U.S History 1890 to Present
HIST 2112
MW, 3:30-4:45
Social Sciences Building, 3021

Professor: Dr. Albert Way
Office: Social Sciences Building, 4096
Office Hours: TTH, 11:00-12:00, and by appointment
Office Phone:
Email: away5@kennesaw.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the social, political, and economic history of the United States since 1890. The primary objectives of the course are to develop your skills as critical readers of primary and secondary historical documents, to improve your ability to communicate in an organized and analytical fashion, and to provide you with fundamental knowledge about the events, people, and institutions that have shaped the American experience. A central theme of the course is the changing notion of citizenship—encompassing ideas of freedom, independence, rights, and responsibilities—over the long twentieth century. Key topics will include the rise of industrial capitalism, the impacts of immigration and urbanization on the nation’s social fabric, the emergence of mass consumer culture, the growth of the federal government, the rise of the United States as a global superpower, and the ways in which mass social movements from Populism to civil rights to feminism reshaped the nation’s political culture, its institutions, and individuals’ experiences.

REQUIRED READING
The following books are required for the course and are available at the campus bookstore.

Other Readings Available Online

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Effort
Your experience in this class will be determined by the amount of effort you put into it. I will do my best to make the classes interesting and enjoyable. In particular, I will give lectures that do not replicate the reading materials, but that will help you to understand and interpret the reading material by thinking about it analytically. If you do the required reading and writing, attend class regularly, take good notes, review your notes, and
develop insights into the course material, you will receive a grade commensurate with your effort.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. Each absence over four will result in five points subtracted from your final grade. If you are more than fifteen minutes late for class, you will be counted as absent for that day. I make no distinction between excused or unexcused absences. If you anticipate any problems about attendance, please talk with me in advance.

**Class Participation and Quizzes**

You are expected to fully participate in classroom discussion. You should come to class prepared to engage the readings with thoughtful comments and questions, especially when we discuss the readings from *After The Fact*. Be ready to present, articulate, and defend your ideas, as well as listen to and comment on the ideas of others. I will also give frequent quizzes on the assigned readings from *Give Me Liberty*.

**Reaction Essays**

You will write five short critical responses to our readings throughout the course of the semester. These responses can be to the chapters in *After The Fact*, or to one of our extra readings/viewings. (Do not write responses to the assigned readings from *Give Me Liberty*.) These essays should primarily be thought pieces; you should think about those aspects of the reading that interested you, troubled you, confused you, excited you, and/or angered you, and then use the essay to think through the issues involved. These essays should NOT be a simple regurgitation or summary of the reading’s major themes; they are your opportunity to explore a theme that you would like to be addressed during class discussion.

A few comments about essay mechanics:

- The essay should be one page in length (double-spaced, 11 or 12 pt. font, 1” margins). This means that you will have to express yourself with efficiency if you are going to say something substantial and interesting, which is the goal.
- You have eleven eligible readings, and it is up to you to choose which ones you want to write about. Note that there are only four opportunities after the halfway point, so do not put this off until the end of the semester.
- Essays are due at the beginning of class on the day of the assigned reading. Late essays, and essays from students who do not attend class on that day, will not be accepted. The only exceptions will be in cases where students make arrangements with me significantly in advance.

**Exams**

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. These will take the form of a combination of short-answer identifications and analytical essays. We will discuss the form and substance of the latter in more detail as the exam dates approach. You are responsible for providing your own blue books for each exam, which you can purchase in the KSU bookstore.

**Note on Requirements**

Please note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course, and I may deviate if necessary. This means that course readings and requirements are subject to change.
Academic Integrity
All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of your academic careers. If you have not already read KSU’s Student Code of Conduct, you should do so immediately. You can find it here: http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/code_of_conduct.shtml.
I regard plagiarism – an attempt to pass another’s work as your own – as a particularly serious offense. We will discuss in detail what constitutes plagiarism as we prepare for this semester’s writing assignments. Until then, please familiarize yourself with what it is and how to prevent it here: http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/cheating_plagiarism.shtml.

GRADING

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CONTACTING ME
I will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00. You do not need an appointment to come in and talk with me during these hours. If these hours are inconvenient, we can schedule a meeting at another time. You can contact me via email or office phone, both of which are listed at the top of the syllabus. Please keep in mind that I sometimes do not check email at night.

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. You can find their website here: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html.

CLASSROOM RULES
I aim to create a congenial classroom experience guided by the imperative of mutual respect among participants. The ring of the cell phone, the bowed head and hidden hands of the texter, and the disinterested gaze of the web surfer all amount to a breach of that respect. So, turn off all of your electronic devises before entering the classroom; it’s just that simple. I will allow the use of laptops to take notes, but if I see that you are using it for other means, you will not be allowed to use it for the remainder of the semester.

CLASS SCHEDULE

August 17  Course Introduction

August 22  Getting Up to Speed: Reconstruction, Redemption, and the Gilded Age
Read: ATF, “The View From the Bottom Rail”
GML, Chapters 15 & 16
August 24  Age of Reform – Labor and Farmers  
Read:  *GML*, 589-608

August 29  Progressivism  
Read:  *ATF*, “USDA Government Inspected”  
*GML*, Ch. 18

August 31  The New South and the Rise of Jim Crow  
Read/View:  *Without Sanctuary: Photographs and Postcards of Lynching in America*: [http://withoutsanctuary.org/](http://withoutsanctuary.org/)  *Note: View images and read the information on each photograph first, then view “Movie.”*  
Read:  *GML*, pgs. 608-624

September 5  LABOR DAY  

September 7  The American Road to Empire  
Read:  *GML*, pgs. 624-636

September 12  World War I  
Read:  *GML*, Ch. 19

September 14  The 1920s: Opportunity and Oppression  
Read:  *ATF*, “Sacco and Vanzetti”

September 19  The Great Depression  
Read:  *GML*, Ch. 20

September 21  Agriculture and Environment Between the Wars  
View:  *The Plow That Broke the Plains* (Vista)  
Read:  *ATF*, “Dust Bowl Odyssey”

September 26  The New Deal  
Read:  *GML*, Ch. 21

September 28  EXAM I

October 3  World War II Abroad  
Read:  *GML*, pgs. 796-807

October 5  World War II At Home  
Read:  *GML*, pgs. 807-837

October 10  The Atomic Age Begins  
Read:  *ATF*, “The Decision To Drop The Bomb”

October 12  The Cold War and Red Scare  
Read:  *GML*, Ch. 23

October 17  Crabgrass Frontier  
Read:  *ATF*, “From Rosie To Lucy”

October 19  Civil Rights Movement I  
Read:  *GML*, pgs. 899-918  
*LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>Civil Rights Movement II</td>
<td><em>ATF,</em> “Sitting In”</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>The Cold War and Vietnam</td>
<td><em>GML,</em> pgs. 918-943</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>Movement Politics: The New Feminism</td>
<td><em>GML,</em> pgs. 943-956</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
<td>From Woodstock To Altamont To Muscogee: Politics and Popular Music</td>
<td><em>GML,</em> pgs. 957-970</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Movement Politics: The New Environmentalism</td>
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| November 14  | Nixon                                              | *ATF,* “Breaking Into Watergate” *
| November 16  | Jimmy Carter and 1970s Malaise                      | *Carter,* “Crisis of Confidence Speech,” *
| November 21  | Morning in America: Reagan and New Right            | *GML,* pgs. 971-986 |
| November 23  | NO CLASS – FALL BREAK                               |               |
| November 28  | The End of the Cold War                             |               |
| November 30  | The 1990s and Beyond                                | *GML,* Ch. 27 |
| December 5   | Catch Up/Review                                     |               |
| December 9   | **FINAL EXAM, 2:30-4:30**                           |               |