

HIST 4495

Research Seminar in United States History

Fall Semester, 2017

Location: Social Sciences Building (SO) 2033

Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Dr. Albert Churella

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon and 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM; and by appointment

Course Communication:

In-person, face-to-face communication is by far the best way to discuss issues with me – in class, before or after class, or during the office hours listed above. Please note that you should not discuss sensitive or personal issues (such as grades, learning disability accommodation, etc.) with me when other students are present. If you cannot talk with me in person, then your best bet is to send me an e-mail – but please note the section on electronic communications, below. Please do not send me a text message under any circumstances, as KSU office phones are not equipped to accommodate them.

Electronic Communications:

The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

When sending me an e-mail, please do so from your KSU MS Outlook account, and NOT through D2L. The reason? I cannot hit “reply” to any messages that I receive through D2L, which makes it more difficult to respond to your message in a timely manner.

Course Description:

“A Nation on the Move: Transportation, Travel, and Mobility in American History”
The United States has become – and has always been – the most mobile society in the history of the world. From the days of the turnpikes, through the development of canals and railroads, to the age of the interstate highway and widespread air travel, Americans have excelled at moving people and products over long distances. This seminar will explore the ways in which Americans have developed and used transportation technology, as well as the manner in which geographic mobility has shaped socioeconomic mobility and other aspects of American life.

3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: HIST 3100; Departmental Approval.

This seminar introduces students to the historiography of a particular topic or theme in US History. It requires students to develop an original research paper on the topic or theme using primary and secondary sources and reflecting standard practices within the discipline.

Notes: This course should not be taken before the second semester of the junior year and may be repeated once for credit.

Learning Objectives:

Upon satisfactorily completing this course, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- Describe the development of transportation and mobility in the United States
- Explain the role of government in developing and regulating transportation and mobility
- Identify, analyze, and evaluate critically both primary and secondary sources
- Write a 15-18 page research paper based on primary sources

Required Reading:

All readings are listed in the Course Schedule, below, and all are required. Most are available in D2L. The only exception is Tammy Ingram, *Dixie Highway: Road Building and the Making of the Modern South, 1900-1930* (full text available through KSU Library or if you prefer you can order a copy through an online retailer).

The following books are not required, but may assist you in writing your research paper:

Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago Press, 8th Edition, 2013) – although earlier editions are fine too.

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 8th edition, 2015) – although earlier editions are fine too.

Attendance Policy:

- In a class of this size, your absence will be noticed, and the instructor reserves the right to take attendance at any time during the semester. If you have more than three unexcused absences you will incur a 5-percent (one half of one letter grade) reduction in your overall course grade for each additional unexcused absence.
- If the University is closed, for weather or any other reason, then this class will not meet (obviously). We will remain in contact via e-mail and D2L. If the University is open and you believe that weather conditions in your area will make travel difficult or dangerous, then please do not take the risk of coming to campus. However, if you expect to be given the opportunity to complete a missed assignment, you must contact me (preferably by e-mail) prior to the class meeting time, letting me know that weather conditions have prevented you from attending class.
- The ten-minute rule: If the instructor is late for class, students will be expected to wait for ten minutes after the beginning of class time (this is standard University policy). After ten minutes, you may leave, and class will be cancelled
- Pay attention to the withdrawal date – I will not authorize any withdrawals (with a “W”) after this date, except under extraordinary circumstances that are clearly beyond the student’s control.
- Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Electronic Devices Policy:

- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, etc., before entering the classroom.
- Tape recorders and similar recording devices interfere with student privacy, and as such they may not be used in the classroom, unless recommended by Student Disabilities Services.

Other Class Policies:

- Please refrain from private conversations in class—if you have a question, ask the instructor, not your neighbor.
- Students will not be allowed to use any tobacco products (including chewing tobacco) while in the classroom.
- Students may not, under any circumstances, work on material from any other course during class time, nor may they do their readings for this course, while in class.
- The course content is copyrighted and is legally the property of the instructor and of Kennesaw State University. While it is certainly fine to share your class notes

with another student on an occasional basis, you may not routinely distribute copies of your notes to anyone who is not enrolled in the class, nor may you exchange your notes for any monetary or other compensation.

- Readings, writing assignments, due dates, and other aspects of this course are subject to change. Any such changes will be minor in nature, will not appreciably affect the workload required for the course, will be done only if absolutely necessary, and will be accompanied with ample advance notification.
- By taking this class, you agree to abide by all of the conditions listed above, as well as all relevant Kennesaw State University regulations.
- If you do not agree with the policies listed above, then you should not take this course.

Grade Calculations:

Your final grade will consist of the following:

Class Participation (10%) – NOTE: participation means exactly what it says – you will need to participate in our shared responsibilities to the class, by taking part in discussions, asking questions, etc. – simply attending class does not count as participation.

Reading Response Assignments (20%) – Eleven assignments in all, with the lowest score dropped and the remaining ten scores averaged to form this component of your overall course grade. These will generally be short quizzes or writing assignments at the beginning of class, followed by class discussion. In some cases, there may be a short take-home quiz, due at the beginning of class on the day of the assigned readings.

Topic Selection (0%) – Due at the beginning of class on **Monday, September 11**. NOTE: even though no grade is assigned to the topic selection component of the course, if you do not submit your topic on time, you will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) reduction in your overall **course** grade.

Source Report (5%) – Dates are listed on the Course Schedule and will vary, depending on when you sign up. You will prepare an annotated list of three primary sources and three secondary sources, and distribute that list to the other students in the class (and to the instructor) at least 48 hours prior to class time on your assigned presentation day. On the presentation day, you will share your findings with the class, describe the advantages and limitations of each source, and answer questions from the students and from the instructor. Your grade for this component of the course will be based on both the quality of the annotated list and on your ability to present your findings in the class. Late submissions will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty on the assignment for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Initial Draft of Paper (20%) – Due at the beginning of class (hard copy and uploaded to D2L) on **Monday, November 6**. The Initial Draft must conform to the

Paper Assignment Guidelines that are posted on D2L. NOTE: The Initial Draft should NOT be a short or incomplete version of the paper – those that are will not earn a favorable grade. It should be as close to the final version as you can get, complete with introduction, thesis statement, conclusion, source citations, etc. Late submissions will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty on the assignment for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Mandatory Meeting with Instructor (0%) – Dates are listed on the Course Schedule and will vary, depending on when you sign up. NOTE: even though no grade is assigned to this component of the course, if you do not schedule (and keep) a meeting with the instructor, you will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) reduction in your overall **course** grade.

Class Presentation (5%) – Dates are listed on the Course Schedule and will vary, depending on when you sign up. At least 48 hours prior to class time on your assigned presentation day, you will distribute to the other students in the class (and to the instructor), a one-page outline of your findings. The outline **MUST** include the following components:

- Paper title
- Thesis statement
- Outline of the body of your paper
- A list of sources that includes at least five primary and five secondary sources
- A list of unresolved issues that you wish to fix, prior to submitting the Final Draft of the paper

On the presentation day, you will share your findings with the class in a presentation lasting no more than ten minutes and answer questions from the students and from the instructor. Your grade for this component of the course will be based on both the quality of your outline and on your ability to present your findings in the class. Late submissions will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty on the assignment for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Final Draft of Paper (40%) – Due at the beginning of class (hard copy and uploaded to D2L) no later than 5:00 PM on **Friday, December 8**. The Final Draft must conform to the Paper Assignment Guidelines that are posted on D2L. Keep in mind that the overall length of the paper will be between 15 and 18 pages (double spaced, 12-point font), exclusive of title page, end notes, bibliography, illustrations, etc. Late submissions will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty on the assignment for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Grading Scale:

89.5%-100%	A
79.5%-89.4%	B
69.5%-79.4%	C
59.5%-69.4%	D

Below 59.5% F

NOTE: While your letter grade will never fall below the numerical grade listed above (except in cases of academic misconduct), the instructor reserves the right to increase the final letter grade in the course, for “borderline” students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the class, through good attendance, attentiveness, participation in discussions, etc.

A grade of “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.

Useful information regarding grading standards is available on my course FAQ page: <http://facultyweb.kennesaw.edu/achurell/FAQsandlinks.php>

Make-up / Late Assignment Policy:

- Students who have not submitted in writing, a paper topic by the beginning of class on the date listed in the Course Schedule, below, will be penalized one letter grade in the overall course.
- Students who fail to schedule (and keep) a mandatory meeting with the instructor, on one of the dates listed in the Course Schedule will be penalized one letter grade in the overall course.
- The initial draft and the final draft of the paper are due (both hard copy and uploaded to D2L) at the dates and times listed in the Course Schedule. Late papers (initial draft or final draft) will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty for each day (or fraction thereof) that they are late.
- Students who fail to distributed to the class the written portion of their Source Report or Class Presentation at least 48 hours prior to their presentation date and time will incur a 10-percent (one letter grade) penalty for each day (or fraction thereof) that those assignments are late.
- EXCEPTIONS: A student may submit an assignment after the due date, without penalty, if they meet the following criteria:
 - The student must notify me, in advance of the due date, that they will be unable to submit the assignment.
 - The student is able to document a legitimate reason (illness, death in the family, accident, personal crisis, etc.) why they were unable to submit the assignment on time. The failure of an electronic device (computer, printer, etc.) does not constitute a legitimate excuse for failing to complete an assignment on time.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C 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/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 Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), 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. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>

University policy requires that the instructor report all instances of suspected academic misconduct to the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. After reviewing the issue with the student, in the presence of another faculty member, I will impose a penalty that will include either a requirement to rewrite the assignment in question (generally reserved for minor and inadvertent instances of plagiarism) to a grade of zero on the assignment in question (generally accompanied by a requirement that the assignment be rewritten) to a grade of F in the course (the typical penalty for egregious examples such as the use of cheat sheets on an exam, wholesale cutting and pasting of material into a paper, etc.). All students have the right to appeal the penalty to the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Here are some examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:

www.plagiarism.org

www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Please note that the instructor will employ TurnItIn.com plagiarism detection software, licensed to the University. TurnItIn.com maintains a database of student papers and retains the legal right to use those papers as part of its plagiarism-detection services.

ADA Compliance:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require "reasonable accommodation(s)" to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation

and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

Course Schedule:

DATE	READING	ASSIGNMENT DUE
Monday, August 14		Course introduction
Wednesday, August 16		Open day
Monday, August 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas T. Taber and Mark Reutter, “Century Gone” • Daniel B. Klein, “The Voluntary Provision of Public Goods? The Turnpike Companies of Early America.” • Carter Goodrich, “The Revulsion Against Internal Improvements” 	Reading Response Assignment
Wednesday, August 23		Open day
Monday, August 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven G. Collins, “Progress and Slavery on the South’s Railroads” • Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., “Railroads and Slavery” • Geoff D. Zylstra, “Whiteness, Freedom, and Technology: The Racial Struggle over Philadelphia’s Streetcars, 1859-1867” 	Reading Response Assignment
Wednesday, August 30		Open day
Monday, September 4	Labor Day Holiday	

Wednesday, September 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Niemann, “Hospital Yard” • Linda Niemann, “Railroad Women” • Janet F. Davidson, “The Goosing of Violet Nye and Other Tales: White Women and Sexual Respectability on the Pennsylvania Railroad” • Lucy Taksa, “‘About as Popular as a Dose of Clap’: Steam, Diesel and Masculinity at the New South Wales Eveleigh Railway Workshops” 	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, September 11		Paper Topic due
Wednesday, September 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Norris, <i>The Octopus: A Story of California</i> • Richard Orsi, <i>Sunset Limited</i> 	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, September 18		Source Report presentations
Wednesday, September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven W. Usselman, “Air Brakes for Freight Trains: Technological Innovation in the American Railroad Industry, 1869-1900” • Mark Aldrich “The ‘Standard Railroad of the World’ and the Crisis in Railroad Safety, 1897-1916” • Folder of readings related to the Chatsworth wreck 	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, September 25		Source Report presentations

Wednesday, September 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William C. Wooldridge, “The Civil Aeronautics Board as Promoter” • W. David Lewis, “A Man Born Out of Season: Eddie Rickenbacker, Eastern Airlines, and the Civil Aeronautics Board” 	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, October 2		Source Report presentations
Wednesday, October 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Dean Kinzley, “Merging Lines: Organising Japan’s National Railroad, 1906-1914” • Roderick A. Smith, “The Japanese Shinkansen: Catalyst for the Renaissance of Rail” <p>Last day to withdraw without academic penalty</p>	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, October 9		Source Report presentations
Wednesday, October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Schmucki, “Fashion and Technological Change: Tramways in Germany after 1945” • Robert C. Post, “Images of the Pacific Electric: Why Memories Matter” • Eric Mann, “A New Vision for Urban Transportation” 	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas McCraw, “Khan and the Economist’s Hour” 	Reading Response Assignment

Wednesday, October 18	• Shane Hamilton “The Populist Appeal of Deregulation: Independent Truckers and the Politics of Free Enterprise, 1935–1980”	Reading Response Assignment
Monday, October 23	Class will not meet	
Wednesday, October 25	Class will not meet	
Monday, October 30	• Tammy Ingram, <i>Dixie Highway: Road Building and the Making of the Modern South, 1900-1930</i> (full text available through KSU Library)	Reading Response Assignment
Wednesday, November 1		Open day
Monday, November 6		Initial Draft of paper due, at the beginning of class
Wednesday, November 8		Mandatory Meetings (class will not meet)
Monday, November 13		Mandatory Meetings (class will not meet)
Wednesday, November 15		Mandatory Meetings (class will not meet)
Monday, November 27		Class Presentations
Wednesday, November 29		Class Presentations
Monday, December 4		Class Presentations
Friday, December 8		Final Draft of paper due, no later than 5:00 PM