



## HISTORY 2110: SURVEY OF U.S. HISTORY FALL 2007

Instructor: W.H. Venet  
Office: 824 GCB  
Office Hours: 1:45-2:45 MW  
And by appointment  
Office: (404) 413-6372

Computer Number: 80896  
Classroom: 425 GCB  
Class meets: 12-1:15 MW  
Email: [wvenet@gsu.edu](mailto:wvenet@gsu.edu)

### Purpose

This class is designed as an introduction to American political, social, cultural, economic, military, diplomatic, and constitutional history from the seventeenth century to the twentieth century. While following a chronological format, the class will focus on these themes: central versus local power; economic expansion and government's role in the economy; political evolution and changing political philosophy; isolation versus intervention in foreign policy; race, class and gender. This class will also emphasize the development of analytical thinking skills, writing ability, and the need to look at issues from many perspectives.

### Readings

The assigned readings are:

Norton and others, A People and a Nation, Dolphin edition  
Skemp, Benjamin and William Franklin  
McLaurin, Celia, a Slave  
Kovic, Born on the Fourth of July

All are available in the university bookstore. Please purchase the books immediately so that you do not get behind in the reading and so that you obtain a copy before the library returns unused ones. Study questions will be available to help you understand the books by Skemp, McLaurin, and Kovic.

### Assignments and Grading Policy

There will be three exams, each counting 25%. Exams are primarily essay in format but contain some objective questions as well. An essay of 3-5 pages will count 25%. I will give you a separate handout relating to this writing assignment later in the semester. The dates are listed below for each of the assignments. Please note that all courses in the History Department use the "plus/minus" grading system. An "A" represents work at or above 93%; A- 90-92%; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 63-66; D- 60-62; F below 60.

### Attendance, Make-Up Policies, and Late Papers

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. It is the responsibility of each student to inform the instructor when he/she is late to class. Please stay for the entire class period if you plan to be counted as present. Students who miss more than four classes without a valid excuse *may* be dropped from the course. Make-up exams will be given only to those students who receive permission from me beforehand or present a valid excuse after the test. All make-up exams will be given during my office hour on December 3. An essay handed in after the deadline is subject to grade penalty of one half letter for every day of lateness. I do not accept essays delivered by fax or email. Failure to hand in an essay by the last day of class will lead to a failing grade for this assignment. The grade of "Incomplete" will only be given when written evidence is provided of personal problems such as health or family crisis. An Incomplete becomes an "F" if all course work is not completed one month from the last day of class.

### Good Citizenship

Cellular telephones may not ring while class is in session. Failure to turn off the ring tone constitutes a classroom disturbance, and a student may be asked to leave the classroom. Chronic lateness will not be allowed. If you are unable to attend class regularly and on time, please drop this course and take it at a time when you can make the necessary commitment.

### Withdrawals

Please note that October 15 is the last day to withdraw from this class with the grade of "W."

### Special Help

I am always happy to assist students on an individual basis. Most weekdays, I check my email multiple times. I have office hours after class and can be available to meet at other times as well. If you have a disability that requires special help or there is something going on in your life that you would like me to know about (family problems, illness, etc.), please see me right away. The English Department sponsors a Writing Lab to help students who need extra help. The Counseling Center has special programs to help with a variety of issues including test anxiety.

Tentative schedule

\*\*\*\*Please note that all lectures are copyright W.H. Venet

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Aug. 20-22	Intro. & Pre-colonization Colonies	Text pp. 1-28, 40-56, 78-85
Aug. 27-29	Colonies in the 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Road to Revolution	Text pp. 87-11, 120-138 <u>Benjamin and William Franklin</u>
Sept. 3	Labor Day holiday—no class	
Sept. 5	Was it a Revolution?	Text pp. 139-64
Sept. 10-12	Confederation and Constitution Party Formation	Text pp. 192-213
Sept. 17-19	Republicans Ascendant Changing Society in the North and West	Text pp. 214-273
Sept. 24	<b>Exam 1</b>	-----
Sept. 26	Southern Society	Text pp. 330-57 <u>Celia, a Slave</u>
Oct. 1-3	Jackson and Party Formation Reform, Manifest Destiny and Disunion	Text pp. 274-300 Text, 359-387
Oct. 8-10	Civil War Reconstruction	Text pp. 389-459
Oct. 15-17	Old West and New South Machine Age	Text pp. 460-516
Oct. 22-24	Politics, Protest and Depression Progressive Era	Text pp. 550-604
Oct. 29-31	Quest for Empire World War I and Red Scare	Text pp. 606-659
Nov. 5	<b>Exam 2</b>	-----
Nov. 7	Roaring Twenties	Text pp. 660-688

Nov. 12-14	Depression FDR and New Deal	Text pp. 689-718
Nov. 19	World War II	Text pp. 746-771
Nov. 21	Thanksgiving holiday—no class	
Nov. 26-28	Cold War and Hot Wars in Korea and Vietnam Postwar American Society	Text pp. 773-801 <u>Born on the Fourth of July</u>
Nov. 28	<b>Essay due</b>	
Dec. 3-5	Civil Rights, Women's Rights, Gay Rights Changing Political Landscape	Text pp. 803-33, 871-880, 898-908
Dec. 10	<b>Exam 3</b> , 12:30-2:30	

## History 4490: Special Topics in American History The Civil War and Reconstruction

Instructor: W.H. Venet  
Office: 824 GCB  
Office hours: 1:45-2:45 MW  
and by appointment  
Office phone: (404) 413-6372

Computer Number: 85402  
Classroom: 101 Kell  
Class meets: 2:45-4:25 MW  
Email [wvenet@gsu.edu](mailto:wvenet@gsu.edu)

### Purpose

This class will focus on the Civil War era, including the war's causes (1848-1861), the war itself (1861-65), Reconstruction (1865-1877), history and memory of the war (1860s-present). Although this course is not a military history class, we will focus attention on military aspects of the war, including the strategies of the armies, military leadership, major battles, and the experience of being a soldier. Of equal importance, the course will focus on political leadership, economics, constitutional issues, the role of African Americans, women, children, and the war in international context.

### Class Format

This class will combine lectures, discussions, documentary films, walking tours, and a visit to our local history museum. The two walking tours will reveal some of the ways in which the Civil War has been commemorated in our community over the past century. One tour will focus on Civil War sites in downtown Atlanta. The second will be a tour of Oakland cemetery, and you will be expected to provide money or tokens to ride on MARTA. Please wear comfortable shoes on "walking tour days." You will also be expected to go to the Atlanta History Center on your own and tour its exhibit called "Turning Points." For those who do not have cars, the History Center can be reached by city bus. The cost of admission to the museum is \$12.00 with student ID.

### Attendance, Good Citizenship, Disabilities, and Grading Policies

Attendance will be taken daily. Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated. Each student is allowed *four unexcused absences*. A student with more than four unexcused absences will be dropped from the course. Cellular telephones and beepers must not ring or beep during class. If you have a disability that requires special help or there is something going on in your life that you would like me to know about (family problems, illnesses, etc), please see me right away. All courses in the History Department use the "plus/minus" grading system. An "A" represents work at or above 93%: A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62, F below 60. Please note that you cannot count a course with a C- or below