

Dr. Carla Gerona

History 2112-A, United States since 1877

TR 12:05-1:25 PM, DM Smith 105

Office hours: T 1:30-2:15 and R 1:30-2:15, or by appointment

Office: Old CE G-19

Phone: 404 385 3182

E-mail: cgerona@hts.gatech.edu

Teaching Assistant: Jennifer Green

Office hours: T 10:30-11:30 AM, or by appointment

Office: Old CE 117

Email: jennifergreen@gatech.edu

Teaching Assistant: Liang Yao

Office hours: W 2:00-3:00, or by appointment

Office: Old CE 117

Email: lyao6@gatech.edu

Course Purpose and Description:

This is an introduction to the study of American history from the end of Reconstruction to the end of the Twentieth Century. This course will focus on the ways in which different peoples came together, competed over resources, created a modern American nation, and participated in an increasingly connected world. Our approach to history will be based on critical thinking; we will work with and learn to interpret distinct -- and sometimes conflicting -- sources. In addition we will explore biographical approaches to doing history. The class will combine power point lectures and class projects that ask you to reflect on important themes and class readings. The study of history generally, and this class in particular, gives you an opportunity to develop many essential skills, including reading, listening, researching, writing, and communicating effectively. Above all, I hope you will end the semester with a strong appreciation for history and how it is made.

According to novelist and essayist James Baldwin:

"History does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do."



Course goals and learning outcomes (what you should get out of this course):

- Develop a broader and deeper understanding of important eras in American history including:
 - American West
 - Intensified Industrialization
 - Progressive Era
 - US Foreign Expansion
 - World War I
 - Roaring Twenties
 - Great Depression
 - New Deal Era
 - World War II
 - Cold War Era
 - Consensus and growth
 - Vietnam War and Unrest
 - Conservative resurgence
- Understand and analyze historical sources and categories including:
 - primary sources
 - secondary sources
 - periodization
 - biography
- Develop stronger reading, listening, research, and communication skills

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Pauline Maier, Merritt Roe Smith, Alexander Keyssar, and Daniel J. Kevles, Inventing America, Volume II, Second Edition, Norton.

Stephen G. Weisner and William F. Hartford (eds.), American Portraits: Biographies in United States History, Volume II, Third Edition, McGraw Hill.

Personal Response System -- remote control.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:

3 Tests (75% -- 25% Each).

Portfolio (25%)

The portfolio is a compilation of all of the work that you did for the class throughout the semester. Most -- but not all -- of the portfolio material will be completed during class. Class work will include answering PRS questions, written responses to lecture questions, and group work. Home work will include a one-page research summary in which you present additional material on your biographical figure. Attendance is not required -- however, it will be reflected in the PRS grade. You must come to class on time and may

not leave early to receive PRS credit. The final portfolio grade will be based on a combination of participation and quality of work.

Each portfolio should come in a manila folder or have a report cover with your name. It should contain the following items:

- 1) All class work dated and in order (except PRS results)
- 2) Copies of group work sheets
- 3) Biographical research summary (and any notes that you would like to include).

Getting in touch with us:

- Our doors are open for regular office hours or by appointment. We will be happy to answer questions about readings, clarify points from lecture, or discuss historical issues in greater depth.
- E-mail: We check e-mail on a regular basis, however you should allow 24 hour response time, and longer on the weekend.
- T-Square. I will post a copy of the syllabus and other important notices or changes on T-Square. I do not post lecture notes on T-Square. You will need to come to class or borrow a friend's notes to obtain lecture information.

A few necessary rules:

Classroom etiquette:

- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, text-messaging etc. You may use a lap top for notes only, but if you choose to do this you must sit in the back row or on an aisle seat where you won't disturb other students. Please do not talk with other students, read newspapers, do outside work, play on your computer, check e-mail, sleep etc. This is distracting to me and to other students, so please be thoughtful. If you engage in any of these practices we reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.
- Be on time, do not come and go, or leave early.
- There will be many opportunities for thoughtful class participation – please be informed and considerate – and remember other students might have differing opinions.

Test days:

- Missed exams lead to a zero, unless you have cleared a make-up and have an excused absence beforehand. You must take all exams to pass the course.
- Excused absences: Following are the only categories that count as excused absences – and they all require notes. Severe illness: Doctor's note. Death in family: Note from funeral parlor. Religious holiday: Statement from faith leader. Official campus business: note from coach or professors. Again, let me remind you there are no make-ups for class projects -- because these are primarily a class participation grade and I have made an allowance for two excused absences.
- Please bring a number 2 pencil and your ID. Even if you are having a bad hair day – please do not wear a hat!

Other notes:

- This syllabus is subject to change – be aware of any in class announcements. I will post all changes in writing. But if you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you missed – make friends with people in the class and stay in touch.
- If you have a disability please let us know after the first class so that we can follow university guidelines.
- Please let us know if you are having problems or have any special needs. We are here to help you.
- Scholastic dishonesty: Students who violate university rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the university, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Class Schedule

Day	Reading Assignment	Tests and other notes
T Aug 18	None	
R Aug 20	None	
T Aug 25	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 18	
R Aug 27	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 19	
T Sept 1	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 20	
R Sept 3	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 21	
T Sept 8	<u>Portraits</u> : Sheridan, Picotte, Lease, Turner, Rockefeller	
R Sept 10	No reading	Study day
T Sept 15	No reading	Test 1
R Sept 17	No reading	
T Sept 22	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 22	
R Sept 24	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 23	
T Sept 29	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 24	
R Oct 1	No reading	Fall Break
T Oct 6	<u>Portraits</u> : Roosevelt, Debs DuBois, Sanger	
R Oct 8	No reading	
T Oct 13	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 25	
R Oct 15	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 26	
T Oct 20	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 27	
R Oct 22	<u>Portraits</u> : Roosevelt, Long, Patton	
T Oct 27	No reading	Study day
R Oct 29	No reading	Test 2
T Nov 3	No reading	
R Nov 5	<u>Inventing</u> , Chpt. 28	

