



UNITED STATES HISTORY SURVEY
Spring semester, 2008
History 2110.080 (CRN 10971), Tuesday/Thursday 11-12:15, GCB 625

Sarah Heath, Ph. D.

10 Park Place, Office #470C

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:30pm, Wednesdays 9am-12noon, and by appointment

Office Phone: (404) 413-5580

Email: sheath@gsu.edu *** if you do not find me in person, email is the best way to contact me.

This course is a survey of United States history from its origins through the present day. It will address several themes including: settlement, organization, and governance of the nation; the formation of the republic; changing concepts of citizenship and rights; cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity of America's residents; economic growth; changing values and practices; shifting concepts of democracy; citizenship and the rights of citizens; technological development; and the changing role of the United States government in world affairs.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*

James Oliver Horton and Lois E. Horton, *Slavery and the Making of America*

Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

* Class attendance can affect your course grade. I take attendance at most class meetings; **it is YOUR responsibility to sign in while the sheet is available** (usually the first five to ten minutes of class, but no longer). I give consideration for excused absences, including illness, death in the family, participating in University approved activities (University athletics or organizations, Regents' exams, or scheduled class trips), and military duty or veterans' issues. In all cases, you must provide documentation to me in order to receive some consideration.

Consideration is not equal to full credit for attendance. If you miss several classes it would be wise for you to discuss the particulars of your situation with me.

* The instructor does not provide notes under any circumstances. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. I am willing to meet with students outside of class to explain material that is still not clear to them, or to work on skills in note taking, but will not redeliver entire lectures. Be sure to refer to the syllabus and speak to the instructor if you are having difficulty keeping up with the schedule.

* Handouts will occasionally be available to assist with exam and paper preparations. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain those materials when they are available.

* No late or makeup work will be accepted or graded unless you provide documentation of an appropriate excuse and make arrangements for ***prompt*** completion of the work in question. **You will have one week after your return to schedule any make up assignments; if you don't, a grade of zero will be assigned for that work.**

* There will be no "extra credit" offered in this class.

* If you want any help in this class, I am best able to help you in my office (10 Park Place, Office #470C). Please come by and talk to me, write me an email, or call me during my office hours.

Above all else, be proactive; tell the instructor if you are concerned about your grade so I can help you improve.

* It is the responsibility of the student to raise questions about any material that is not clear to them. If you do not ask questions, it is assumed that you understand all of the material that is presented to you. Students with special needs or physical requirements (including physical challenges or learning disabilities) should meet with the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for their particular learning and testing needs.

* You are reminded of Georgia State University policies, particularly the Conduct Code for students. This includes, but is not isolated to, the requirement that you be civil and respectful toward instructors and other students at the University; that you avoid behaviors that may distract others or disrupt class activities; and that you take credit only for work that you have completed through your own efforts (see comments on academic honesty below). I will follow Georgia State University's prescriptions if disciplinary action is required. For more detailed descriptions of these and other important University policies, please refer to http://www2.gsu.edu/wwwdos/codeofconduct_adminpol_n.html

* **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**— Presenting words or ideas that are not your own and seeking credit for that work is a serious offense. **On take-home assignments, if you write three or more words that are not your own, use quotation marks and tell where you got those words or ideas or you could be charged with plagiarism.** It is expected that your effort on in-class exams will be your own and that you will not engage in dishonest efforts to improve your score at the expense of your fellow students. Any assignment that is determined not to be the work of the student will receive a grade of zero, and the student might be subject to further disciplinary or legal action depending on the circumstances of their offense. Refer to the university catalog or the GSU Web site at http://www2.gsu.edu/wwwdos/codeofconduct_adminpol_n.html for more information about the University's standards on academic honesty.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GRADING:

You are being graded on several course objectives: mastery of facts concerning American history; an ability to present and defend a persuasive argument about those facts (to take a side when questions ask you to do so); and a demonstrated competence at writing clearly to explain your perspectives. Students will have two midterm exams (February 5 and March 25); a series of quizzes; and a final exam (May 1). Review sheets will be provided before each exam; it is the student's responsibility to obtain review sheets when they are available, and to ask for clarification about any unclear guidelines. Course grades will be computed as follows (using Microsoft Excel)*:

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| First exam | 20% of course grade |
| Second exam | 25% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| Quizzes (best 5 scores of 6 quizzes) | 20% |
| Attendance | 5% |

- If you do not complete an assignment, a grade of 0 will be entered for that work.

- The History Department will be using +/- grades for marks from C- through A. My scale for grading is as follows:

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|----|--------------|
| A | 94-100% |
| A- | 90-93% |
| B+ | 87-89% |
| B | 84-86% |
| B- | 80-83% |
| C+ | 77-79% |
| C | 74-76% |
| C- | 70-73% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% or below |

READING SCHEDULE: Please try to complete assignments before the class for which they are scheduled. "Zinn" refers to Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*; "Hortons" refers to Horton and Horton, *Slavery and the Making of America*; and "Cleaver" refers to Eldridge Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*. Please note that quizzes are always announced on the schedule.

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|------------|--|
| January 8 | Introduction; hand out course materials |
| Jan. 10 | The cultures of America's founders Read Zinn, pp. 1-38 |
| Jan. 15 | Women and witchcraft Read Zinn, pp. 39-58 |
| Jan. 17 | Conflict in early America Read Hortons, chapter 1 (pp. 13-45) |
| Jan. 22 | Foundations of rebellion Read Zinn, pp. 59-75 |
| Jan. 24 | Building resistance in the colonies Read Zinn, pp. 77-102 Quiz #1 today covering Zinn, pp. 77-102 |
| Jan. 29 | The American Revolution Read Hortons, chapter 2 (pp. 47-83) |
| Jan. 31 | Review for exam 1 Come to class with questions about exam 1 |
| February 5 | EXAM 1 *** don't forget a blue book! I will have a small number available, but I charge \$2 each |
| Feb. 7 | The Constitution and Forming New Governments Read Zinn, pp. 103-124 |
| Feb. 12 | Federalists, Republicans, and Jefferson's "second revolution" Read Hortons, chapter 3 (pp. 85-117) Quiz #2 today covering Hortons, pp. 85-117 |

- Feb. 14 War of 1812
(no reading)
- Feb. 19 Andrew Jackson and a new political party
Read Zinn, pp. 125-148
Quiz #3 today covering Zinn, pp. 125-148
- Feb. 21 Expansion, War, and Social Reform
Read Zinn, pp. 149-169
- Feb. 26 Crisis of the 1850s
Read Zinn, pp. 171-210; and Hortons, chapter 4 (pp. 119-159)
- Feb. 28 The Civil War
Read Hortons, chapter 5 (pp. 161-189)
Quiz #4 today covering Hortons, pp. 161-189
- March 3 **(no class) *** last day to withdraw and possibly receive a "W" on your transcript**
- March 4 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
- March 6 NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK
- March 11 Reconstruction
Read Zinn, pp. 211-251; and Hortons, chapter 6 (pp. 191-231)
- March 13 The West
Read Zinn, pp. 253-195
- March 18 United States Foreign Policy
Read Zinn, pp. 297-320
- March 20 Gilded Age urbanization and industry; review for exam 2 (due Tuesday)
Read Zinn, pp. 321-357
- March 25 **EXAM 2 due at the beginning of class (matching portion will be given in class)**
- March 27 Progressivism
(no reading)
- April 1 World War I
Read Zinn, pp. 359-376
Quiz #5 today covering Zinn, pp. 359-376
- April 3 The 1920s
(no reading)
- April 8 The Great Depression and New Deal
Read Zinn, pp. 377-406

- April 10 World War II
 Read Zinn, pp. 407-442
Quiz #6 covering Zinn, pp. 407-442
- April 15 The 1950s and the Cold War
 Read Zinn, pp. 443-467; and Cleaver, pp. 1-84 (part I)
- April 17 Rights and rebels—the 1960s
 Read Zinn, pp. 503-539; and Cleaver, pp. 85-165 (part II)
- April 22 Vietnam
 Read Zinn, pp.469-562
- April 24 America after 1970
 Read Zinn, pp. 563-682; and Cleaver, pp. 167-242 (parts III and IV)
- May 1 **(THURSDAY)— FINAL EXAM , 10:15-12:15**
***** don't forget a blue book! I will have limited quantities available for \$2 each**
- May 13 Grades available to students via GoSOLAR