td>
<td>B= 80 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3 = 20%</td>
<td>C= 70 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam = 25%</td>
<td>D= 60 – 69</td>
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<td>Quizzes = 20% (4% each)</td>
<td>F= Below 60</td>
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Course Schedule

Important Dates:
August 17: First Day of Class
August 17-23: Drop/Add
September 5: Labor Day—NO CLASSES
October 12: Last day to withdraw w/o penalty
November 23-27: Fall Break—NO CLASSES
November 30: Make-Up Day

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introductory Week</th>
<th>Reading: None</th>
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<tr>
<td>• W Aug. 17: Course Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Reading: Tindall and Shi, Chapter 18</th>
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<td>• M Aug. 22: LECTURE: The Reconstruction Amendments</td>
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<td>• W Aug. 24: Reconstruction, Race, and The Birth of a Nation</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Reading: Tindall and Shi, Chapter 19</th>
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<td>• M Aug. 29: LECTURE: The Rise of the New South and Jim Crow</td>
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<td>• W Aug. 31: LECTURE: The New West and the Indian Wars</td>
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