

HIST 2112: Survey of American History since 1877
M/W/F 9:05 – 9:55 a.m.
Spring 2015
Classroom: Klaus 1443

Instructor: Dr. Johnny Smith

Email: john.smith@hts.gatech.edu

Office: G21 Old Civil Engineering Building

Office Hours: M/W 1:15-2:30 or by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is a survey of United States history since Reconstruction. It will provide students with a basic historical framework and introduce the major themes, events, and personalities of the period. We will explore social, economic, cultural, and political developments since 1877. The topics/themes to be covered include: urbanization, industrialization, migration, diversity, citizenship, popular culture, war, and globalization.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will demonstrate:

- The ability to identify key episodes in modern American history, thereby enhancing their knowledge about the United States 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

Required Books:

Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*

Charles Ponce de Leon, *Fortunate Son: The Life of Elvis Presley*

David Farber, *Taken Hostage: The Iran Hostage Crises and America's First Encounter With Radical Islam*

Grading and Requirements:

Lecture Quizzes: Six (6) unannounced in-class quizzes will be given, each worth up to 10 points. I will drop your lowest quiz score, counting only your five highest scores. Quiz questions will come directly from lecture. Each quiz will be given in a short answer format. **If you miss a quiz or are late for a quiz you will not be allowed to schedule a make-up.**

Book Quizzes: Two (2) in-class book quizzes will be given, each worth up to thirty points. Each quiz will include multiple-choice questions. It is a student's responsibility to be in class for both book quizzes. **If you miss a book quiz you will receive a zero.**

Exams: Three (3) in-class exams will be given. The first two exams are worth sixty points each. The final exam, which will cover lecture material and Farber's *Taken Hostage*, will be worth 90 total points. Each exam will include a multiple-choice section. On the day of the exam students must bring two number-two pencils, and their student identification card.

It is a student's responsibility to be in class for all exams. If you miss an exam then you will receive a zero. If you have a **verifiable medical emergency and a waiver from the dean of students** then I will allow you to make-up an exam. You must have documentation of an emergency; otherwise I will not grant a make-up.

Exam and Book Quiz Schedule:

Exam One (60 Points): Friday, February 6

Book Quiz One (30 Points): *Arc of Justice*, Monday, February 16

Exam Two (60 Points): Friday, March 13

Book Quiz Two (30 Points): *Fortunate Son*, Friday, April 13

Final Exam (90 Points) (Includes *Taken Hostage*): Friday, May 1 (8:00 a.m. to 10:50)

Grading Scale

A: 90-100%

B: 80 - 89%

C: 70 - 79%

D: 60 - 69%

F: 59% and below

Academic Honesty

Students in this class will be expected to abide by the Georgia Tech honor code.

Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with Georgia Tech rules. For information see

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

General Courtesy Guidelines

I expect you to respect your classmates and me at all times. You are expected to be on time for class, refrain from speaking out of turn. I will not tolerate sleeping in class, text messaging, or any other disruptive behavior. If you engage in any kind of inappropriate behavior I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). The ODS phone number is 404-894-2563. If you plan to taking exams through ADAPTS notify me two weeks before the scheduled exam date.