History 2112-13*
The United States Since 1890
Kennesaw State University, Fall 2011
MW, 3:30-4:45 p.m., SO 3029

Dr. Kenneth F. Maffitt
Office: SO 4088
Office hours: By appointment
Email: kmaffitt@kennesaw.edu
Office phone: (770) 499-3462

This course examines the major themes of American history since 1890. Topics include:

- Strivings to fulfill the historical promise of equality and democracy, as exemplified by the civil rights, women’s, and other movements.
- Significant periods of political and social change such as the Progressive Era, New Deal, 1960s and 1970s, and the rise of the New Right.
- U.S. involvement in foreign affairs from the War of 1898 through the world wars, Cold War, and post-9/11 conflicts.

History 2112 is part of KSU’s general education program, which has five overall goals:

- Develop productive habits of mind
- Develop effective communication skills
- Expand knowledge and understanding
- Expand creative capabilities
- Exhibit understanding of the impact of ethical and aesthetic values

Notice that it does not say you will memorize a bunch of basic facts and figures about American history. History 2112 is at the core of your liberal arts education, which is one of the main reasons you came to college. You’re not just getting a requirement out of the way; you’re becoming a highly educated person ready to interact with other Americans and the rest of the world.

Books available for purchase (both are required):

2. Larry Madaras, *Taking Sides: 20th Century American History*

Requirements and grading proportions:

1. Exam 1, Sept. 26 ..........................................................25%
2. Exam 2, Oct. 31.............................................................25%
3. Final Exam, Dec. 7, 5 p.m..............................................25%
4. One lecture or museum exhibit paper.................................................10%
5. Attendance/participation

Exams: You are responsible for ALL COURSE MATERIAL. Although exams will emphasize topics covered in class lectures, exams will cover all course materials including course readings, lectures, slides, and films. DIGEST THE READING, COME TO CLASS, TAKE NOTES ON LECTURES AND FILMS, AND YOU WILL SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS. Makeup exams will only be given to those (such as athletes) traveling on university business pre-arranged at the beginning of the semester, or to those with extraordinary, documented medical, family, or job emergencies.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance often, and even when I don’t I generally know to what degree you are attending or engaging. Each additional unexcused absence beyond 3 will decrease your participation grade (#5 above) by one grade level each. If you have 7 or more unexcused absences, you will automatically receive a zero for #5 above (not to mention almost certainly bomb the exams). Absences will be considered unexcused unless you have notified me before you are absent of an illness or reasonable scheduling conflict.

Lecture/museum papers: You are required to attend a course-related public lecture or museum exhibition on or off campus and write a report on it, length one page, single-spaced. The lecture or exhibition must deal with U.S. history since 1890. You must receive prior approval and instructions from the professor before attending. The following museum exhibitions are pre-approved:

- Any exhibit at the KSU Museum of History and Holocaust Education.
- Any exhibit at the Atlanta History Center dealing with the U.S. since 1890.
- You may write a report on the American artists featured in the Picasso to Warhol exhibit at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, opening Oct. 15.

I will announce appropriate events as often as possible; by all means, if you hear about an event before I announce it, please feel free to tell me or the class about it.

Instructions for papers will be posted on the course website. All papers must be handed in as printed, hard copies, and are due two class periods after you attend the exhibit, lecture, or other event.

Late papers will be marked down one full grade up to 24 hours, two full grades up to 48 hours, and will receive a zero if more than 48 hours late.

I expect you to participate and be an active, not passive, learner. After all, that is why we are all here. You should be prepared for me to call on you to ask questions about the reading, current events, or anything else that might be related to American history since 1890. A good way to participate is to come prepared to make a particular comment or ask a specific question.

Tardiness and early departures: Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, you must notify the instructor in advance. Any time you are not in class the entire time will
be considered an absence.

**Academic honesty:** Cultivating and maintaining your academic and personal integrity is central to your experience as a university student. So do not consider turning in or posting work that attempts to pass off the words or ideas of others as your own. I understand that heavy workloads and other pressures make it tempting to cheat. But I promise you that you will be much happier with yourself if your KSU degree is the result of your own efforts. Here is the official KSU statement on the matter:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation and 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.

**Extra credit work will not be available.**

**Please do not eat food** during lectures unless you bring enough for everyone. Drinks are OK—just open them before we start.

**Students with Disabilities:**
If a student has a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the professor as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation from disAbled Student Support Services. Students with questions or concerns should contact:

Carol Pope, Assistant Director  
Student Center, Suite 267  
770-423-6443  
cpope@kennesaw.edu

**Electronics:**

**Cell phones** must be turned off before entering the classroom. Students who repeatedly fail to turn off their cell phones are introducing unnecessary distractions to the classroom, and showing a lack of respect for classmates, the professor, and their own decisions to spend tuition money on this class. I do not just mean turn off the ringer. I mean off completely. If I see you texting in class, I will count you absent for the day.

**Laptops:** Since non-class related use of laptops creates a distraction for other students, you are permitted to use laptops for taking class notes only. If I see that your eye contact
is constantly on your laptop, I will assume you are doing non-class related things on it and I will count you absent for the day.

Writing Center:
Students may seek assistance on written assignments including grammar and proper citation of sources at the Writing Center.

The ESL Study and Tutorial Center:
ESL students may seek assistance from professionally trained staff in the ESL Study and Tutorial Center.

Schedule: (The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary.)

Aug. 17: Introduction

Aug. 22: Depression, Populist Revolt, and the Election of 1896

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 21 sections THE POLITICS OF PARALYSIS, THE REVOLT OF THE FARMERS, and THE NEW REALIGNMENT.
- Supreme Court case excerpt: *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896.

Aug. 24: Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Reading to be completed for today:
Davidson chapter 21 sections VISIONS OF EMPIRE and THE IMPERIAL MOMENT.

Aug. 29: The Progressive Era

Reading to be completed for today:

Aug. 31: Differing Views of African American Progress

Reading to be completed for today:
Madaras issue 2: Did Booker T. Washington’s Philosophy and Actions Betray the Interests of African Americans?

Sept. 7: The United States and the Great War

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 23 sections PROGRESSIVE DIPLOMACY, WOODROW WILSON AND MORAL DIPLOMACY, THE ROAD TO WAR, and WAR AND SOCIETY.
• Madaras issue 3: Was Early Twentieth-Century American Foreign Policy in the Caribbean Basis Dominated by Economic Concerns?

**Sept. 12: The Lost Peace**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 23 section THE LOST PEACE.
- Madaras issue 4: Was Woodrow Wilson a Naive Idealist?

**Sept. 14: The Coming of the Great Depression**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 24 sections THE ROARING ECONOMY and THE GREAT BULL MARKET.
- Davidson chapter 25 sections THE HUMAN IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION and THE TRAGEDY OF HERBERT HOOVER.

**Sept. 19: The New Deal**

Reading to be completed for today:

**Sept. 21: Debating the New Deal**

Reading to be completed for today:
Madaras issue 6: Did the New Deal Prolong the Great Depression?

**Sept. 26: Exam One**

**Sept. 28: From Isolationism to Pearl Harbor**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 26 section THE UNITED STATES IN A TROUBLED WORLD.
- Madaras issue 7: Did President Roosevelt Deliberately Withhold Information About the Attack on Pearl Harbor from the American Commanders?

**Oct. 3: Life During Wartime**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 26 sections A GLOBAL WAR, WAR PRODUCTION, and A
QUESTION OF RIGHTS.

- Supreme Court case excerpt: *Korematsu v. United States.*

**Oct. 5: The Devastating End of World War II**

Reading to be completed for today:
Davidson chapter 26 section WINNING THE WAR AND THE PEACE.

**Oct. 10: The Early Cold War**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 27 sections THE RISE OF THE COLD WAR and POSTWAR PROSPERITY.
- Madaras issue 8: Was the United States Responsible for the Cold War?

**Oct. 12: The Cold War at Home**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 27 sections THE COLD WAR AT HOME and FROM COLD WAR TO HOT WAR AND BACK.
- Madaras issue 9: Did Communism Threaten America’s Internal Security After World War II?

**Oct. 17: The Eisenhower and Kennedy Eras**

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 28 sections NATIONALISM IN AN AGE OF SUPERPOWERS and THE COLD WAR ON A NEW FRONTIER.
- Madaras issue 10: Did Lee Harvey Oswald Kill President Kennedy by Himself?


Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 29 sections THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT and A MOVEMENT BECOMES A CRUSADE.

**Oct. 24: Martin Luther King’s Role in the Civil Rights Movement**

Reading to be completed for today:
Madaras issue 11: Was Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Leadership Essential to the Success of the Civil Rights Revolution?

**Oct. 26: Political and Cultural Ferment in the 1960s**

Reading to be completed for today:
Davidson chapter 29 sections LYNDON JOHNSON AND THE GREAT SOCIETY and YOUTH MOVEMENTS.

Oct. 31: Exam 2

Nov. 2: The War in Vietnam

Reading to be completed for today:
Davidson chapter 30 sections THE ROAD TO VIETNAM, SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR, and THE UNRAVELING.

Nov. 7: A Polarizing War

Reading to be completed for today:
Madaras issue 12: Was America’s Escalation of the War in Vietnam Inevitable?

Nov. 9: The Nixon Era

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 30 sections THE NIXON ERA, THE NEW IDENTITY POLITICS.
• VALUE POLITICS: THE CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS.
• PRAGMATIC CONSERVATISM, and THE ROAD'S END FOR VIETNAM AND LIBERALISM.
• Madaras issue 14: Was Richard Nixon America’s Last Liberal President?

Nov. 14: The Rise of the New Right

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 31 sections THE CONSERVATIVE REBELLION, JIMMY CARTER: RESTORING THE FAITH, and PRIME TIME WITH RONALD REAGAN.

Nov. 16: Reagan and Foreign Affairs

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 31 sections STANDING TALL IN A CHAOTIC WORLD and AN END TO THE COLD WAR.
• Madaras issue 15: Did President Reagan Win the Cold War?

Nov. 21: New World Order?

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 32 section THE NEW IMMIGRATION.
• Madaras issue 16: Should America Remain a Nation of Immigrants?

**Nov. 28: The Clinton Era**

Reading to be completed for today:
Davidson chapter 32 sections THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY and THE UNITED STATES IN A NETWORKED WORLD.

**Nov. 30: 9/11 and its Aftermath**

• Davidson chapter 32 section TERRORISM IN A GLOBAL AGE.
• Excerpt of a recent Supreme Court case.

**Dec. 5: Wrap-up and Review**

**Dec. 7: Final Exam, 5-7 p.m.**

*Students afflicted with triskaidekaphobia are advised not to take this class.*