

AMH 2020

U.S. History since 1877

Instructor

Matthew Blake Strickland
PhD Candidate, History
mbstrickland@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Keene-Flint 222
MW 9:30-10:30
Lecture: Keene-Flint 113
MWF Period 4

Course Description

This course will survey the social, political, and cultural history of the United States from Reconstruction to the present.

Course Objectives

Students will learn:

1. The major events that led to the creation of modern America
2. How to analyze historical contingency and change over time
3. How to critically evaluate primary and secondary sources
4. How to write thesis-driven essays based on primary and secondary sources

Required Texts

Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird* (ISBN 9780060935467)

The American Yawp (This textbook is free online at <http://www.americanyawp.com/>)

Other required readings are available online or on Canvas.

Grading Scale and Assignment Summary

Attendance	5%
Participation	5%
Quizzes	10%
Final Project	15%
Midterm	20%
Essay	20%
Final Exam	25%

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Attendance: 50 points (5%)	935-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
Participation: 50 points (5%)	900-934 = A-	A- = 3.67
Quizzes: 100 points (10%)	870-899 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Timeline Project: 150 points (15%)	835-869 = B	B = 3.00
Midterm Exam: 200 points (20%)	800-834 = B-	B- = 2.67
Essay: 200 points (20%)	770-799 = C+	C+ = 2.33
Final Exam: 250 points (25%)	735-769 = C	C = 2.00
Total: 1,000 points (100%)	700-734 = C-	C- = 1.67
	670-699 = D+	D+ = 1.33
	635-669 = D	D = 1.00
	600-634 = D-	D- = 0.67
	0-599 = E	E = 0.00

Only course grades of C or better will satisfy Gordon Rule, general education, and college basic distribution credit.

There will be six unannounced quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will cover the content of that week's readings and lecture material. I will drop the lowest quiz grade.

There is one essay in this class. This is a formal writing assignment that should be 1200 – 1800 words (4 - 6 pages). I will provide the prompt as the semester progresses. You will have the prompt no later than six weeks before the due date.

You will have a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam in this class. Both exams have two parts: identifying terms and essay questions. We will further discuss the exam structure later in the class during any review that we do. The Final Exam is cumulative, meaning it will cover any information from this class since the beginning of the semester.

You will have a Timeline Project that is worth 15% of your overall grade. This assignment will be a group project that is presented to the rest of class. Each group is required to create an interactive timeline for a certain theme or topic I assign. This is meant to be a fun, creative assignment that evaluates your ability to examine and analyze the most important events in American history. More details will be available after the Midterm.

In order to make up any assignment, university-approved documentation is required. If you have questions about this, please contact me immediately following the absence so that it can be taken care of as soon as possible. I will not evaluate "excused absences" more than two weeks after the absence. Essays that are turned in late will be deducted five percentage points per day late.

Course Policies

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Attendance:

In order to ensure success in this course, it is imperative that you attend all class meetings. Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class. Without showing up to class, you cannot fully participate.

Participation:

For the purposes of this class, participation means you are **actively** contributing to the discussion. This could include probing questions, insights regarding readings, or making connections across multiple weeks in the course. All of these involve communicating to me and the rest of the class that you are prepared and engaged with the lectures and/or material.

Academic honesty:

Plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and academic dishonesty. It is the failure to properly cite and give credit when you use the ideas, words, phrases, or arguments of other people in your writing assignments. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." For more information regarding the Honor Code, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Tentative Course Schedule

(Note: Canvas will have the most up-to-date course schedule. Any changes as the semester progresses will be announced there)

Week 1	Reconstruction
M 1/7	Course Introduction
W 1/9	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 15
F 1/11	Read: Hannah Rosen, “Not That Sort of Women” [Canvas]
Week 2	Western Expansion
M 1/14	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 17
W 1/16	
F 1/18	Read: Frederick Jackson Turner, “Significance of the Frontier” [online]
Week 3	Industrial America
M 1/21	No Class: MLK
W 1/23	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 16
F 1/25	Read: Kathryn Kish Sklar, “Hull House in the 1890s” [Canvas]
Week 4	Urban Society
M 1/28	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 18
W 1/30	
F 2/1	Read: “The Mirror with a Memory” [Canvas]
Week 5	Creating Modern American Culture
M 2/4	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 19
W 2/6	Read: William McKinley on American Expansionism [online]
F 2/8	
Week 6	Progressivism

M 2/11	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 20
W 2/13	
F 2/15	Watch: <i>Slavery by Another Name</i> PBS Documentary [online]
Week 7	An Emerging World Power
M 2/18	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 21
W 2/20	Read: "Era of World War I documents" [Canvas]
F 2/22	
Week 8	Midterm Week
M 2/25	Midterm Review
W 2/27	Midterm Exam
F 3/1	No Class
Week 9	SPRING BREAK!!!
M 3/4	No Class: Spring Break
W 3/6	No Class: Spring Break
F 3/8	No Class: Spring Break
Week 10	The 1920s
M 3/11	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 22
W 3/13	Read: "1920s documents" [Canvas]
F 3/15	
Week 11	The Great Depression
M 3/18	Read: <i>American Yawp</i> , ch. 23 Watch: FDR's Fireside Chat, 1933 [online]
W 3/20	

F 3/22 Read: “Depression Era documents” [Canvas]

Week 12 Another World War
M 3/25 Read: *American Yawp*, ch. 24

W 3/27 Read: FDR, “Four Freedoms” [Canvas]

F 3/29 Read: “Anti-Japanese Prejudice during World War II” documents [Canvas]

Week 13 The Cold War Begins
M 4/1 Read: *American Yawp*, ch. 25-26

W 4/3 Read: “Cold War documents” [Canvas]

F 4/5

Week 14 The Civil Rights Era
M 4/8 Watch: MLK’s “I have a dream” speech [online]

W 4/10 Read: Danielle McGuire, “It Was Like All of Us Had Been Raped” [Canvas]
Essay Due

F 4/12 No Class: Work on Final Presentation

Week 15 Moving Toward the Present
M 4/15 Read: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, part 1

W 4/17 Read: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, part 2

F 4/19 Read: *American Yawp*, ch. 27-28

Week 16 Final Project Presentations
M 4/22 Three In-Class Presentations

W 4/24 Three In-Class Presentations

R 5/2 Final Exam 10:00am – 12:00pm