Hist. 2112 Spring 2010  
United States History 1890 to Present  
R. Michael Brubaker  
MBrubaker@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com  

This course is a survey of United States history beginning in the 1890s and concluding with the present. The course will provide a brief overview of political, economic, social, and cultural events during the time period. Special emphasis will be placed upon the developing sense of imperialism in the United States, along with changing economic conditions and developing cultural institutions in the backdrop of national politics. In the end, a greater appreciation of the American character will be attained.

This syllabus is a general outline for the course during the Spring Semester. Variations on the schedule may become necessary. Students are expected to complete reading assignments and participate in classroom discussion. Regular attendance is required, with students making every effort to be punctual and remain for the entire class. Frequent absences (more than 2) or consistent lateness will seriously effect the final grade.

The final course grade will be determined through: a quiz on the Constitution of the United States (worth 50 points); two tests from class discussion (each worth 100 points); one final exam (100 points); and one writing assignment (50 points). In the event of an absence on scheduled test dates the time and location of all make-up exams will be at the discretion of the instructor. Writing assignments turned in late, or make-up exams, will be penalized for lateness by 10 percent.

Writing Assignments
During the semester, students will be expected to visit the Atlanta History Center and write a five page review of the exhibits and presentations at the museum and the two Historic Houses. These papers will be turned in no later than Apr. 26. It is expected these papers will be straight forward statements of opinions and ideas. Each paper should be written in an essay format with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. **Students must attach a ticket stub or receipt to the final paper as proof of attendance.**

Grades Breakdown (possible 400 points)
- A-400 to 360 points
- B-359 to 320 points
- C-319 to 280 points
- D-279 to 240 points
- F- Below 239 points

The class meets 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm (or 8:00 pm to 9:15 pm) Monday and Wednesday. Discussion and comments are welcome both inside and outside of the classroom. Office hours are by appointment.
Ethics:
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/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 an informal solution 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.

Required Reading:

Classroom Schedule

11 Jan.  Introduction

13 Jan.  Industrialization and Modernization
Nystrom:  Andrew Carnegie, Lecture to Young Men
          Upton Sinclair, Conditions in the Slaughterhouse
          Pauline Newman, Conditions at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company
          George Rice, George Rice Loses Out to Standard Oil

18 Jan.  MLK Holiday—No Classes

20 Jan.  Life in the 1890s
Nystrom:  Frederick Jackson Turner, Significance of the Frontier
          Jacob Riis, Immigrant Life in the New York City Tenements
          Henry Grady, the New South

25 Jan.  Politics to 1900
Nystrom:  George Washington Plunkitt, Honest and Dishonest Graft
          Alfred R. Tucker, A Warm Welcome for the IWW

Constitution Quiz

27 Jan.  Imperialism in the United State
Nystrom:  Alfred Thayer Mahan, On Sea Power
          Albert Beveridge, America’s Destiny

01 Feb.  Imperialism
03 Feb.  Theodore Roosevelt  
Nystrom: Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine

08 Feb.  Taft and Wilson  
Nystrom: William Howard Taft, Inaugural Address

10 Feb.  World War One  
Nystrom: Woodrow Wilson, Address to Congress  
Eugene Debs, Speech in Canton, Ohio  
Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points  
Senator William Borah, Senate Speech on the League of Nations

15 Feb.  World War One

17 Feb.  Test One

22 Feb.  The 1920s  
Bruce Barton, The Man Nobody Knows  
Ernest Elmo Calkins, Business the Civilizer

24 Feb.  Depression  
Nystrom: Franklin D. Roosevelt, First Inaugural Address  
E. J. Sullivan, The 1932nd Psalm

01 Mar.  Depression and World War Two  
Nystrom: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Radio Address on Arsenal of Democracy  
Franklin D. Roosevelt, The Four Freedoms

03 Mar.  World War Two  
Nystrom: Edgar L. Jones, Iwo Jima  
John Hersey, Hiroshima

08-13 Mar.  Spring Break (no class)

15 Mar.  World War Two

17 Mar.  Truman and the Post War  
Nystrom: Joseph R. McCarthy, Lincoln Day Address  
Margaret Chase Smith, Declaration of Conscience

22 Mar.  Korean War
24 Mar.  Eisenhower and the 1950s
Nystrom:  Nixon-Kruschev, Nixon Kruschev Debate (Kitchen Debate)
          Dwight D. Eisenhower, Farewell Address

29 Mar.  Test Two

31 Mar.  John Kennedy and Camelot
Nystrom:  John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address

05 Apr.  Vietnam
Nystrom:  Soldier’s Memories of Vietnam
          Lyndon B. Johnson, Message to Congress on the Gulf of Tonkin

07 Apr.  Vietnam

12 Apr.  Civil Rights
Nystrom:  Booker T. Washington, The Atlanta Compromise
          U. S. Supreme Court, Plessy vs. Ferguson
          W. E. B. DuBois, Of Mr. Booker T. Washington
          Rosa Parks, The Front of the Bus
          Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter From Birmingham Jail

14 Apr.  Johnson and the 1960s
Nystrom:  Barry Goldwater, Presidential Nomination Speech

19 Apr.  Nixon and Watergate
Nystrom:  White House Conversations, 1972-1973
          Richard Nixon, A Self Portrait

21 Apr.  Gerald Ford and the Fallout of Watergate

26 Apr.  Carter to Reagan
Nystrom:  Ronald Reagan, First Inaugural Address
          Linda Chavez, What to do About Immigration

Museum paper due

28 Apr.  Final Exam
Writing Assignment:

During the semester, students will be expected to visit the Atlanta History Center and write a five page review of the exhibits and presentations at the museum and the two Historic Houses. This paper will be turned in no later than Apr. 27. It is expected this paper will be a straight forward statement of opinions and ideas. Each paper should be written in an essay format with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Assistance in writing the paper may be obtained from the instructor. **Students must attach a ticket stub or receipt to the final paper as proof of attendance.**

The paper must be typed and double spaced. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in significant penalties.

As you visit the museum and write the paper, you might ask some of the following questions to assist you in your composition:

- Are there significant messages from these exhibits? Why do you believe this?
- What are some significant artifacts within the exhibits? Why do you believe this?
- Do the exhibits have significant shortcomings or failures? Why?

The ideal essay will serve as a critique, making note of significant features within the galleries and historic homes.