HIST 2112/CH1
America since 1890-Honors
Semester: Fall 2014
Location: 202 University College
Time: MW 12:30-1:45

Instructor: Dr. Jane McKinze
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Phone: 470-578-6628
Office: 4112 Social Sciences Bldg.
Office Hours: Monday, 2:00 – 4:00 and by appointment

Course Description: This course is 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 US 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=704of

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will also be able to
1. identify major themes, patterns, and issues that have shaped the nation since 1890;
2. engage in active and analytical reading of texts that reflect who we are, shape what we think, and demonstrate that there are multiple valid perspectives about American history and society;
3. analyze and interpret historical evidence in primary and secondary sources;
4. formulate sound arguments orally and in writing.

Required Reading: As part of the Great Books Learning Community, we will use the works below as the primary textual windows on our study of American history:

W.E.B. DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk
John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath
Philip Caputo, Rumor of War (selections from text as announced in class)

These books are available through a variety of sources, including the campus bookstore. E-books, while advantageous in certain ways, limit the reader’s ability to work with sophisticated texts using active reading strategies and are not recommended.

Other readings may be assigned from time to time and will be available online, through D2L, and/or provided in class.
Since high schools require successful completion of a U.S. history course, it is assumed that all graduates have fundamental knowledge of the big ideas and events that shaped the nation. If, however, you know or find that your background knowledge is weak, additional reading is recommended so that you will be better prepared for both the content and the class discussions. To that end, a basic collegiate U.S. history textbook may be purchased, rented, or borrowed. If you have regular access to a standard high school textbook, that too would be sufficient. If you need further assistance in obtaining a text, please contact me promptly.

It is not sufficient is simply to review a timeline or to look up isolated events on the internet; such sources are unlikely to help you to see the connections and interrelationships that are keys to understanding history.

**Attendance Policy:**

**KSU’s Attendance Policy:** Attendance in classes, laboratories and lectures is important. All students are expected to attend these activities in accordance with their schedule of courses. The instructor determines the attendance policy for each course. All instructors will provide the students, at the beginning of each semester, a clear statement regarding their policies in handling absences. Instructors will also be responsible for counseling their students regarding the academic consequences of absences.

Students must not be absent from announced quizzes, laboratory periods or final examinations unless the reasons for the absences are acceptable to the instructors concerned. Students should also understand that they are responsible for all material covered during their absences and that they are responsible for the academic consequences of the absences. Students who are absent because of their participation in university-approved activities such as field trips and extracurricular events will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences.

**Attendance Policy for this Course:** Students should attend all sessions of the class.

- Students with four absences will be penalized one letter grade.
- Students who miss more than four class sessions will not pass the course.

No distinction is made between “excused” or “unexcused” absences. *Students who arrive late, leave early, or take breaks* will be counted present or absent at the discretion of the instructor, but in any case, such an occurrence will count as at least ½ an absence. The comings-and-goings of students after class begins and before it ends disturb other members of the class and the instructor. *In the interest of basic courtesy (if nothing else), kindly arrive on time and stay in class until dismissal.* Attendance affects class participation and success in the course. I encourage you not to take any unnecessary absences.

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

*Last day to withdraw* from a class without academic penalty: Wednesday, October 8th.

**Electronic Devices Policy:** Cell phones and similar devices should be turned off and put away during class. Failure to do so will result in your being asked to leave class and an absence
will be counted. Let friends and family know that you are not available for calls, texts, and emails during class. If you anticipate a possible emergency call, please let me know before class starts, put your phone on mute, and leave the room if you get a call.

Using electronic devices for personal matters during class is discouraged for a variety of educationally-sound reasons that affect the user, other students, and the instructor. Their use is therefore limited to those who have a specific, verifiable need to use them; please notify me at the beginning of the semester if such a need exists. Now and then, laptops, tablets, and/or smartphones may be used by all for specific, announced purposes.

You will use Desire2Learn (D2L), a course management system that contains a website for this course. There you will find this syllabus, a course calendar, announcements, instructions, and readings, along with “dropboxes” for submitting certain assignments. This is also the preferred site for all course-related emails. Please check D2L several times a week and in a timely manner before each class meeting.

Course Assessments/Assignments:
Please be aware that any course assignment or point designation may for good cause be adjusted during the semester. Such adjustments will be announced in advance through D2L and/or in class, if possible.

Most class sessions and most assignments are based on lectures, specific readings, and/or other media sources. Taking good notes is essential. Doing the reading in a thoughtful manner in which you pose questions and challenge the author’s assumptions or arguments will help you successfully engage the material in class and in writing. Failure to do such intentional reading or only doing “surface reading” will likely yield predictable results.

Pay attention to instructions about where to turn in individual assignments. Some will be submitted to D2L, some will be turned in at the beginning of class, and others may be submitted to www.turnitin.com. Assignments submitted incorrectly may not be accepted at all or, at best, may be counted as late. Keep a copy of all graded assignments until the end of the semester, but please ask questions as they arise.

I do not believe in or offer extra-credit work. There are sufficient opportunities to “make the grade” you want to make by completing successfully the regular assignments.

Assignments will be counted according to the numbers of points indicated below.

I. Analyses of Required Books 450 Points
You will write three 3-4 page papers in which you focus on how a particular book relates to the historical content and context under review in class. I will provide additional guidance in class and on D2L, but always consider the following points: What is the author’s theme or thesis? Why did s/he write the book? What argument is being made? (What does the author want you to believe is “true”?) What evidence is used to prove the point? Is the author effective? What are the counter-arguments? It is insufficient just to summarize the plot or content or to restate what has been said in class, in a textbook, or in Cliff Notes. Each analysis will count 150 points.
II. Responsive Writing Assignments  up to 150 points
Periodically, you will write in class, contribute a post to a discussion board on D2L, or will bring to class a written response to a question or prompt posed on D2L or in class. Take note of deadlines for submitting assignments on D2L. Hard copy responses are due at the beginning of class on the announced due date. The nature of the assignments will vary according to the work (film, music, readings, class discussions, etc.) being addressed. There will be at least four of these assignments that are aimed at developing online conversations and/or classroom discussions. Point values for individual assignments will vary but will generally be in the 25-30 point range.

III. Class Participation  150-200 points
Class participation is a component made up of a variety of factors:

A. Class Discussions: Come to class having completed assignments and prepared to participate fully and positively in class discussions. Failure to participate in an adequate manner will affect the grade negatively. Especially brilliant participation will have a positive effect on the final grade.

B. In-class, D2L, and Other Assignments (including quizzes): Small assignments (counting up to 20 points each) will make up part of the class participation grade. Quizzes will be based on assigned readings and/or material covered in class previously and may be announced or unannounced. You may be asked to prepare for and present a topic in class or to prepare a short response for a discussion on D2L. Each such assignment will carry an announced point value and will thus influence the total number of points available in the Class Participation category.

C. Attendance and Punctuality: As indicated earlier, these are taken into consideration as elements of the class participation grade. Please keep in mind the policy regarding absences and missing parts of classes mentioned earlier. Also note that good attendance involves not just being present but also “attending to” what is going on in class: listening, taking notes, providing feedback to others, asking and responding to questions, and contributing your own ideas. The active participation of every person is both desired and expected. Only in that way will we have the kinds of discussions that spark exciting ideas and intellectual growth. While I will lecture in order to provide some information, much of our time will be spent in discussion. Be prepared to discuss the content and assignment materials in a congenial and thoughtful manner. Be ready to present and defend your ideas and to discuss the ideas of others. Be ready as well to question the works under discussion. Remember that changing your mind (with good cause) is not necessarily being wishy-washy, but instead, is usually a sign of learning and open-mindedness. In such a setting, it is imperative, of course, that each person conduct him- or herself with courtesy and respect for others and for their ideas. No other behavior is acceptable.

IV. Exams  200 points
There will be two exams including the final. Exams will be composed of objective questions (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, etc.) and short-answer questions (a few sentences).

Additional notes regarding assessments and assignments:
Late written work will generally not be accepted. If accepted, a penalty of up to 10% per day will apply for its being late. When an assignment prepared outside of class is in hard copy, it is due at the beginning of the class period. If work is to be submitted to D2L, the due date/time is posted there and is late if not submitted prior to the deadline posted.

If absent on the day an assignment is due, email the work to me before class begins that day. If you are unable to do so due to serious illness or an accident, for example, please provide appropriate documentation (such as a doctor’s note) so that I can consider accepting the work.

Make-up Work: In case of an absence during which work was completed in class, make-up work will be allowed if the absence was unavoidable and can be verified as such. Thus, always have Plan B for transportation to class, child care, and other situations that may come up suddenly but can be managed with prior planning. Contact me via D2L email and again after your return to class if you believe your absence meets the criteria for make-up work.

Grading:

Grade Calculations: Final grades will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of possible points. For example: Suppose the number of possible points at the end of the semester is 900, and Mary Sue earned 774 points. Then, 774 divided by 900 = .86 or 86% = final grade of B. You can figure your grade at any point in the semester using the same basic method: Divide the total number of points earned by the total number of points possible to date.

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
- A – 90-100% (excellent work)
- B – 80-89% (very good)
- C – 70-79% (satisfactory)
- D – 60-69% (passing, but less than satisfactory)
- F – 59% and below (failing)

As per the KSU Undergraduate Catalog,
- a grade of WF indicates “late withdrawal, failing.”
- a grade of “I” denotes 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. Barring extenuating circumstances of which I am promptly made aware, a plan for completing the work must be made right away and work must be finished as scheduled.
- "NA" (Never attended) is assigned to a student who has not completed any assignments for the semester. Logging on to an online class is not attending.

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

**Plagiarism** is a form of academic dishonesty that students often have questions about. Here are some examples of plagiarism avoidance websites that may be helpful:

- [http://plagiarism.org/](http://plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
- [http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html](http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html)

*Unless you are given specific instructions to work with a group or with a partner, assume that all work in this class is to be done individually.*

*If a violation is deemed to have occurred, the student(s) involved will receive grade penalties ranging from a zero on a specific assignment to an F as a final grade in the course depending on the situation itself. Other penalties as specified by university policy may also apply.*

**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.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 470-578-6443.

**Course Schedule:**
Reminder: The last date to withdraw without academic penalty is October 8th.

**Tentative Schedule of Topics:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week or Date</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: August 18 &amp; 20</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>In-Class Readings and Discussion</td>
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<td>Review: Post-Civil War Era</td>
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<td>Week 2: August 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>The Gilded Age: Age of Industry, Urbanization, Immigration, Jim Crow</td>
<td>Reading: <em>Souls of Black Folks (SBF)</em>, Chapters 1-4; Check for Primary Sources assignment on D2L.</td>
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<td>Week 3: Sept. 1 (Labor Day, no class) &amp; Sept. 3</td>
<td>Laborers, Farmers, Debtors: Problems, Prospects, and Populism</td>
<td>Reading: <em>SBF</em>, Ch. 5-8; Be prepared to discuss in context of 1890s-1900s in Georgia</td>
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<td>Week 4: Sept. 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Progressivism: Ideals and Realities; Achievements and Failures. Complete <em>Discussion of SBF</em>.</td>
<td>Submit <em>SBF</em> Essay to D2L by Friday, September 12.</td>
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<td>Week 5: Sept. 15 &amp; 17</td>
<td>American Expansionism and WWI; The War to End All Wars and a Troubled Peace.</td>
<td>Readings on D2L: (1) Patriots and Protesters: Mahan, Wilson, Creel, Keller, Debs. (2) Documents and cartoons re Treaty of Versailles</td>
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<td>Week 6: Sept. 22 &amp; 24</td>
<td>1920s: A Return to Normalcy? Traditionalism v. Modernism; Boom and Bust</td>
<td>(1) 1920s advertisements; see related assignments. Reading: <em>Grapes of Wrath, Ch. 1-4</em>. Prepare for exam.</td>
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<td>Week 7: Sept. 29 &amp; Oct. 1</td>
<td>1st Exam (Sept. 29) No class on Oct. 1</td>
<td>Watch video clips of Dust Bowl (links on D2L); Continue Reading: <em>Grapes of Wrath (GW)</em>, Ch. 5-15.</td>
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<td>Week 9: Oct. 13 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Discussion of <em>GW</em>. New Deal: Pros and Cons</td>
<td>Turn in written responses to video clips; <em>GW</em>, 25-30, *prepare to discuss in context of 1930s and Steinbeck’s political and economic views. Submit <em>GW</em> papers to D2L by Friday, Oct. 17.</td>
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<td>Week 10: Oct. 20 &amp; 22</td>
<td>World War II</td>
<td>Short presentation based on materials provided in class. Reading: <em>Silent Spring, Ch. 1-5</em></td>
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<td>Week 11: Oct. 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>The Cold War and Second Red Scare 1950s: Post-war Affluence and Post-war Questions</td>
<td>View McCarthy video clips on D2L and submit written response. Reading: <em>Silent Spring, Ch 6-10.</em></td>
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<td>Week 12: Nov. 3 &amp; 5</td>
<td>JFK, LBJ, and RMN: A Stormy Decade. The Movement Culture: Civil Rights, Women’s Lib, American Indian, Stonewall,</td>
<td>Read primary sources on D2L, prepare to discuss as indicated. Reading: <em>SS, Ch 11-15</em>; watch video clip of interviews with</td>
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<td>Week 13: Nov. 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>UFW, Environmental, etc.</td>
<td>Carson and Moyers’ interview.</td>
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<td>Discus Silent Spring and its impact. Vietnam: War and Protest Discuss selections from Rumor of War.</td>
<td>Week 13: Nov. 10 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Read SS, Ch. 16-17. Complete paper on SS and submit to D2L by Friday, Nov. 14. Reading: Selections from Rumor of War as indicated on D2L.</td>
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<td>Week 14: Nov. 17 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Complete discussion of RW. Nixon’s Presidency: Ending Vietnam and Ending a Presidency. Ford and Carter: Another Return to Normalcy?</td>
<td>Week 14: Nov. 17 &amp; 19</td>
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<td>Fall Break – No Classes</td>
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<td>Week 16: Dec. 8 (Last Class)</td>
<td>Turning toward a New Century and Looking Backward: What were the big problems of the 1990-2010 era? What were the successes? How will the 20th century be described in texts 50 years from now? 100 years from now? What trends/events/changes should be painted into the Big Picture of the 20th Century?</td>
<td>Week 16: Dec. 8 (Last Class)</td>
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<td>Week 17: Monday, Dec. 15</td>
<td>Final Exam, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Week 17: Monday, Dec. 15</td>
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**Other Class Policies**

1. **In case of inclement weather**, it is your responsibility to check D2L for possible updates and announcements about changes to the class schedule or work to be submitted. If classes are cancelled, *absent such updates/announcements on D2L*, the class schedule will resume where it left off before the break. (For example, if on a Sunday night, classes are cancelled for Monday and a test is scheduled for that day and a paper is due on Wednesday, barring an announcement to the contrary on D2L, the test will be given on our first day back in class and the paper will be due on the second day back.)

2. **Communications:** D2L email is the preferred means of written communication, however, please use my regular KSU email in case of an emergency. (A question about an assignment is not an emergency.) I generally respond to emails promptly though occasionally on a weekend or in the evening, I do not check. Except on weekends, if you do not hear from me within 24 hours, please feel free to send a “gentle reminder” using my regular KSU email (on front page of syllabus).
Likewise, I will contact you via D2L email and will appreciate the courtesy of a prompt response. If I do not hear from you within 24 hours, I will send you a “gentle reminder” via KSU email. Barring some verifiable emergency, if you still do not respond, I will want to meet with you after the next class.

3. **If you are having any difficulties** regarding this class, please make an appointment so that we can talk about them. The sooner we can resolve problems, the better for all concerned.

I will plan to hold regular office hours on Mondays from 2:00 - 4:00. You do not need an appointment to come by during that time. If this time is inconvenient, please contact me via email or office phone to set up an appointment. Because I also supervise student teachers, I am often away from campus. Even so, I am regularly accessible and will be glad to meet with you.

4. **Changes in the Syllabus and Calendar:** It is possible that changes will be made in the syllabus and/or the course calendar. Any such changes will be for good cause and will be announced in class (if possible) and through D2L.

Also Good to Know:
(1) When contacting an instructor or any other member of the KSU faculty or staff, it is appropriate to do so in a formal manner; i.e., as if you were sending a business letter (you are!). Address the person by the proper title (Ms., Mr., Dr.*) and name, use your best writing skills and state clearly why you are writing. Particularly if you are requesting a favor or some special consideration, say “please” and “thank you.” Sign your full name and, unless you are very sure the instructor knows exactly who you are, indicate which course you are in and what time it meets. (Some classes are quite large, and an instructor may have several such classes.)

* The campus phone directory might help you out with this. Go to KSU home page, click on Directories at top right, then Telephone Directory, and type in person’s name. If Dr. So-and-So pops up, you know . . . !

(2) Only D2L and KSU email accounts are “official” email correspondence between students and faculty, staff, and/or administrators. In fact, university personnel generally do NOT respond to (or even open) student emails from personal or business email accounts.