

**AMH 2020: U.S. History from 1877**  
University of Florida, Summer B  
Keene-Flint 117, MWF Period 4 (12:30pm-1:45pm)

Instructor: Matthew Simmons, Ph.D.

Email: mattfsimmons@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2pm-3pm in Keene-Flint 009

Grade breakdown is as follows:

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and Participation | 15% |
| Quizzes                      | 15% |
| Paper                        | 20% |
| Midterm                      | 25% |
| Final Exam                   | 25% |

**Grading Scale:**

A 93 - 100

A- 90 - 92

B+ 87 - 89

B 83 - 86

B- 80 - 82

C+ 77 - 79

C 73 - 76

C- 70 - 72

D+ 68 - 69

D- 64 - 65

F <64

**Course Description:**

This is an undergraduate survey course of U.S. History from 1877 to the present day. Together we will explore the historical trends and processes that have resulted in the world we live in today. Throughout the course we will engage with many different ways of analyzing the past i.e. viewing the past from political, economic, cultural, and social points of view. Themes of race, class, and gender will also be emphasized in such a way as to always keep the individual in the center of our discussion. History is much more than remembering a collection of dates, important events, and “great” leaders; history, at its core, is about everyday individuals and their interactions with the world around them. This course is designed to not only provide you with a rudimentary knowledge of our national past (and where applicable its international context), but also to develop transferable skills that will serve you well beyond the classroom. Consequently, this course will help to develop reading comprehension, critical thinking, and cogent writing. The format of this course is lecture and discussion. Generally, Mondays and Wednesdays will be lecture days, whereas Friday will be a day to discuss specific readings from *Women, Families, and Communities* and *After the Fact*. This is not to say that students are not expected to participate in lectures when appropriate-I expect students to be prepared to contribute to the learning process every day we have class-however, the bulk of a student’s participation grade will be based on Friday discussions. My teaching approach heavily emphasizes collaboration and student-generated analysis of past events thus making student engagement with the material and participation in discussions essential.

## Readings:

*Women, Families, and Communities: Readings in American History*, Volume II. Hewitt & Delegard-2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2008 (Listed in Syllabus as **WFC**)

*After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection*, Volume II. Davidson & Lytle. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition 2010. (Listed in Syllabus as **ATF**)

*Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*. Blackmon. Anchor Books, 2008. (Listed in Syllabus as **SBAN**)

*The American Yawp*. Locke & Wright. <http://www.americanyawp.com/> (Listed in Syllabus as **Text**)

## Course requirements and expectations:

Students are expected to come to class on time and be prepared to participate in discussions about the weekly readings. Students are allowed **two unexcused absences** during the semester. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a student's final course grade being lowered by one letter grade. I realize that many students use laptops for note-taking; I also realize that laptops can also be used for a variety of things which have absolutely nothing to do with learning. Should it become apparent laptops and/or smartphones, tablets etc....are impeding the learning process I reserve the right to ban them from the classroom.

## Exams:

You will have two major examinations in this class-a midterm and a final exam. The format will be the same for both, although the midterm will be shorter in duration. Each exam will consist of short identification questions and one essay for the midterm and two essays for the final. The midterm will take place on **Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** during our regular class period. The final exam will take place on **Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** during our regular class period. Both examinations will take place in our normal classroom.

## Quizzes:

There will be **six unannounced quizzes** given throughout the semester. They will be short in duration (5-10 minutes) and consist of fill-in-the blank and multiple-choice questions. Only five quizzes will count toward your final grade-the lowest quiz score will be dropped. If you are absent on a quiz day that quiz will count as your lowest quiz score. These quizzes are given to ensure you are keeping up with the readings/lectures.

## Paper:

You will write a **short paper (4-6 pages)** on a question related to Blackmon's *Slavery by Another Name*. You will receive a handout on this assignment within the first two weeks of class. This assignment will be **due July 29<sup>th</sup>**. Assignments must be uploaded to **Canvas as well be submitted in hard copy** on the date indicated in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day late. All papers are due in Times New Roman with 1-inch margins.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

I am committed to accommodating students with disabilities. Please notify me early in the semester if you have a disability and require special accommodations. If you have questions about disability services, please consult the Disability Resource Center website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>.

A Note on Academic Honesty: I encourage you to talk to, study with, and learn from your classmates. However, I expect you to do your own work. If I discover that you have engaged in dishonest activities, you WILL FAIL the course and I will report you to the academic dean for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions, please talk to me or consult the Dean of Students website at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/>

### **Class Schedule:**

(All assignments and dates are subject to change, but with advance warning)

#### Week One: July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup> (No Class Thursday and Friday)

*Introduction/Reconstruction/Conquering the West*

- Text-Chapter 15: Reconstruction
- Text-Chapter 17: Conquering the West
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 2: Hull House in the 1890s/ATF-Chapter 8: The View from the Bottom Rail (**this will be a written assignment which will be explained in class**)

#### Week Two: July 8<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>

*Industrial Supremacy/Age of the City/American Empire*

- Text- Chapter 16: Capital & Labor
- Text- Chapter 18: Life in Industrial America
- Text- Chapter 19: American Empire
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 3: Coming of Age/ATF-Chapter 9: The Mirror with a Memory

#### Week Three: July 15<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup>

*Progressive Era/World War I/New Era*

- Text-Chapter 20: The Progressive Era
- Text-Chapter 21: World War I and its Aftermath
- Text-Chapter 22: The New Era
- Discussion: Chapter 5: I Had My Own Business/ATF-Chapter 11: Sacco and Vanzetti

#### Week Four: July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>

*The Great Depression/New Deal/WWII*

- **Midterm Exam: Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Text-Chapter 23: The Great Depression
- Text-Chapter 24: World War II
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 7: Women of the Depression/ATF-Chapter 13: The Decision to Drop the Bomb

Week Five: July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>

*Cold War/Affluent Society/Civil Rights*

- Paper Due: **Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**
- Text-Chapter 25: The Cold War
- Text-Chapter 26: The Affluent Society
- Text-Chapter 27: The Sixties
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 16: Breaking into Watergate/ ATF-Chapter 15: Sitting-In

Week Six: August 5<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup> (Guest Lecturers part of this week)

*Vietnam War/Age of Reagan/Age of Globalization*

- Text-Chapter 28: The Unraveling
- Text-Chapter 29: The Triumph of the Right
- Text-Chapter 30: The Recent Past
- Discussion: WFC-Chapter 11: Moral Mothers and Goldwater Girls/WFC-Chapter 13: Domestica
- **Final Exam: Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**