This course examines the major themes of American history since 1890. Topics of focus will be:

- Strivings to fulfill the historical promise of equality and democracy, as exemplified by the civil rights, women’s, and other movements.
- Significant periods of political and social change such as the Progressive Era, New Deal, 1960s and 1970s, and the rise of the New Right.
- U.S. involvement in foreign affairs from the War of 1898 through the world wars, Cold War, and post-9/11 conflicts.

History 2112 is part of KSU’s general education program, which has five overall goals:

- Develop productive habits of mind
- Develop effective communication skills
- Expand knowledge and understanding…
- Expand creative capabilities
- Exhibit understanding of the impact of ethical and aesthetic values

**Books available for purchase (both are required):**

2. Stephen Kinzer, *Overthrow: America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*

Other readings posted on Georgia View Vista.

**Requirements and grading proportions:**

1. Exam 1, Feb. 15 ........................................................................................................... 25%
2. Exam 2, March 28 .................................................................................................... 25%
3. Final Exam, May 2 .................................................................................................. 30%
4. Two reading summaries ......................................................................................... 10%
5. Attendance/participation ....................................................................................... 10%
**Exams:** You are responsible for ALL COURSE MATERIAL. Although exams will emphasize topics covered in class lectures, exams will cover all course materials including course readings, lectures, slides, and films. DIGEST THE READING, COME TO CLASS, TAKE NOTES ON LECTURES AND FILMS, AND YOU WILL SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS.

**I expect you to participate and be an active, not passive, learner.** After all, that is why we are all here. You should be prepared for me to call on you to ask questions about the reading, current events, or anything else that might be related to American history since 1890. A good way to participate is to come prepared to make a particular comment or ask a specific question.

**Tardiness and early departures:** Please be considerate of the instructor and other students by arriving to class on time and waiting until class is over before gathering up books and materials to leave. If you know you will be late or will have to leave early, you must notify the instructor in advance. Any time you are not in class the entire time will be considered an absence.

**Extra credit work will not be available.**

**Please do not eat food** during lectures unless you bring enough for everyone. Drinks are OK—just open them before we start.

**Students with Disabilities:**
If a student has a disability that requires accommodation, please notify the professor as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation from disAbled Student Support Services. Students with questions or concerns should contact:

Carol Pope, Assistant Director  
Student Center, Suite 267  
770-423-6443  
cpope@kennesaw.edu

**Electronics:**

**Cell phones** must be turned off before entering the classroom. Students who repeatedly fail to turn off their cell phones are introducing unnecessary distractions to the classroom, and showing a lack of respect for classmates, the professor, and their own decisions to spend tuition money on this class. I do not just mean turn off the ringer. I mean off completely. If I see you texting in class, I will count you absent for the day.

**Laptops:** Since non-class related use of laptops creates a distraction for other students, you are permitted to use laptops for taking class notes only. If I see that your eye contact is constantly on your laptop, I will assume you are doing non-class related things on it and I will count you absent for the day.
Writing Center:
Students may seek assistance on written assignments including grammar and proper citation of sources at the Writing Center.

The ESL Study and Tutorial Center:
ESL students may seek assistance from professionally trained staff in the ESL Study and Tutorial Center.

Schedule: (The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary.)

Jan. 9: Introduction

Jan. 11: Depression, Populist Revolt, and the Election of 1896

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 21 sections THE POLITICS OF PARALYSIS, THE REVOLT OF THE FARMERS, and THE NEW REALIGNMENT.

Jan. 18: Imperialism and the Spanish-American War

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 21 sections VISIONS OF EMPIRE and THE IMPERIAL MOMENT.
• Kinzer, Chapters 1 & 2

Jan. 23: The Progressive Era

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 22 sections THE ROOTS OF PROGRESSIVE REFORM, THE SEARCH FOR THE GOOD SOCIETY, CONTROLLING THE MASSES, THE POLITICS OF MUNICIPAL AND STATE REFORM, and PROGRESSIVISM GOES TO WASHINGTON.
• Paula A. Trecker, “Lady Muckraker”

Jan. 25: U.S. Foreign Policy from the Spanish American War to World War I

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 23 sections PROGRESSIVE DIPLOMACY and WOODROW WILSON AND MORAL DIPLOMACY
• Kinzer, Chapter 3.

Jan. 30: The United States and the Great War

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 23 sections, THE ROAD TO WAR, WAR AND SOCIETY, and THE LOST PEACE.
• Primary sources: President Wilson’s War Message and Sen. Robert LaFollette’s anti-war speech.

Feb. 1: Catch-up and Transition to Great Depression Material; Look Ahead to Exam One

Feb. 6: The Coming of the Great Depression

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 24 sections THE ROARING ECONOMY and THE GREAT BULL MARKET.
• Davidson chapter 25 sections THE HUMAN IMPACT OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION and THE TRAGEDY OF HERBERT HOOVER.
• Morey Skaret, “Riding the Rails in the 1930s”

Feb. 8: The New Deal

Reading to be completed for today:
• “Genora (Johnson) Dollinger Remembers the 1936-37 General Motors Sit-Down Strike”

Feb. 13: The Legacy of the New Deal

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 25 sections THE NEW DEAL AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE and THE END OF THE NEW DEAL.
• Steve Boisson, “When America Sent Her Own Packing”

Feb. 15: Exam One

Feb. 20: From Isolationism to Pearl Harbor

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 26 sections THE UNITED STATES IN A TROUBLED WORLD, A GLOBAL WAR, and WAR PRODUCTION.

Feb. 22: Life During Wartime

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 26 section A QUESTION OF RIGHTS.
• Readings on Korematsu v. United States.

Feb. 27: The Devastating End of World War II
Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 26 section WINNING THE WAR AND THE PEACE.
- Readings on the decision to use the atomic bomb.

Feb. 29: The Early Cold War

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 27 sections THE RISE OF THE COLD WAR, POSTWAR PROSPERITY, and THE COLD WAR AT HOME.

March 12: The Cold War at Home

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 27 section FROM COLD WAR TO HOT WAR AND BACK.
- Tales of Suspense #39.

March 14: Eisenhower and Covert Action

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 28 sections NATIONALISM IN AN AGE OF SUPERPOWERS and THE COLD WAR ON A NEW FRONTIER.
- Kinzer, Chapters 5 & 6.

March 19: The African-American Freedom Struggle

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 29 sections THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT and A MOVEMENT BECOMES A CRUSADE.

March 21: The Civil Rights Movement

Reading to be completed for today:
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter From Birmingham Jail.”

March 26: Political and Cultural Ferment in the 1960s

Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 29 sections LYNDON JOHNSON AND THE GREAT SOCIETY and YOUTH MOVEMENTS.
- Primary sources on 1960s movements.

March 28: Exam 2

April 2: Kennedy and Johnson Escalate in Vietnam

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 30 sections THE ROAD TO VIETNAM, SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR, and THE UNRAVELING.
• Kinzer, chapter 7

April 4: A Polarizing War and Nixon’s Rise and Fall

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 30 sections THE NIXON ERA and THE ROAD’S END FOR VIETNAM AND LIBERALISM.
• Kinzer, chapter 8

April 9: Identity Politics

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 30 section THE NEW IDENTITY POLITICS.
• Primary sources from social and protest movements.

April 11: The Rise of the New Right

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 31 sections THE CONSERVATIVE REBELLION, JIMMY CARTER: RESTORING THE FAITH, and PRIME TIME WITH RONALD REAGAN.
• Barry Rosen, “An American Hostage in Teheran.”

April 16: Reagan and Foreign Affairs

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 31 sections STANDING TALL IN A CHAOTIC WORLD and AN END TO THE COLD WAR.
• Kinzer, Chapter 10.

April 18: New World Order?

Reading to be completed for today:
• Kinzer, Chapter 11.

April 23: The 1990s

Reading to be completed for today:
• Davidson chapter 32 sections THE NEW IMMIGRATION, THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY and THE UNITED STATES IN A NETWORKED WORLD.
• A letter from Matthew Shepard’s father on homophobia.

April 25: 9/11 and its Aftermath
Reading to be completed for today:
- Davidson chapter 32 section TERRORISM IN A GLOBAL AGE.
- Kinzer, chapter 12.

April 30: The Iraq War

Reading to be completed for today:
- Kinzer, chapters 13 & 14.

Wednesday, May 2: Final Exam, 6-8 p.m.