

AMH 2020
United States History Since 1877
University of Florida
Spring 2017

Instructor: William A. Link

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Office Hours: MW, 3-4, or by appointment

Lectures: MW, period 6, 12:50-1:40

Course TA: Meagan Frenzer

Lecture Location: Matherly 107

E-learning: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Course Objectives:

This course explores United States history from Reconstruction to the present, employing perspectives of culture, economy, society, race, gender, and politics. Our topic is a big one; we will tackle it by focusing selectively on themes and trends. We will also emphasize exposure to the things historians do and how they think—in brief, to analyze, understand, and explain. In other words, we want to learn about our past, but also engage in critical thinking, interpretation of evidence, and expository writing.

Required Reading:

Text:

Nancy Hewitt and Steven Lawson, *Exploring American Histories*, 2nd edition (Bedford, 2017)

Additional required readings:

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (available on ebook on Canvas)

Melton McLaurin, *Separate Pasts*

Attendance Policy

Attendance in lecture will be taken throughout the semester. You are permitted two absences without penalty, but on the third and each subsequent absence, your final grade for the course will be reduced by a third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A to a A-, an A- to a B+, etc.).

General Class Behavior

Treat the class, your fellow students, and the instructor respectfully. This includes:

- Use computers responsibly—stay off shopping websites, facebook, and so forth. If appears that computer use is being abused, I will institute a no-computer policy.
- Turning off cell phones prior to class;
- Arrive at class on time;
- Remain in class until class is over;
- Engage in discussion properly: good listening is as important as good talking.

Grading

- 2 Midterms—30 percent (15 percent each)
- Final exam/test— 20 percent
- 2 analytical essays—30 percent (15 percent each)
- Participation— 20 percent

Grading Scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Participation grade:

The participation grade includes:

- **Weekly discussion posts** (10 percent). You must make a post of no less than 200 words once a week on e-learning, in a response to a prompt posted weekly on canvas (under “discussions”). This weekly reading responses should reflect careful reading and a thoughtful reaction. In addition, you are required to post **at least one** reply to your classmates that engages with the ideas of your peers. These posts will be graded and are due by noon each Friday and will cover the textbook and other reading of the previous week. ***Please note that the first discussion post is due noon on Friday, January 13th.***

Part of the grade reflects the seriousness with which you take the assignment. For example, don’t leave all of your posting to the last minute! The TA, Meagan Frenzer, will manage the discussion part of Canvas.

Here's a general rubric of what we're looking for, in terms of discussion posts:

90-100 The student has not only done the reading but in discussion posts has actively engaged with its main themes, completed the homework thoughtfully, and participated in discussion posts in such a way that demonstrates a command of the material. The student is careful to engage with other classmates through additional discussion posts.

80-89 The student has completed the readings and the homework but may have done so cursorily; his/her posts demonstrate satisfactory but not excellent engagement with the material.

60-79 The student may or may not have done the reading, and the discussion posts do not reflect active engagement with the themes of the text or with classmates; his/her posts demonstrate satisfactory but not excellent engagement with the material; and the quantity of posts is inadequate.

0 The student did not post.

- **In-class oral discussion** (10 percent). The important quality here is not necessarily the *quantity* of oral discussion, but the *quality*. However, students should strive, at a minimum, to make at least one comment per discussion section. Primary emphasis should be given to participation that encourages the thinking of your classmates and stimulates mutual interaction.

There will be two midterms and a final (not cumulative, essentially a third midterm). These tests will cover all reading and discussion up to that point, and the final will cover the last portion of the course since the midterm.

NB: I do not provide study guides, and expect all the material in class to be covered.

Essays

Students will write two 750-word essays about the two other books we read in class, Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* and Melton McLaurin's *Separate Pasts*. These essays, which should be posted on Canvas no later than Monday at noon on the week during they are due, should be analytical in nature. You should consider these questions: 1) What is the main point of the book? 2) How does the authors make their case? 3) How does the book's context shape its message? 4) How do you assess the book's value?

NB: All essays must be submitted in Microsoft Word.

Important Dates

- Midterm Exam # 1 February 8
- 2-3 pp. essay # 1 due February 27
- Midterm Exam # 2 March 22
- 2-3 pp. essay # 2 due April 19
- Final Exam April 26, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Make-up/Late Work Policy

Missed weekly assignments may not be made up. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late. Should you have a university-excused absence, contact Professor Link beforehand (or if it is unforeseen emergency, as soon as possible after your absence) to make make-up arrangements. Otherwise, missed exams cannot be made up.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty

All students need to be aware of the University's policy on plagiarism. The internet has made this situation more problematic, but understand that plagiarists will be caught. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask. All plagiarism offenses will be reported on a Faculty Adjudication Form and forwarded to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. You may get more information on UF's Judicial Affairs process at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

Course Schedule

Week One (January 4-6) and Week Two (January 9-13)

The Civil War's Aftermath

Read: *Exploring*, chapters 14-15

Section reading: Document Project 14

Week Three (January 16-20)

NB: No class on Monday, January 16th because of MLK holiday

The Industrial Revolution

Read: *Exploring*, chapter 16

Section reading: Section reading: Document Project 16

Week Four (January 23-27)

Workers and Farmers in the Industrial Age

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 17; Upon Sinclair, *Jungle*, pp. 1-74

Section reading: Document Project 17

Week Five (January 30-February 3)

Immigration and Urbanization

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 18;

Section reading: Document Project 18

EXAM # 1: Wednesday, February 8

Week Six (February 6-10)

The Progressive Era

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 19; Sinclair, *Jungle*, pp. 75-204

Section reading: Document Project 19

Week Seven (February 13-17)

Imperialism and World War

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 20; Sinclair, *Jungle*, pp. 75-204

Section reading: Document Project 20

Week Eight (February 20-24)

The Twenties

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 21; Sinclair, *Jungle*, pp. 205-91

Section reading: Document Project 21

Week Nine (February 27-March 3)

Depression and New Deal

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 22; Sinclair, *Jungle*, pp. 292-413

Section reading: Document Project 22

Monday, February 27: 2-3 pp. essay # 1 due

Spring Break, March 6-10

Week Ten (March 13-17)

World War II

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 23

Section reading: Document Project 23

Exam # 2: Wednesday, March 22nd

Week Eleven (March 20-24)

The Cold War

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 24; McLaurin, *Separate Pasts*, pp. 1-88.

Section reading: Document Project 24

Week Twelve

The 1950s (March 27-31)

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 25; McLaurin, *Separate Pasts*, pp. 1-88.

Section reading: Document Project 25

Week Thirteen (April 3-7)

The Revolt of the Sixties

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 26

Section reading: Document Project 26

Week Fourteen (April 10-14)

The Rise of Modern Conservatism

Read: *Exploring*, Chapter 27

Section reading: Document Project 27

Monday April 10: 2-3 pp essay # 2 due

Week Fifteen (April 17-19)

NB: No discussion section this week

The End of the Cold War and 21st Century America

Read: *Exploring*, Chapters 28-29

Final Exam: April 26, 12:30 – 2:30 pm