HIST 2112
America since 1890
Spring 2013
TR 6:30 PM- 7:45 PM (CRN# 11007)
Social Science Bldg. Room 2036

Instructor: Dr. William C. Nicholson
Email: wnicol5@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 770-423-6294

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: The main objective of this course is to present a broad overview of American history from the late 19th century to the present. This goal will be accomplished by utilizing a textbook (which gives a general narrative account of American history) and a supplemental reader (which gives alternative viewpoints of familiar themes and events in American history. Traditional political, military, and diplomatic history will provide a general framework within which a number of social, cultural, and urban themes will also be explored. Due to the time period covered, lectures by necessity will be rather general in scope. Lectures will be enhanced and supplemented, however, by outside readings, student reports, class discussions and video excerpts which will provide more in-depth coverage and analysis of specific historical themes and events. It is crucial, therefore, that the assigned reading will be completed before class.

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=704

Required Reading:
George Brown Tindall and David E. Shi. America: A Narrative History.
Attendance Policy: Attendance is regulated by the University’s policy found in the University catalog. Students should recognize that classroom interaction, both among peers and between instructor and student, provides the best forum for learning and intellectual development in general. Therefore, regular class attendance is required and will be used in determining final grades in borderline cases. To be counted “present” for a class, students must be in class for more than half the class period. If you leave before the halfway point, you will be marked “absent.” Each student will be allowed FOUR absences during the summer semester without penalty. For every absence over FOUR one point will be deducted from a student’s final grade. There are NO “excused” absences (no doctor’s notes or work excuses accepted). For students who achieve perfect attendance, however, TWO points will be added to their final average.

Tardiness: 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, please notify the instructor in advance if possible. Thank you.

Electronic Devices Policy: Laptops, Ipads, etc. are permitted in class but with the understanding that they be used for class work ONLY, such as taking notes, preparing video responses, and filling in study guides. ALSO, PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF ME AND YOUR PEERS BY TURNING OFF ALL HEADPHONES/LISTENING DEVICES AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE REQUESTS MAY RESULT IN YOUR EXPULSION FROM CLASS.

During tests, absolutely no electronic devices are permitted. All cell phones must be turned off and put away in book bags. Any one caught with a cell phone or any other electronic device on their desks during tests will be prosecuted for cheating. Please heed this requirement. There are no warnings!

Class Participation: Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class. Student participation in class discussions makes for a far more interesting and lively class and enhances one's grasp of the material and its nuances, BUT PLEASE DO NOT TALK WHILE OTHERS ARE TALKING. This is just common courtesy. Class participation and attendance will be taken into consideration at the end of the course in determining borderline grades.

Course Assessments/Assignments: There will be FOUR, non-cumulative tests given during the semester. These tests will consist of 80 objective-type questions (multiple choice, true-false, etc.). In addition to the major tests, each student will complete SEVEN 1-2 page written responses to videos as well as 1-2 page written responses (double-spaced) to THREE of the chapters we cover in the Loewen book. These responses can be submitted in class or online to my KSU e-mail (wnichol5@kennesaw.edu). For video responses, summarize the general content of the video and then discuss how the video engaged you in some unanticipated way or enhanced your understanding of the topic. For the Loewen chapters, you will be responding to discussion questions provided on D2L that you will work on in groups during class.
The final exam consists of a comprehensive take-home essay covering a topic that spans the time frame of this course. It is OPTIONAL except for those that miss a test during the semester. Those students who miss a test during the semester MUST complete the final exam take-home essay. Others may elect to write the final exam essay to replace their lowest test score if they so choose. This essay will NOT replace the V/L score.

Grade Calculations
Student grades will be determined as follows:

4 Tests--------------------------80% (20% each)
V/L Responses-------------------20%

[Grades will be adjusted for attendance accordingly]

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A - (90-100)
B - (80-89)
C - (70-79)
D - (60-69)
F - (below 60)

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.

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

Examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:
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.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Carol Pope, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

Withdrawal from the Course: Withdrawal before the midpoint of the semester (March 13th) entitles the student to receive the grade of "W" if performance up to that point has been satisfactory. A student doing failing work will receive the grade "WF" as well as students who withdraw after March 13th. Any exception must be approved by the Dean of Students.

Make-Ups: THERE ARE NO TEST MAKE-UPS. If you are unable to attend class on the scheduled day for a test, THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE THE TAKE-HOME COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM ESSAY AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. Any deviation to this policy will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Extra Credit Work: This instructor does NOT offer extra credit opportunities except in extreme cases with unusual extenuating circumstances … so do not ask!

Note: This syllabus is merely a guide to this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND ABIDING BY THE TERMS OF THIS SYLLABUS. PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MY ATTENDANCE POLICY TO AVOID SIGNIFICANT GRADE REDUCTIONS AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.
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*The Course of Empire II*  
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*Progressivism I*  
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*Roosevelt/Taft*

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*Progressivism II*  
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*Wilson*  
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2-21  
*The Great War I*  
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2-28  
*The Modern Temper*  
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3/2 -3/8  
Spring Break – No Classes

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3-13  
*[Last Day to Withdraw]*

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*Republican Resurgence & Reform*  
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3-19  
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*From Isolation To Global War*  
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3-26 The Second World War I Tindall Ch. 30/Video

3-28 The Second World War II Tindall Ch. 30(con’t) Video

4-2 Fair Deal & Containment Tindall Ch. 31/Video

4-4 TEST 3 Tindall, Chs. 27-31

4-9 Society & Culture, 1945-60 Tindall Ch. 32

4-11 Conflict & Deadlock: The Eisenhower Years Tindall Ch. 33/Video

4-16 New Frontiers: Political/Social Change in the 1960s Tindall Ch. 34/Video

4-18 The Vietnam War Tindall Chs. 33-35

"See No Evil…" Loewen Ch. 9

4-23 The 1970s Tindall Ch. 35

“Watching Big Brother” Loewen, Ch. 8

4-25 The 1980s Tindall Ch. 36

4-30 TEST 4 (Last Day of Class) Tindall, Chs. 32-36 Loewen, Chs. 8, 9
Note: The final exam is REQUIRED ONLY if you missed one of the four tests over the semester. For those students who wish to replace their lowest test grade, they may choose to complete the take-home comprehensive essay. This essay CANNOT replace the V/L score.