HIST 2112  
America since 1890  
Semester: Spring 2013  
Location: Burruss 369  
Time: WF, 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Dr. Albert Way  
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Phone: 770-794-7760  
Office: Social Sciences Building, 4096  
Office Hours: TTH, 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

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:

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](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704)

Required Reading:

- *Understanding the American Promise: A Brief History*, Vol II, eds., Roark et al., (Bedford/St.Martin's, 2011). (abbreviated as *UAP*)  
- Other readings linked below and posted to D2L

Attendance Policy:
Attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. Each absence over *four* will result in *five points* subtracted from your final grade. If you are more than fifteen minutes late for class, you will be counted as absent for that day. *I make no distinction between excused or unexcused absences.* If you anticipate any problems about attendance, please talk with me in advance.
Electronic Devices Policy:
I aim to create a congenial classroom experience guided by the imperative of mutual respect among participants. The ring of the cell phone, the bowed head and hidden hands of the texter, and the disinterested gaze of the web surfer all amount to a breach of that respect. So, turn off all of your electronic devises before entering the classroom; it’s just that simple. I will allow the use of laptops to take notes, but if I see that you are using it for other means, you will not be allowed to use it for the remainder of the semester.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

Class Participation and Quizzes
You are expected to fully participate in classroom discussion. You should come to class prepared to engage the readings with thoughtful comments and questions, especially when we discuss outside readings. Be ready to present, articulate, and defend your ideas, as well as listen to and comment on the ideas of others. I will also give frequent quizzes on the assigned readings from Understanding the American Promise.

Reaction Essays
You will write five short critical responses to outside readings or in-class films throughout the course of the semester. (Do not write responses to the assigned readings from Understanding the American Promise.) These essays should primarily be thought pieces; you should think about those aspects of the reading that interested you, troubled you, confused you, excited you, and/or angered you, and then use the essay to think through the issues involved. These essays should NOT be a simple regurgitation or summary of the reading’s major themes; they are your opportunity to explore a theme that you would like to be addressed during class discussion.

A few comments about essay mechanics:
- The essay should be 1-2 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins). This means that you will have to express yourself with efficiency if you are going to say something substantial and interesting, which is the goal.
- You have at least ten eligible readings or films, and it is up to you to choose which ones you want to write about.
- Essays on readings are due at the beginning of class on the day of the assigned reading. Essays on in-class films are due the next class day after we watch the film. I will not accept late essays, or essays from students who do not attend class that day. The only exceptions will be in cases where students make arrangements with me significantly in advance.

Exams
There will be three exams: two midterms and a final. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short-answer identifications. The final will be cumulative. We will discuss the form and substance in more detail as the exam dates approach.
Note on Requirements
Please note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course, and I may deviate if necessary. This means that course readings and requirements are subject to change.

Grading:
Exam I  15%
Exam II  15%
Final Exam  25%
Reaction Essays  25%
Participation/Quizzes  20%

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A - (90-100%)
B - (80-89%)
C - (70-79%)
D - (60-69%)
F - (59% or below)

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](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures). For a detailed description of plagiarism and how to avoid it, see here: [http://plagiarism.org/](http://plagiarism.org/)

**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.

If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and provide the necessary documentation from Disabled Student Support Services. You can find their website here: [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html).

**Contacting Me**
I will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00. If these hours do not work for you, feel free to knock on the door to see if I’m in, or we can make an appointment for a convenient time. You can also contact me via office phone or email, but keep in mind that I sometimes do not check email at night.

**Course Schedule:**

1/9  Course Introduction
1/11 Getting Up to Speed: Reconstruction, The American West  
    Read: *UAP*, Chapters 16 &17

1/16 Industrial Capitalism I  
    Read: *UAP*, Chapters 18  
    Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” *(eligible for reaction essay)*

1/18 Industrial Capitalism II  
    Read: *UAP*, Chapter 19 & 20

1/23 Progressivism  
    Read: *UAP*, Chapter 21

1/25 The New South and the Rise of Jim Crow  
    *Note: View images and read the information on each photograph first, then view “Movie.” Be prepared for very disturbing images. *(eligible for reaction paper.)*
1/30 World War I
   Read: UAP, Chapter 22
2/1 The 1920s: Opportunity and Oppression
   Read: UAP, Chapter 23
   Outside Reading TBA

2/6 The Great Depression
   In-class Film: “Surviving the Dust Bowl” (eligible for reaction paper – due 2/8)
2/8 The New Deal
   Read: UAP, Chapter 24

2/13 EXAM I
2/15 World War II Abroad
   Read: UAP, 689-706

2/20 World War II At Home (Guest Lecture)
   Read: UAP, 707-717
2/22 The Cold War Emerges
   Read: UAP, Chapter 26
      “The Truman Doctrine” and Henry A. Wallace’s Response (eligible for reaction essay)

2/27 Crabgrass Frontier
   Read: UAP, Pgs. 747-766
3/1 Origins of the Civil Rights Movement
   Read: UAP, pgs. 767-771
      Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” (eligible for reaction essay)

3/6, 3/8 SPRING BREAK

3/13 JFK, LBJ, and the Liberal Consensus
   Read: UAP, Chapter 28
   **Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty
3/15 Civil Rights Movement
   In-Class Film: “Eyes on the Prize” (eligible for reaction essay—due on 3/20)

3/20 Vietnam
   Read: UAP, Chapter 29
3/22 EXAM II

3/27 Movement Politics: The New Feminism
   Read: TBA
3/29  From Woodstock To Altamont To Muscogee: Politics and Popular Music

4/3   NO CLASS
4/5   NO CLASS

4/10  Movement Politics: The New Environmentalism
      Read: Portions of Silent Spring (eligible for reaction essay)

4/12  Nixon
      Read: UAP, pgs. 829-836

4/17  Jimmy Carter and 1970s Malaise
      Read: Carter, “Crisis of Confidence Speech,” (eligible for reaction essay)
      UAP, pgs. 837-842

4/19  Morning in America: Reagan and New Right
      Read: UAP, 843-853

4/24  End of the Cold War and the 1990s
      Read: UAP, pgs. 857-873

4/26  9/11
      Read: UAP, pgs. 874-883

5/1   Catch Up/Review

Wednesday, May 8: Final Exam, 10:30-12:30