

# HIST 2112-12: United States History since 1877

Kennesaw State University

Semester: Fall 2019

Location: Social Sciences 2036

Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm-3:15pm

## Contact Information

Instructor: Pearl J. Young  
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Office Hours: Monday, 1:20pm-3:00pm  
Thursday, 12:30pm-1:45pm  
And by appointment

## Course Description

This course explores major themes in the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the United States since 1877, the multicultural nature of contemporary U.S. civilization, and the nation's role in the global arena.

Through lectures, discussions, and readings, we examine the history of the United States from Reconstruction through the modern era. We investigate the multicultural nature of the United States, the challenges of expansion and globalization, and increasing tensions over American values and identities.

## Learning Objectives

**HIST 2112** satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education program requirements. It addresses the **U.S. Perspectives** general education learning outcome(s). The learning outcome states: Students identify the historical, political, social, or institutional developments of the United States. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit the [course catalog](#).

## Required Books

Eric R. Foner. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*, v.2. Seagull 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. (W.W. Norton, 2017) (ISBN: 978-0393614190)

Michael P. Johnson. *Reading the American Past: Selected Historical Documents*, v. 2. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012). (ISBN: 978-0312563776).

Various readings make available through d2l or published online.

## Electronic Communication

The University provides all KSU students with an official email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu". As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

### Attendance Policy

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class. Non-attendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Attendance will be taken at every class session. The instructor reserves the right to take attendance verbally, through activities, or in written form. Students may miss up to four classes for any reason without penalty. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Arriving late, leaving early, taking breaks, and disrupting the class may count as an absence.

### Evaluation Criteria

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A: 90.0-100%

B: 80.0-89.9%

C: 70.0-79.9%

D: 60.0-69.9%

F: 0-59.9%

**I:** indicates an incomplete grade for the course and will only be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair's office.

### Grade Breakdown

Response Paper (4)	15%	<i>lowest paper dropped</i>
Midterm Exam (2)	10%	
Participation & Attendance	10%	
Final Exam	25%	

### Course Policies

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due on D2L at the beginning of lecture on Friday. If the student is unable to turn in an electronic copy for some reason, the student must bring a hard copy to class and submit an electronic copy within 24 hours to avoid forfeiting credit for the assignment.

**Make-up Exams:** If arranged beforehand, make-up opportunities will be provided at the instructor's discretion for documented medical or other emergencies.

**Electronic Devices Policy:** The use of electronic devices is permitted only for note-taking during lectures. Keep in mind that your classmates can and will be easily distracted. To maintain proper standing in the class, silence your cellphones and put away all electronic devices including (but not limited to) cellphones, iPods, cameras, recording devices, etc. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during examinations.

**Academic Integrity:** The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and

degrees depend on it. Breach of academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, any type of fraud or misrepresentation. Students suspected of violating the KSU Statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation and will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Any violation may result in failure of the course.

**Communication Policy:** Please come and talk to me if you have any questions about the course or the course content. I am available during my office hours and by appointment. I can also be easily reached by email and do my best to respond to email within 24 hours during the workweek. (Emails or other requests for a grade increase, credit for late work, or other random acts of mercy will be ignored.)

**Professional Courtesy:** Civil communication is essential to ensure broad participation among students. To ensure discussions remain informative and respectful, please exercise professional courtesy. Students are expected to participate in discussions in a respectful manner, being courteous, kind, forgiving, and free from profane and offensive language. Personal attacks, insults, and threats will not be tolerated and may result in a failing participation grade or removal from the course at the instructor's discretion.

## **Institutional Policies**

[Academic Affairs: Federal, Board of Regents, and KSU Policies](#)

[Academic Affairs: KSU Student Resources](#)

Additional [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the [Student Code of Conduct](#), published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5c of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. In this course, incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an informal resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

## **ADA Compliance**

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require "reasonable accommodation(s)" to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course

syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, <http://sds.kennesaw.edu/>

### Additional Items

**Course Structure:** This course meets for lecture or discussion on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for 50 minutes. On days marked “workshop,” I will lead the class through several activities that will focus on the given topic to practice the craft of history.

**Exams:** Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. Key terms for each week are posted to d2l in a weekly study guide and will be covered during lecture. Exam questions will be based on the key terms, important people, and themes discussed in class as well as the assigned readings. The final exam will be cumulative.

**Sourcebook Readings:** Each week, readings from Michael Johnson’s *Reading the American Past* or online sources are assigned. We will alternate between in-class discussions and short homework assignments to give you the opportunity to practice engaging with and analyzing primary documents. On the four weeks when a response paper is due, reading questions will be posted on d2l in the weekly study guide. Response papers are due at the beginning of designated classes on Friday via d2l. Late homework will not be accepted.

### Changes to the Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any substantive changes which impact grade calculations or grading will be announced in writing using D2L and will be emailed to the class. If you have concerns about announced changes, please contact the instructor and ask for clarification before the end of the semester.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1: Reconstruction

08/20	Reconstruction Policies
08/22	Reconstruction: Success or Failure?

#### Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 15: “What is Freedom?: Reconstruction”  
 Mississippi Black Code. (1865). *Reading the American Past*, 5-8.  
 The Late Convention of Colored Men. “Statement.” (1865) (d2l)

**Week 2: The Gilded Age**

08/27 Business & Politics in a Changing World  
 08/29 Social Reform Movements

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 16: "America's Gilded Age."  
 William G. Sumner. "What Social Classes Owe to Each Other." (1883). *Reading the American Past*, 45-48.  
 Andrew Carnegie. "Wealth." (1889). *Reading the American Past*, 52-55.

**Week 3: Populism & Imperialism**

09/03 Populism  
 09/05 The Spanish-American War **Reading Response #1 due**

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 17: "Freedom's Boundaries, At Home and Abroad."  
 Helen Campbell. Interviews with Domestic Servants. (1880s). *Reading the American Past*, 64-67.  
 Jacob Riis. "Waifs of New York City's Slums. (1890). *Reading the American Past*, 67-70.

**Week 4: The Progressive Era**

09/10 Progressive Presidents  
 09/12 Progressive Reform in the Urban Context

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 18: "The Progressive Era."  
 Jane Addams. "The Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements." (1892). *Reading the American Past*, 101-105.  
 Booker T. Washington. "The Atlanta Exposition Address." (1895). *Reading the American Past*, 114-117.  
 Upton Sinclair to Theodore Roosevelt. (1903) (d2l)

**Week 5: Midterm**

09/17 **Midterm Exam** **Scantron 106173**  
 09/18 Workshop: The Craft of History & Citizenship in World War I America

**Week 6: World War I**

09/24 Fighting the War  
 09/26 Winning the Peace

**Reading Response #2 due**

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 19: "Safe for Democracy: The United States and World War I"  
 Eugene Debs. Speech at Canton, Ohio. (1918). *Reading the American Past*, 126-130.  
 Woodrow Wilson. The Fourteen Points. ([online](#))

**Week 7: The Twenties**

10/01 Isolationism  
 10/03 Consumption in the Roaring Twenties

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 20: "From Business Culture to Great Depression"  
 Edward Earle Purinton. "Big Ideas from Big Business." (1921). *Reading the American Past*, 143-148.  
 Reinhold Niebuhr. Diary Entries. (1925-1928). *Reading the American Past*, 149-152.

**Week 8: The Great Depression & the New Deal**

10/08 The Great Depression & the First Hundred Days  
 10/10 The New Deal & Its Opponents

**Reading Response #3 due**

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 21: "The New Deal"  
 Working People's Letters to New Dealers. (1935-1939). *Reading the American Past*, 169-174.  
 Huey Long. "Speech to Members of the Share Our Wealth Society." (1935). *Reading the American Past*, 174-177.

**Week 9: World War II**

10/15 To Fight or Not to Fight?  
 10/17 Victory in Europe and in Japan

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 22: "Fighting for the Four Freedoms: World War II"  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt. "The Four Freedoms." (1941) ([online](#))  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Speech to Congress." (1941). *Reading the American Past*, 187-189.

**Week 10: The Early Cold War**

10/22 Early Cold War Policy  
 10/24 The Cold War at Home

George F. Kennan. "The Long Telegram." (1946). *Reading the American Past*, 213-217.

Joseph McCarthy. Speech at Wheeling, West Virginia. (1950). *Reading the American Past*, 221-225.

**Week 11: Midterm**

10/29 **Midterm Exam** **Scantron 106173**  
 10/31 Workshop: Growing up in the Cold War Era

**Week 12: The Eisenhower Era**

11/05 Eisenhower's Liberal Conservatism  
 11/07 New Foreign Policies

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 24: "An Affluent Society."

North Dakota Civil Defense Agency. "How You will Survive." (1960). *Reading the American Past*, 242-246.

Dwight D. Eisenhower. Farewell Address. (1961). *Reading the American Past*, 246-249.

**Week 13: The Sixties**

11/12 Dreaming of Freedom  
 11/14 Vietnam & the Cost of Freedom **Reading Response #4 due**

## Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 25: "The Sixties."

Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). "The Port Huron Statement." (1962). *Reading the American Past*, 250-254.

Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." (1963). *Reading the American Past*, 254-159.

Betty Friedan. *The Feminine Mystique*. (1963). (d2l)

### **Week 14: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan**

11/19 Vietnam & Watergate

11/21 A Crisis of Confidence & Morning in America

#### Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 26: "The Triumph of Conservatism."

Jimmy Carter. "The Crisis of Confidence." (1979) (d21)

Ronald Reagan. "Address to the National Association of American Evangelicals." (1983). *Reading the American Past*, 314-317.

### **11/25-11/29 Thanksgiving Break**

### **Week 15: The Post Cold War Era**

12/03 The End of an Era

12/05 New Threats: September 11, 2001

#### Readings:

*Give Me Liberty!* ch. 27: "From Triumph to Tragedy."

William Clinton. "Farewell Address." (2001) (d21)

George W. Bush. "Address to Congress and the Nation." (2001) ([online](#))

### **Final Exam**

**12/10 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Scantron 106173

Last Day to Withdraw without academic penalty: October 9