

Dr. Robin Conner  
Spring 2009  
Office: 2145, 34 Peachtree St. Bldg.  
Office Hours: W, 10:00-11:00 am, and by appt.

History 2110 #12447  
TR, 1-2:15pm, GCB 421  
Email: [rconner@gsu.edu](mailto:rconner@gsu.edu)  
Phone: (404) 413-5208

## **History 2110: Survey of United States History**

### **Course Description and Goals:**

This course will introduce students to the major themes and events in American social, political, and cultural history from the period of European contact through the late twentieth century. We will explore how Americans' understandings of liberty, citizenship, the role of the government, and America's role in the world have evolved over time. We will pay particular attention to the ways that beliefs about race and gender helped create and shape American society. In this course, students will read, write about, and discuss a broad range of primary documents and writings by historians. These assignments will encourage students to develop important critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills.

### **Required Readings:**

All of the following are available for purchase at the bookstore and have been placed on reserve at the library. There may be other short articles that will be placed on reserve and/or distributed in class.

James L. Roark, et al., *The American Promise*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Compact Ed.

Melton McLaurin, *Celia: A Slave*.

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

Primary Document Readings (available on e-Reserves and uLearn).

## Course Requirements:

**NOTE: This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary subject to the instructor's discretion.** Any changes to assignments or readings will be announced in class and posted to uLearn.

**1) Class Participation and Attendance Policy.** I expect students to read the assigned material, come to class regularly, and be prepared to contribute **actively** to class discussions. I do not take formal attendance, but I will circulate a sign-in sheet at the beginning of each class. Once the sign in sheet is collected for the day, students will not be allowed to sign it. Students who arrive late or leave early will be considered present at the discretion of the instructor. Please note that repeated unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation grade.

I expect students to **be on time** for class. Tardiness is highly disruptive to me and to your classmates. I will close the classroom door ten minutes after the scheduled class start time. **If you arrive after the door is closed, you will not be allowed entry.** Students should handle personal matters (phone calls, bathroom breaks, etc.) before class begins. If you decide to leave the room during class, take all your belongings with you and do not plan to return. **If you are unable to attend class regularly and on time,** please drop this course and take it at a more suitable time.

**Merely “showing up” for class does not constitute “participation.”** Class participation will be graded according to the following criteria:

- A: Comes to class prepared on a regular basis, contributes thoughtfully in ways that advance discussion.
- B: Usually prepared, misses fewer than five classes, contributes often, but not always in a way that advances discussion.
- C: Attentive and possibly prepared, but contributes infrequently. Absent for a quarter or more of class meetings.
- D-F: Inattentive, clearly unprepared, contributes rarely or not at all. Absent for half or more of class meetings.

**2) Assigned Readings.** All students are expected to complete all assigned readings **before** class. The central text for the course is Roark's *American Promise* (3<sup>rd</sup> Compact ed). Due to time constraints, not all of the material in the textbook will be covered in lecture, but you will still be responsible for it. We will read two other short texts and several articles/chapters in conjunction with the textbook. In addition, the readings for each class meeting will usually include short primary source selections posted on electronic reserve and/or uLearn. These documents will introduce you to the types of evidence that historians use to construct their arguments and interpret the past. It is very important that you read the assigned documents; each class is centered on these texts. You are not expected to bring the textbook to class (unless specifically instructed to do so), but **you are required to print out and bring the short reading assignments to class.**

All document readings are available on the course uLearn site; most are also available via electronic reserve. To access materials on **electronic reserve**, go to **reserves.gsu.edu** and search on the class or the instructor. The password for this class is: **wzrtr9kpS**. You will need this password to access online material.

**3) Quizzes.** There will be three scheduled quizzes. I also reserve the right to give pop quizzes, particularly if students do not appear to be completing the assigned material. You **cannot** make up pop quizzes; however, I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

#### **4) Paper Assignment**

**Option #1: Film Review.** You may write a 4-6 page review essay on one of the following films:

*The Manchurian Candidate* (1964—NOT the recent Denzel Washington version)  
*The Patriot* (2000)  
*The Grapes of Wrath* (1939)  
*Pleasantville* (1999)

The goal of this assignment is not merely to offer a synopsis of a film. Rather, I expect you to think critically about how and why the film portrays its subject, its historical accuracy, and the way the film's own historical context influences its treatment of the subject. You will be expected to incorporate the primary and secondary material we have covered in class into your review, but **you are NOT expected to conduct additional research for your essay. The paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 16, 2008.** You will receive more information about the assignment later in the semester.

**Option #2: Short Writing Assignments.** During the course of the semester, I will assign three short writing assignments which will address specific readings or questions. Each paper must be a minimum of 2 pages, but no more than 3 pages, in length. **You may write two of these papers instead of the film review essay.** You will receive each assignment one week before it is due. Your responses will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. These short writing assignments are intended to help you learn how historians interpret and interrogate primary sources and historical arguments. You may choose to write all three short papers; I will drop the lowest grade.

**5) Exams.** There will be three exams. During the class meeting one week prior to the exams, I will distribute the essay questions that will appear on the exam. Students will be permitted to bring to the exam **one index card or sheet of paper with no more than 100 words** to assist with the essay. **Students will be required to turn in their cards with their exams. Students who violate the index card policy or do not submit their cards may receive a zero on the essay portions of the exams. Be sure to bring blue books for all exams.**

There will not be a final exam given during the final exam block. Students who miss quizzes or exams for legitimate reasons will make up these assignments during the final exam block (see make-up policy below).

### **Grading:**

Class Participation:	10%	94-100% = A
Quizzes:	10%	90-93% = A-
Exam 1:	20%	87-89% = B+
Exam 2:	20%	83-86% = B
Exam 3:	20%	80-82% = B-
Paper Assignment:	20%	77-79% = C+
		73-76% = C
		70-72% = C-
		60-69% = D
		59% and below = F

### **Policy Statements:**

#### **uLearn Course Site:**

There is a uLearn site for this course; all registered students should be automatically subscribed to it. All document readings are available here as pdf files. Course information documents (syllabus, honesty statement, etc.), writing assignments, and any announcements will also be posted to the site. Study terms **will not** be posted to the uLearn site. They will be distributed in class once; you must be in class to receive them.

#### **Cell Phones, iPods, Computers, Etc.:**

Laptops and recorders must be authorized by the instructor. Permission may be revoked if students use laptops for inappropriate, non-class-related activities (Facebook, email, etc). Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, iPods, Blackberries, PDAs, etc. and put them away during class. If you forget to do so, please do not answer your phone during class. I reserve the right to require students who abuse this policy to leave the classroom.

#### **Absences and Changes to Class Meetings:**

I expect students to attend class regularly and punctually; however, I realize that illness, participation in University activities, or other situations may cause students to miss class. If you will miss class for athletics or other University activities, please notify me **in advance**. Likewise, if you must miss class due to illness or for religious observances, please notify me (by email or phone message) **prior** to class. If I need to cancel class, I will make every effort to inform students the night before class meets.

#### **Late Work and Make-Up Exams:**

Students are responsible for submitting all papers in printed, hard copy format. **I will not accept emailed papers.** All late papers will be penalized 1/3 grade per day, including weekends and holidays. Pop quizzes cannot be made up.

Legitimate absences or emergencies (documented illness, death in the family, etc.) will be handled on an individual basis, and alternative assignments may be offered in these cases. Make-up exams/quizzes will **only** be given to students with legitimate excuses (documented illness, etc.). **Be advised that vacation travel plans are not considered a “legitimate excuse”**—you have ample notice of exam and paper due dates; you should plan travel around your exams/assignments and not vice versa. If you miss a quiz or exam, you must notify me of the reason within one week. Failure to inform me in a timely fashion may result in a zero for the assignment. Any approved make-up exams or quizzes will be given during the final exam block at the end of the semester.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating:**

I will NOT tolerate plagiarism or cheating in any form. Plagiarism means presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) summarizing or paraphrasing another person’s work without acknowledgment, failure to provide citation for direct quotes from a source, submitting another student’s work as your own, and copying material in part or whole from internet sources without attribution. If you are unclear about whether or not to cite a source, please refer to the Department of History Statement on Academic Honesty Handout. Plagiarism is your worst option if you are pressed for time; *at minimum*, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment, as well as any additional disciplinary consequences imposed. During the first week of class, I will require an academic honesty statement indicating that you have read and understood the Handout and the GSU Policy on Academic Honesty. **I will not grade your assignments without this signed statement.**

### **Class Schedule:**

**All readings should be completed by the day listed unless otherwise indicated.**

January 6: Course Introduction

#### **Read: Roark, Ch. 2**

January 8: Europeans in the New World: Spain and France  
DOC: Palacios Rubios, “The Requerimiento”

#### **Read: Roark, Ch. 3-4**

January 13: English Colonies: The South  
DOC: John Smith’s Account of the Powhatan Indians  
January 15: English Colonies: New England  
DOC: John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity”  
DOC: Suffolk County Court Records

#### **Read: Roark, Ch. 5-7**

January 20: Eighteenth-Century Society  
In Class: Watch *A Midwife’s Tale*

January 22: The Road to Revolt and the Ideology of Revolution  
DOC: The Declaration of Independence (in Roark, Appendix)  
**Quiz #1**

**Read: Roark, Ch. 8-10**

January 27: The Effects of Revolution  
DOC: Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*  
January 29: Competing Visions of the New Republic  
DOC: James Madison, "Federalist No. 10"

**February 3: EXAM #1**

**February 5: No Class**

**Read: Roark, Ch. 11-12**

February 10: The Market Revolution and Social Transformations in the North and West  
DOC: Harriet Hanson Robinson Describes her Labor in a Textile Mill  
February 12: The Reform Impulse  
DOC: Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments

**Read: Roark, Ch. 13-14**

**February 17: Class Discussion: The Slave South**

**Read: McLaurin, *Celia, A Slave***

**Writing Assignment #1 Due**

February 19: Slavery, Manifest Destiny, and the Road to War  
**QUIZ#2**

**Read: Roark, Ch. 15-16**

February 24: The Civil War  
DOC: Union Women in Wartime  
February 26: Freedom, Reconstruction, and the New South  
DOC: A Freedman to His Old Master

**MARCH 2: LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH GRADE "W"**

**March 3: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**

**March 5: NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**

**Read: Roark, Ch. 17-19**

**March 10: A Changing Nation: Immigration and Urbanization**  
DOC: Abraham Cahan, "A Bintel Brief"

**March 12: EXAM #2**

**Read: Roark, Ch. 20-22**

March 17: Progressivism at Home and Abroad  
March 19: The Roaring Twenties and the Dirty Thirties  
Read: Egan, *The Worst Hard Time*, p. 32-51, 86-88, 150-154

**Read: Roark, Ch. 23-25**

March 24: Roosevelt and the New Deal

DOC: Huey Long Proposes Redistribution of Wealth

**Writing Assignment #2 Due**

March 26: America and World War Two

DOC: A Japanese American Recalls the Effect of Internment

**Read: Roark, Ch. 26-27**

March 31: The Cold War

**Quiz #3**

April 2: The Affluent Society

DOC: Betty Friedan on the Problem that Has No Name

**Read: Roark, Ch. 28-29**

**April 7: Class Discussion: The Civil Rights Movement**

**Read: Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi***

**Writing Assignment #3 Due**

April 9: NO CLASS, Work on Papers

**Read: Roark, Ch. 30**

April 14: The Vietnam War and the Counterculture

April 16: TBD

**FINAL FILM PAPER DUE**

April 21: The Rise of Conservatism

**April 23: EXAM #3**

**FINAL EXAM BLOCKS (for approved make-up exams/quizzes)**

**11:00 am: Thursday, 4/30, 10:15 am (GCB 627)**

**1:00 pm: Tuesday, 4/28, 12:30 pm (GCB 421)**

**2:30 pm: Tuesday, 4/28, 2:45 pm (GCB 627)**

**4:00 pm: Thursday, 4/30, 2:45 pm (GCB 318)**