History 2112: Survey of U.S. History from 1890
Instructor: Charles W. Gibson

Semester: Fall 2013
Location: Social Science; Building #22 Room 3028
Time: Tuesday and Thursday; 12:30 – 1:45

Instructor: Mr. C. Gibson
Phone:
Office: Social Science Building 4005
Office Hours: I typically am in the part time professors office by noon class days.
Email address: cgibso30@kennesaw.edu

Course Description: An examination of the major themes of American history since 1890, the multicultural nature of contemporary U.S. civilization, and the nation’s role in the global arena.

Learning Objectives:

HIST 2112 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements. It addresses the U.S. Perspectives learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students identify the historical, political, social, or institutional developments of the United States. For more information about KSU’s General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704

Required Reading:

Attendance Policy:
You are expected to attend class regularly.
ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN.
I recognize that there are times when situations necessitate that you be absent. You can be absent for the equivalent of one week of class. (This means that you can miss two class periods without penalty)
You are expected to be on time for class and to remain for the entire class period. If you leave early, it may count as one of your absences. If you must leave, please be discrete.
Electronic Devices Policy:
Avoid using your cell phone. Please turn it OFF at the outset of class. If you are observed using your phone, I will ask you to surrender it for the remainder of the class period and not bring it to class again.
You may use a laptop to take class notes. YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR LAPTOP FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. If you are using your laptop, I may ask you to show me the screen. If you are using your laptop inappropriately, I will ask you to turn it off and not bring it back to class again.

Class Policies and Expectations:
While in class you are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful manner toward your fellow students and the instructor. Politeness is expected by you and is expected by everyone else in the room.
We must cover a large amount of material in a short time during the semester. If you have individual questions, email me or come to see me before class. Please refrain from using everyone’s time for questions that are individual to you.
Please refrain from individual discussions. If you have something to add to the subject being discussed, please share it with all of us.
There are different ways of interpreting historical events. We will discuss a concept called “Frame of Reference”. Please recognize and RESPECT the fact that others in the class may not share your frame of reference. This does not mean that you cannot express disagreements. It does mean that you must respect the right of others to hold differing opinions.

Course Assessments/Assignments:
1. At the outset of each class, there may be a short quiz. This will be based on the study sheets for each chapter that I will post online. These questions are factually based. (they do not require interpretation). The questions on the quiz are ALWAYS available to you prior to class either from the Chapter Review that I post or from the material available from the textbook publisher. The purpose of this quiz is to allow you to demonstrate that you have read and studied the assigned materials before you come to class. I recognize that all of you are under time constraints. To achieve a high grade in this class will require you to spend time studying prior to class. We have a very limited time to go over each chapter. Study of this material is important if we are unable to discuss everything in the assigned chapter. If you are absent, you will lose the opportunity to earn these points. For examples of quiz questions (sometimes the exact quiz questions), you can go to http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/america9/brief/ . Click on the assigned chapter and you will get access to a chapter outline (there are terms here that would make good quiz questions); several focus questions; (these type of
questions do not lend themselves to quizzes but may find their way to the examinations) a set of flash cards where definitions are paired with terms. When you look at the “Study Plan”, I would suggest that you complete items 1, 2, 3, 4, (take the chapter quiz) and 6. Making use of all of these resources will greatly enhance your ability to accumulate points toward an outstanding grade.

2. There will be a two tests throughout the semester and a final test. These tests will consist of a multiple choice section and a short writing section. The multiple choice section will be based on the text and our class discussions. **There may be questions in this section that were not taken from our class discussions.** The writing section will be based on text AND our discussions. You will need to purchase a scantron answer sheet from the bookstore and bring it to class in order to complete these tests.

3. Assignments are due at the class period on the date that they are due. I do not accept assignments submitted via email. I have a mailbox in the History/Philosophy Department. I will check it as I leave on due dates. You may place the assignment there.

4. There are two required papers. These papers will be based on the “Taking Sides” Text. I have posted a description of these papers with a detailed description. I will utilize the following rubric in assessing these:

**A = Excellent. Your essay will:**
- Have a strong thesis (main point) that is clearly supported by an organized essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Provide excellent examples to support your thesis.
- Show thorough comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
- Demonstrate innovative ideas and approaches.
- Have strong analyses of material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
- Contextualize ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
- Have proper citations as per syllabus.
- Be written clearly, with few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

**B = Good. Your essay will:**
- Have a valid thesis that is supported by a mostly well organized essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Provide appropriate examples to support your thesis.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
- Analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
- Connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
- Have proper citations with few mistakes as per syllabus.
- Be written clearly, with minor errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

**C = Satisfactory/Average. Your essay will:**
- Have a thesis, perhaps flawed, or one that is incompletely supported by the essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
- Organized.
- Provide examples to support your thesis.
- Demonstrate basic comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
- Reveal some incompleteness in the research.
• Incompletely analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
• Incompletely connect ideas and arguments to the overall historical period.
• Improper use of citations, or incorrect format as per syllabus.
• Be written clearly, with some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

D = Below Average/Barely passing. Your essay will have one or more major problems:
• A weak thesis; or one that is incompletely supported by the essay/letter/speech where appropriate.
• Incomplete or weak organization.
• Weak examples or neglect to include textual examples.
• Show minimal comprehension of the ideas presented in class and in the reading.
• Show incomplete research.
• Partially analyze material and arguments found in lecture, reading, and research.
• Missing, or use incorrect citation format as per syllabus.
• Show lack of coherence, or many errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation or usage.

F = Failing. Your essay will receive an “F” if it meets ANY of the criteria below:
• Does not meet the minimum requirements for a D.
• Shows evidence of plagiarism.
• Does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.
• Contains unacceptable number of compositional errors.
• Written in stream of consciousness or incoherent argumentation (babbling).

The Papers MUST BE the required length. This will be the first thing I will look at.

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A – Point percentage above 92%
B – Point percentage between 84% and 92%
C – Point percentage between 75% and 83%
D – Point percentage between 67% and 74%
F – Any point percentage below 67%
I—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.
Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

You can download a student point sheet and print it out. I would strongly encourage you to utilize this for two reasons:
1. As the slogan goes “the best surprise is no surprise”. Utilization of the point sheet will enable you to have a running grade report for yourself. If you find yourself having difficulties, you will want to contact me early. I often can make a suggestion that will help you. If you let this go for any length of time, it makes it mathematically difficult to raise your grade. It is too late during the last two weeks of class to try to recover from low percentages.
2. I do not claim to be perfect. There may be times when a grade is entered in error. If you keep your point sheet up to date, you can avoid any misunderstandings.

You should note that my goal is for you all to pass this class with the grade you want. I try to provide ample opportunities for each of you to successfully earn points. (there are
regular opportunities throughout the semester to earn extra credit.) I do not give extra credit at the end of the semester since that would be unfair to students who have put in the time to keep up throughout the semester. I am looking for a valid reason to award you a high grade. Provide me with that reason and we will all be pleased.

**Grading/Grade Calculations:** Your final percentage is determined by dividing your total number of earned points by the total possible number of points available.

**Academic Honesty:**
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures

I will follow University Policy in dealing with violations.

If you are unsure as to what plagiarism is, you can consult the following web sites. All final determinations of violations of University Policy will be made pursuant to the procedures outlined at this web site.

http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

**ADA Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.
Course Schedule:
My experience has been that there are times and situations that require a modification of the schedule. This has resulted in confusion among students. To avoid this, I will post the schedule for the next month on the internet where you can access it. Any changes will be posted. The schedule on the Internet is the operative schedule which I will follow. Please refer to the updated schedule regularly to avoid any confusion.

Assignment #1.
Print out page 7 of this document. Fill it out completely and turn it in on the first day of class.
PRINT OUT THIS PAGE AND TURN IT IN TO THE INSTRUCTOR. YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN ANY CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN FULLY COMPLETED AND TURNED IN

By signing this form, I certify that I have read Mr. Gibson’s Syllabus for U.S. History and understand the provisions regarding my responsibilities pursuant to this syllabus.

ROW NUMBER: _________   SEAT NUMBER: _______
LAST NAME: ____________________________ (please print)

FIRST NAME: ____________________________ (please print)

SIGNATURE: ____________________________ DATE: ______