

## Honors American Civilization since 1865

HY 206

Dr. Lisa Lindquist Dorr

Spring 2004

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This course will survey American history from the end of the Civil War to the present. It will consider such themes as industrialization, urbanization, and the impact of race, ethnicity, class, and gender on American society, culture, and politics. It will pay close attention to the different and often conflicting meanings that different groups of Americans, such as African Americans, women, immigrants, laborers, capitalists, politicians, and students, have ascribed to the words “freedom,” “equality,” “opportunity,” and “America.” The lectures and the readings do not attempt to provide a “complete” history of the American past. Instead, they attempt to expose you to the wide variety of questions that historians ask and how they go about answering them. This approach will provide you with a framework on which to build further study, to hone your critical thinking skills, and to think about current social, political, and cultural issues. By the end of the course, you will have a basic understanding of the major events, trends, and ideas shaping our nation’s past, and will have honed your critical thinking skills, as well as your ability to articulate and defend your ideas both verbally and in expository writing.

### Required Books:

*The American Story*, Vol. II  
*Voices of the American Past*, Vol. II  
*Urban Emancipation*, by Michael W. Fitzgerald  
*The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair  
*Jack Dempsey*, by Randy Roberts  
*Inside the Vicious Heart*, by Robert H. Abzug  
*Warriors Don’t Cry*, by Melba Patillo Beals  
*The Seventies*, by Bruce J. Schulman

### Course Requirements:

Lectures and Discussions: Every week there will be two lectures and a discussion section, all of which students are **required** to attend. The lectures and the readings do not cover the same material. The lectures are intended to provide an overarching framework within which you will think critically about the readings. Reading assignments **must be completed** by the scheduled discussion. To make the most of this course, students must come to class prepared to engage with the material. This requires close attention to the lectures, and a willingness to enter into a dialogue with the assigned readings. You might consider who the author of a reading is, and his or her location in time and space. How does the author’s own perspective color his or her views of the material? What questions does the author attempt to answer and what supporting evidence does he or she supply to prove the main point? What questions, issues and evidence does the writer *ignore*, and how does that affect his or her overall argument? Do you agree or disagree with what the author has to say and why? You must not merely form an opinion about the author’s argument, but you must engage the author on his or her ground.

**Expect weekly quizzes on the reading assignments.** Your performance in the discussion periods will comprise **20 percent** of your final grade.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class, and I will take attendance every day. You will be allowed four absences without penalty (and thus no excuses are required). For absences five, six, and seven, your grade will be lowered one-third of a letter grade for each absence. On the eighth absence, you will automatically fail the course for blatant neglect.

**A Note on Plagiarism, Cheating, and Other Forms of Academic Misconduct:** All students are bound by the University of Alabama's regulations regarding academic conduct and honor. I take all allegations of academic misconduct extremely seriously, and believe they should be severely punished. Plagiarism, defined as "taking and passing off as one's own the ideas, writings, or work of another," will not be tolerated. All student work must be original and unaided; any ideas or quotations borrowed from anyone else must be properly documented (by footnotes in papers, by attribution in examinations). Students may NOT submit work completed for another course in fulfillment of any assignment in this course. Students who fail to follow these guidelines will be referred for disciplinary action to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The same procedure applies to those who cheat on examinations.

**Assignments:** *Students must complete all assignments to pass the course.*

There will be one midterm exam, two papers, and a final exam. The midterm exam will be on **Wednesday, February 18**. Exams will contain both short answer questions and essay questions and will draw from both the lectures and the readings.

The first paper will be due on **Monday, February 2**. The second paper will be due on **Monday April 12**. Both papers will focus on topics handed out in class. It is your responsibility to make sure that you obtain the assignment in a timely fashion. The papers will require students to use information from the designated readings and the relevant lectures to form their own argument. Each paper must have a well-defined thesis statement, and must support its argument with evidence from the assigned readings.

For both exams and papers, it will not be enough to merely regurgitate the material from class. You must use the information to form a coherent, and well-presented, argument.

**Late Paper and Midterm Make-Up Policies:** Papers handed in late (after class ends on the specified due date) will be penalized one third of a letter grade (an A becomes an A-) per day or fraction thereof that it is late. I will occasionally make exceptions, but only when extenuating circumstances are brought to my attention at least twenty-four hours before the paper is due. I will also occasionally allow students to take a make-up midterm exam, but only in the case of extreme extenuating circumstances. Again, I must be notified of such circumstances at least twelve hours before the scheduled exam.

The assignments are weighted as follows:

Paper #1	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Paper #2	25%
Final Exam	25%
Discussion	20%

Students with documented special needs should see me about appropriate accommodations.

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS ASSIGNMENTS

For assignments in *Voices from the American Past*, read the entire chapter (including the introductions) unless otherwise noted. Chapters in *The American Story* are recommended reading.

- W Jan. 7 Introduction to a Nation Divided  
You should start reading *Urban Emancipation*
- F Jan. 9 Reconstruction Part I
- M Jan. 12 Reconstruction Part II  
*American Story*, Chapter 16
- W Jan. 14 The New West  
*American Story*, Chapter 17
- F Jan. 16 Discussion of *Urban Emancipation*
- M Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO CLASS
- W Jan. 21 The Rise of the Populist Movement  
*American Story*, Chapter 20
- F Jan. 23 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 18 and 21
- M Jan. 26 Creating a Culture of Segregation
- W Jan. 28 Big Business and Big Labor  
*American Story*, Chapters 18 and 19
- F Jan. 30 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 19 and 20
- M Feb. 2 Immigration  
**Paper #1 Due in Class**
- W Feb. 4 Progressivism Part I  
*American Story*, Chapter 22 and 23
- F Feb. 6 Discussion of *The Jungle*
- M Feb. 9 Progressivism Part II
- W Feb. 11 Foreign Policy in an Imperial Age  
*American Story*, Chapter 21
- F Feb. 13 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 22 and 24
- M Feb. 16 World War I  
*American Story*, Chapter 24
- W Feb. 18 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- F Feb. 20 War's Aftermath

- M Feb. 23 The Culture of the 1920s
- W Feb. 25 Reactions against Modernism and the 1920s  
*American Story*, Chapter 25
- F Feb. 27 Discussion of *Jack Dempsey*
- M Mar. 1 The Great Depression
- W Mar. 3 The New Deal  
*American Story*, Chapter 26
- F Mar. 5 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 25 and 26
- M Mar. 8 World War II  
*American Story*, Chapter 27
- W Mar. 10 The Cold War  
*American Story*, Chapter 28
- F Mar. 12 Discussion of *Inside the Vicious Heart*
- M Mar. 15 The Other 1950s  
*American Story*, Chapter 29
- W Mar. 17 The Struggle for Civil Rights
- F Mar. 19 Discussion of *Warriors Don't Cry*
- M Mar. 22 Kennedy and Johnson
- W Mar. 24 The Vietnam War  
*American Story*, Chapter 30
- F Mar. 26 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 28 and 29
- SPRING BREAK
- M Apr. 5 Protest
- W Apr. 7 Nixon  
*American Story*, Chapter 31
- F Apr. 9 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapter 30
- M Apr. 12 Carter and Ford  
**Paper #2 Due in Class**
- W. Apr. 14 Making the Reagan Revolution  
*American Story*, Chapter 32
- F Apr. 16 Honor's Day NO CLASS

M Apr. 19 Discussion of *The Seventies*

W Apr. 21 The 1980s

F Apr. 23 The 1990s  
*American Story*, Chapter 33

M Apr. 26 Discussion of *Voices*, Chapters 31 and 32

W Apr. 28 The Present and Forward

F Apr. 30 Tying Up Loose Ends

**Final Exam:** Monday, May 3, 11:30–2:00 pm