

HIST 2112A: U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1877
Fall 2018, Georgia Institute of Technology
Dr. Todd M. Michney

Meeting Place/Time: D. M. Smith 105 MWF 12:20-1:10pm
Office/Office Hours: Old Civil Engineering G24 T 10am-12pm, W 3-4pm,
Office Phone: (404) 894-6828 or by appt.
E-Mail: todd.michney@hsoc.gatech.edu (kindly allow 24 hours for response)
Teaching Assistant: Ms. Elise Zheng, elise901@gatech.edu

After the Civil War (1861-1865), the United States became an industrial giant and world power, and eventually the world's lone superpower. This course surveys the post-Civil War social, political, cultural, and economic history of the U.S. into the near present.

Learning Outcomes (Core Area/Attribute: E – Social Studies)

Students will meet the Area E learning outcome through the completion of several examinations based on the course lectures and assigned readings. By the end of this course students will demonstrate:

- The ability to identify key episodes in post-1877 American history, thereby enhancing their knowledge about the U.S. and its global relationships
- The ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influenced modern American history.
- The ability to evaluate historical facts and interpretations based on secondary and primary sources
- A deeper understanding of diversity and cultural change over time in American history

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to comply with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code, including the provisions regarding cheating (more details below), and the Student Code of Conduct, available online at:

<http://osi.gatech.edu/content/honor-code>
<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-conduct>

Required Texts (2):

- Eric Foner, *Voices of Freedom*, 5th ed., vol. 2 (2017); ISBN 978-0-393-61450-3
- Upton Sinclair, *The Flivver King* (1937; 1987); ISBN 978-0-88286-357-3

Recommended Text (optional):

- Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 5th ed., vol. 2 (2017); 978-0-393-61565-4

Fall 2018 Weekly Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Aug. 20 – INTRODUCTION; Reconstruction¹

Aug. 22 – Reconstruction, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #96, 98, 101*

Aug. 24 – The Gilded Age²

Week 2

Aug. 27 – The Gilded Age, cont.

Aug. 29 – The Gilded Age, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #104, 105, 107*

Aug. 31 – NO CLASS; MICHNEY OUT OF TOWN

Week 3

Sep. 3 – NO CLASS; LABOR DAY

Sep. 5 – Freedom's Boundaries³

Sep. 7 – Freedom's Boundaries, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #109, 111, 115*

Week 4

Sep. 10 – The Progressive Era⁴

Sep. 12 – The Progressive Era, cont.

Sep. 14 – The Progressive Era, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #117, 119, 122*

Week 5

Sep. 17 – **** EXAM #1 (covers Week 1-4 material) ****

Sep. 19 – World War I⁵

Sep. 21 – World War I, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #127, 128, 129*

Week 6

Sep. 24 – The 1920s⁶

Sep. 26 – The 1920s, cont.

Sep. 28 – The 1920s, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #132, 135, 137*

Read: Sinclair, The Flivver King (whole book, in time for October 15 exam)

Week 7

Oct. 1 – Henry Ford and Abner Shutt: Wealth and Work in the Model-T Age

Oct. 3 – The New Deal⁷

Oct. 5 – NO CLASS; MICHNEY OUT OF TOWN

¹ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 564-602

² Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 603-648

³ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 649-690.

⁴ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 691-733.

⁵ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 734-778.

⁶ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 779-817.

⁷ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 818-860.

Week 8

Oct. 8 – NO CLASS; FALL BREAK

Oct. 10 – The New Deal, cont.

Oct. 12 – The New Deal, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #139, 141, 145*

Week 9

Oct. 15 – **** FLIVVER KING EXAM ****

Oct. 17 – World War II⁸

Oct. 19 – NO CLASS; MICHNEY AT CONFERENCE

Week 10

Oct. 22 – World War II, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #147, 152, 154*

Oct. 24 – Cold War America⁹

Oct. 26 – Cold War America, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #157, 158, 161*

Week 11

Oct. 29 – **** EXAM #2 (covers Week 5-10 material) ****

Oct. 31 – The Affluent Society¹⁰

Nov. 2 – The Affluent Society, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #167, 168, 170*

Week 12

Nov. 5 – The 1960s¹¹

Nov. 7 – The 1960s, cont.

Nov. 9 – The 1960s, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #174, 175, 177*

Week 13

Nov. 12 – The Conservative Turn¹²

Nov. 14 – The Conservative Turn, cont.

Nov. 16 – The Conservative Turn, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #185, 186, 187*

Week 14

Nov. 19 – From Triumph to Tragedy¹³

Nov. 21 – NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov. 23 – NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15

Nov. 26 – From Triumph to Tragedy, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #189, 190, 192*

Nov. 28 – A New Century¹⁴

Nov. 30 – A New Century, cont. *Read: Foner, Voices, #194, 197, 199*

⁸ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 861-904.

⁹ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 905-939.

¹⁰ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 940-982.

¹¹ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 983-1029.

¹² Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 1030-1070.

¹³ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 1071-1108.

¹⁴ Optional reading this unit: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* 1109-1155.

Week 16

Dec. 3 – Open (Retrospective/America post-Trump?)

Dec. 12 (Weds.) – **** EXAM #3 (covers Week 11-15 material) ****: 11:20 a.m. in our regular classroom

Grade Breakdown:

Exams (3)	75% (25% each)
<i>Flivver King</i> Exam	25%

Readings: Be sure to complete the short, required primary-source readings from *Voices of Freedom* every week, because they are testable material and we will be covering them on the designated days in class (please bring the book with you). I would recommend that you begin reading Sinclair's *Flivver King* early (ideally during Week 6), in time for the October 15 exam and so you are in a good position to benefit from my October 1 lecture on the novel. NOTE: the recommended (but not required) *Give Me Liberty!* textbook, also by Eric Foner, offers a parallel framework to help you understand the course material and can serve as a valuable study resource; however, *the course will include lecture material not covered therein, nor will everything therein be covered* (for more on the importance of lecture material, read on).

Class Attendance and Notetaking: Because this is a large survey class (180 students), the course content will consist primarily of lectures, supplemented by audiovisual material. I will welcome your questions at strategic points during my lecture delivery, pausing periodically for this purpose, so please hold your questions until then.

Lectures (schedule subject to change at my discretion if necessary) will supply you with information needed for the course exams, so be sure to take good notes. *I do not use bullet points*, so I will expect you to listen closely and decide what information seems most relevant for notetaking purposes; at the start of class I will list the most important lecture terms that you should focus on, and also make lecture outlines (as well as PDF versions of my Powerpoint visuals) available to you on Canvas beforehand, organized into corresponding “modules.” You may also record the lectures if you would like.

THE BEST WAY TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS IS TO ATTEND ALL LECTURES AND TAKE THOROUGH NOTES. INDEED, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR SOME PORTIONS OF THE LECTURE MATERIAL AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO PREPARE SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE EXAMS WITHOUT SUCH INFORMATION.

Attendance is mandatory, but due to the large class size, I do not intend to monitor your attendance unless this becomes an issue (i.e., by passing around a sign-in sheet). The Institute expects you to attend every class meeting, with absences permissible only in a handful of situations and with official documentation; for details, see:

<http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/class-attendance>

Examinations: There will be three examinations on the course lecture material and one on the assigned novel: Upton Sinclair's *The Flivver King* (1937), a fictionalized biography of Henry Ford and one of his employees. All exams will be multiple choice and graded by Scantron; I will prepare several versions of each to discourage cheating (you will also sign an honor pledge). On the day of the exam you must bring two number-two pencils and your Georgia Tech ID with you to class.

The three exams based on the lecture material (September 17, October 29, and December 12) are more or less evenly spaced over the duration of the course. Each will consist of fifty questions. NOTE: In the past, I have been willing to drop the lowest of these exam scores to boost this portion of your grade – note that this would involve an adjustment of the of the grade calculation formula listed above. Also note that the third exam is in lieu of a final exam (but nevertheless follows GT's final exam schedule).

The exam on *The Flivver King* (October 15) falls between the first and second exams on the lecture material; be sure to begin reading the book (119 pages) well in advance and don't miss the lecture (October 1) where I will be providing valuable context to help you in evaluating it.

NOTE: you must have a verifiable medical or family emergency – and a waiver from the Dean of Students – in order to be eligible for any make-up exam. Makeup exams may be written rather than multiple choice, at my discretion.

Disturbances during Class: Cell phones and other such electronic devices should be turned off during class; please stay awake, refrain from text-messaging, and use laptops for notetaking purposes only. Be considerate; due to the large size of the class I will not police you on these matters unless your behavior becomes distracting or disruptive, either to me or your fellow classmates. However, if you engage in any kind of inappropriate behavior, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class. Professor and students alike will maintain a mutually respectful tone at all times, in keeping with the Institute's code of conduct; for more see:

<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/student-code-conduct>

Learning Accommodations:

Classroom accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. These accommodations must be arranged in advance and in accordance with the ADAPTS office; if you plan on taking exams through ADAPTS, please let me know *by email* during the first week of classes. NOTE: You must still take exams on the same dates and at the same time as the rest of the class; it is your responsibility to schedule exams with ADAPTS accordingly. For further instructions, please visit:

<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>

Grades: By my standards, “A” quality work demonstrates a mastery of the materials covered in the course; “B” work is characterized by a full understanding of the materials, but a less thorough evaluation of them; and “C” work shows a satisfactory understanding, but an even less-thorough evaluation. Work not showing an understanding of the course materials or a highly inadequate evaluation will earn either a “D” or an “F.” On all course assessments, you will receive a numerical score with a corresponding letter grade on the following scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below.