

History 2110 – Survey of U.S. History (Section 020)
Fall 2008, Georgia State University
Dr. Brian Ingrassia, Instructor

Location and Time: General Classroom Building 423, MWF 9:00-9:50
Office: Room 2139, 34 Peachtree Street
Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30, or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course is a thematic survey of American history from circa 1492 to the present. The main course theme, “democracy and empire,” will allow us to explore the ways that Americans have balanced these two enterprises. During the semester we will trace the major events and characteristics of American society, culture, and politics, from pre-Columbian civilizations to the present era of “globalization.”

Course Objectives:

- Study the major themes, events, and people in American history
- Learn historical mindedness and critical thinking within a historical framework
- Practice clear expression in discussion and writing.

Required Texts:

Alan Brinkley, *The Unfinished Nation: Brief, Interactive with Primary Source Investigator* (McGraw-Hill, 2007; ISBN: 0077240677)

Frederick Douglass, ed. John Blassingame, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave: Written by Himself* (Yale University Press, 2001; ISBN: 0300087012)

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (Dell, 1992; ISBN: 0440314887)

“Web Documents” readings will be available at this webpage:

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_jones_ce_1/0,7283,989157-content,00.html

Grade Breakdown:

20%: Class participation (including attendance, discussion, and short writing assignments)

25%: Analytical paper (3-4 pp.) on Frederick Douglass – due **September 22**

25%: In-class exam – **October 3**

30%: Final exam – **8:00am Friday December 12**

Attendance and Participation:

Learning is a collaborative effort. I expect all students to attend class faithfully, participate in class discussions, and turn in all assignments on time. Late papers will be graded down 5% per day late. In addition to attending regularly, you should consistently demonstrate your willingness to intellectually engage the course material.

I allow each student two unexcused absences during the course of the term; after two, each absence will lower your participation grade. Keep in mind that you are responsible for any assignments and information that you miss due to absence. The four designated “Discussion” days (August 25, September 17, October 17, and November 12) are mandatory, meaning that you must attend those days unless you have a valid excuse. Absences will be deemed excused at the discretion of the instructor; in general, for an absence to be excused, I need a valid note from a doctor, appropriate university office, or comparable documentation. Please consult me in advance if you know you will have to miss a class.

Assignments:

As a component of the participation grade, students will periodically complete short assignments – either in-class (handwritten) or take-home (typed) – to be graded on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis. For example, I will ask you to write a brief (1 page) response to Moody’s *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. I expect all students to take these assignments seriously, but they are especially important for students who tend to be quieter in class discussions. Although I typically do not give quizzes, I reserve the right to do so at any time. I will assign less than one short assignment per week. Specific instructions for the 3-4 page analytical paper on *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, due September 22, will be distributed and discussed in class.

Grading Scale:

A (excellent work): 92%-100%
A-: 90%-91.9%
B+ : 88%-89.9%
B (above average work): 82%-87.9%
B-: 80%-81.9%
C+: 78%-79.9%
C: (average work): 72%-77.9%
C-: 70%-71.9%
D+: 68%-69.9%
D: (below average work): 62-67.9%
D-: 60%-61.9%
F (failing work): 0-59.9%

Make-up Examination Policy:

Students who have a valid excuse (see attendance policy above) will be allowed to make up an exam in a timely fashion. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think you will need to make up an exam.

Student Conduct:

Please do not read the newspaper, eat, sleep, text, or otherwise distract the class. Turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom. See <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwdos/codeofconduct.html> for GSU’s Student Conduct Code.

Grade Consultations:

If you have a question about an assignment grade, please wait 24 hours after receiving the grade to digest my comments and articulate your query. After this brief time period, I will be happy to schedule a meeting to consult with you and explain the grade further.

Academic Honesty:

I expect academic honesty from all students. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Please see GSU’s policy on Academic Honesty (<http://www.gsu.edu/%7Ewwwfhb/sec409.html>). It reads (in part): “Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgment, including the submitting of another student’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism frequently involves a failure to acknowledge in the text, notes, or footnotes the quotation of the paragraphs, sentences, or even a few phrases written or spoken by someone else. ...” Punishments for academic dishonesty can include failure on the course assignment, failure in the course, and expulsion from the university.

Disclaimers:

- The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
- All course materials and lectures © 2008 Brian M. Ingrassia

Course Schedule

Week 1

M 8/18 – Introduction

W 8/20 – 1491 and after: The Columbian Exchange Brinkley, Ch. 1

F 8/22 – European Settlements in the Americas Brinkley, Ch. 2
Web Documents: The Founding of Two Colonies

Week 2

M 8/25 – Discussion: How to think like a historian

W 8/27 – Slavery and the Creation of an "Atlantic World" Brinkley, Ch. 3
Web Documents: The Middle Passage

F 8/29 – The "Refinement" of America: Life in the Colonies Brinkley, Ch. 4

Week 3

M 9/1 – Labor Day, no class

W 9/3 – Shots Heard 'Round the World: The Revolution Brinkley, Ch. 5
Web Documents: Ideas of Independence and Rights

F 9/5 – Establishing a Nation Brinkley, Ch. 6

Week 4

M 9/8 – Life in the New Republic Brinkley, Ch. 7

W 9/10 – Expansion and Indian Conflict Brinkley, Ch. 8
Web Documents: Black Hawk

F 9/12 – The Rise of Democracy Brinkley, Ch. 9
→ begin reading Douglass, *Narrative*

Week 5

M 9/15 – Reforming Antebellum America, Part I Brinkley, Ch. 12

W 9/17 – Discussion: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

F 9/19 – Reforming Antebellum America, Part II Brinkley, Ch. 12
Web Documents: Women and Reform Efforts in the 19th Century

Week 6

M 9/22 – North and South: Different Ways of Life Brinkley, Chs. 10-11
Paper on Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass due Sept. 22

W 9/24 – The 1850s: America Sees the Elephant Brinkley, Ch. 13

F 9/26 – The Coming Storm Brinkley, Ch. 13
Web Documents: The Dred Scott Decision

Week 7

M 9/29 – Civil War

Brinkley, Ch. 14

W 10/1 – Review

F 10/3 – **In-Class Exam**

Week 8

M 10/6 – Reconstructing the South

Brinkley, Ch. 15

Web Documents: Visions for Reconstruction

W 10/8 – 1876: The United States at 100

Brinkley, Ch. 16

F 10/10 – Life in an Industrial Society

Brinkley, Ch. 17

Week 9

M 10/13 – A "Gilded Age"

Brinkley, Ch. 18

W 10/15 – The Populist Response

Brinkley, Ch. 19

Web Documents: The Populist Party

F 10/17 – Discussion: Was the Civil War Really Over?

Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic* and Blight, *Race and Reunion* (excerpts)

Week 10

M 10/20 – The Rise of an American Empire

Brinkley, Ch. 20

W 10/22 – The Progressive Era, Part I

Brinkley, Ch. 21

Web Documents: Four Authors on Social Reform

F 10/24 – The Progressive Era, Part II

Brinkley, Ch. 22

Week 11

M 10/27 – World War I

Brinkley, Ch. 23

W 10/29 – The Twenties: Did They Roar?

Brinkley, Ch. 24

F 10/31 – The Great Depression

Brinkley, Ch. 25

Web Documents: Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt Speeches

Week 12

M 11/3 – Life between the Wars

Brinkley, Ch. 26

W 11/5 – World War II

Brinkley, Chs. 27-28

Web Documents: American Negroes in the War

F 11/7 – Fighting the Cold War

Brinkley, Ch. 29

→ begin reading Moody, *Coming of Age*

Week 13

M 11/10 – Postwar Prosperity

Brinkley, Ch. 30

W 11/12 – Discussion: Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*

F 11/14 – The Civil Rights Era, Part I

Brinkley, Ch. 31

Week 14

M 11/17 – The Civil Rights Era, Part II

Brinkley, Chs. 31-32

W 11/19 – Sixties Culture

Brinkley, Ch. 32

Web Documents: Movements of the Late 1960s and Early 1970s

F 11/21 – Vietnam and Watergate

Brinkley, Chs. 31-32

Week 15

M 11/24 – The Age of Reagan

Brinkley, Ch. 33

W 11/26 & F 11/28 – Thanksgiving break, no class

Week 16

M 12/1 – Life after the Cold War

Brinkley, Ch. 34

W 12/3 – Globalization and the War on Terror

➔ Read a major newspaper (for example, NYT, *London Times*, *Chicago Tribune*)

F 12/5 – Review session

Final Exam: 8:00am Friday December 12