HISTORY 212
UNITED STATES SINCE 1877

Winthrop University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History

HIST 212; Section 001; CRN-21592; Spring 2015; 3 hours credit; M-W 3:30-4:45; Kinard 204.

Prof. D. Rakestraw: 210 Dinkins & 367 Bancroft; Ph. 323-3923 (Dinkins); rakestrawd@winthrop.edu; Office hrs: M/W 11:00-12:00 Bancroft; T/TR 10-12 & 2-4 Dinkins; or by appointment.

Course Description: A survey of political, diplomatic, economic, social, intellectual and ethnic developments since Reconstruction with attention to development of the Federal Constitution. This course will begin with a discussion of the issues resulting from Reconstruction and conclude with the U.S. struggle to find its proper role in a twentieth-century global community. Along the way we will examine both the familiar and the unfamiliar, the famous and the obscure, each playing an essential part in the history of the United States and its place in an evolving and diverse human experience. HIST 212 satisfies a history major and minor requirement as well as the Historical Perspectives and Constitutional component of the General Education Curriculum.

Required Reading:

Volume 2: Since 1865 (ISBN-10: 0-205-96090-1). This is available at the campus book store and is also, after purchase, “app-able” for those of you who wish to access it through your favorite smart thingy.
John Hollitz, Thinking Through the Past, Volume 2 (any edition that includes selected assignments posted on Blackboard). This volume also will be placed on reserve at Dacus Library. You may also rent the assigned chapters from the bookstore or from http://www.cengagebrain.com.

University-Level Competencies (ULCs) that apply to this course are:

Competency 1: Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems. Winthrop University graduates reason logically, evaluate and use evidence, and solve problems. They seek out and assess relevant information from multiple viewpoints to form well-reasoned conclusions. Winthrop graduates consider the full context and consequences of their decisions and continually reexamine their own critical thinking process, including the strengths and weaknesses of their arguments.

Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live. Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens.
Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively. Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

Objectives/outcomes: Students will examine the history of the United States and will demonstrate understanding that 1) historical events and eras are dynamic and open to revision—in other words, just because that’s how you thought it happened or how the coach said it happened doesn’t necessarily make it so; 2) history plays out within the context of its unique moment and, while debate within the current moment may be stimulating, final assessment must ultimately defer to context; 3) the history of the United States is more than the history of those individuals immortalized by grand portraits and imposing statues; it draws from ordinary individuals with extraordinary stories.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected and will be considered in the determination of the final average. Cuts in excess of four whether for seemingly legitimate purposes or not will result in a reduction of five points EACH from the semester point total. On the other hand, five points will be awarded to any student who misses no more than two class sessions. Since attendance is taken at the beginning of each class session, tardiness will likely be recorded as an absence.

ATTENTION: Attending an occasional class and showing up for the final will not satisfy a financial aid obligation.

Commitment: All members of the community understand that to succeed in classes, students must be active participants in their education while understanding and complying with each course syllabus. Students should plan on spending at least two hours of study for every one hour in class. For example, a 15-credit-hour schedule requires at least a 45-hour commitment per week. Outside preparation and class attendance alone do not guarantee success or the highest grades; rather, mastery of the material and acquisition of necessary skills determine success and grades.

Make-ups: There are few satisfactory excuses for missing an exam. Death and childbirth (your own in both instances) will justify a make-up. Other excuses may or may not be accepted and will only be considered if documented. (All makeup exams will be administered the last Friday before Final’s week at 7:00 am.)

Evaluation: There will be three exams, each covering one third of the course material, including reading assignments as specified in course outline and supplements as directed. The final exam will connect broad themes across the course and will include a “recovery” essay section. Students are therefore encouraged to maintain their course materials from day one to the final exam. Students will also submit two (1000 word minimum) essays drawing from the Hollitz reader (30 pts each). Prompts will be posted on Blackboard for essays on 1) “Evaluating Primary Sources: ‘Saving’ the Indians in the Late Nineteenth Century” and 2) “Ideology and History: Advertising in the 1920’s.” Students also will be required to produce an essay (1200 word minimum) on the US Constitution (40 pts). The prompt for this essay will be posted on Blackboard. The total possible points for the term will be 400 (+ 5 attendance pts).
### Turnitin Instructions:
http://www2.winthrop.edu/dacus/resources/usingturnitin.htm

Class ID  9284606  
Password  Webster

**Note:** 1) **Late papers will result in an automatic 25% reduction for each Class session beyond the due date.** 2) **The minimum word count for papers ONLY accrues from the essay text. Extraneous words, such as name, course, professor, etc. do not count.**

Assessment scale:

- **A = 372-400 pts:** Indicates exceptional understanding and demonstrated mastery of material presented and satisfaction of course objectives.
- **A- = 360-371 pts:**
- **B+ = 348-359 pts:** Indicates above average understanding of the material presented and satisfaction of course objectives.
- **B = 332-347 pts:**
- **B- =320-331 pts:**
- **C+ = 308-319 pts:** Indicates average understanding of material presented and satisfaction of course objectives.
- **C= 292-307 pts:**
- **C- =280-291 pts:**
- **D+ = 268-279pts:** Indicates adequate understanding of material presented and minimum satisfaction of course objectives.
- **D = 252-267 pts:**
- **D- = 240-251 pts:**
- **F = 000 – 239 pts:** Indicates inadequate understanding of material presented, unsatisfactory performance on course objectives, and necessitates repeat of course.

### COURSE OUTLINE

**Part I FROM REUNION TO REVISED DESTINY**

- **Dates:** 12 January – 16 February
- **Text material:** Brands 353-502.
- **Exam:** 18 Feb. (1*)
- **Week One:** Introduction and “A Reconstructed Union?”
- **Week Two:** Jim Crow’s South and Black Elk’s West
- **Week Three:** Pressing New Frontiers, Growth and Growing Pains
- **Week Four:** Parties, Politics, and Darwin?
  
  **Essay One Due: 4 February**
  
  **Week Five:** Approaching a New America, a New Century and a New Destiny

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* Exact dates for exams will be announced well in advance to permit adequate procrastination. It is the student’s responsibility to keep abreast of any information pertinent to this class.
Week Six (1): First Exam, 18 February

Part II FROM ROOSEVELT TO ROOSEVELT

Dates: 23 February – 25 March
Text material: Brands, pages 503-624.
Exam: 30 March
Week Six (2): The “Good Years,” the “Other Half,” and the Progressives
Week Seven: America’s Rise and the Great War
Week Eight: Disillusionment and Depression
Week Nine: Alphabet Soup (New Deal)

Essay Two Due: 9 March

Week Ten: Spring Break (be careful!)
Week Eleven: Transition: From Peace to War &
Week Twelve: Second Exam, 30 March

Part III From Pearl Harbor to Tranquility Base and the Unsettling Twilight of the Twentieth Century.

Dates: 1 April- 27 April
Text material: Brands, pages 625-773.
Final Exam: Friday 5 May @ 3:00
Week Twelve: World War, the sequel
Week Thirteen: Cold War: Here, There, and Everywhere
Week Fourteen: Rock, Ike, and Happy Days?

Essay Three Due: 13 April

Week Fifteen: Civil Rights, Uncivil War and twilight on the “American Century”
Week Sixteen: Wrapping Up –
Final Exam: 5 May, 3:00-5:00

CLASS RECORDS (A SIMILAR WORKSHEET MAY BE REQUIRED WITH SIGNATURE AT FINAL)

Exam One Score: ___
Exam Two Score: ___
Exam Three Score: ___
Essay One: ___
Essay Two:                      Essay Three:                      ___
Cuts by date: 1)____ 2)____ 3)____ 4)____ 5)____ -5 pts. 6)____ -10 pts. 7) ouch!

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 803-323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT: As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online Student Handbook which can be accessed at:

http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf

Dishonesty is a serious offense in all its forms, whether lying about reasons for an absence or missed assignment or cheating on a test or misrepresenting borrowed material as your own. It can result in a failing grade on a test, assignment, or the course, or even dismissal from the university.

ACTUAL AND VIRTUAL CIVILITY: All members of the community are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their professional interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Academic discourse, including discussion and argumentation, is to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner that is respectful of and understanding toward both peers and professors. Students are expected to be prompt to class and attentive during class and to respect their fellow classmates’ interest in hearing and learning the material presented. Students who are disruptive in any way will not be counted present for the particular class session. THIS INCLUDES CELL PHONES! They must be deactivated at the start of class. Habitual infractions--INCLUDING TEXT MESSAGING, TWEETING, OR WHATEVER CREATIVE WAY OF COMMUNICATING COMES ALONG--will be noted as an absence, inadequate class performance, and ultimately may result in a failing grade for the course.

COMPUTER RULES: Laptops may be used in class ONLY with prior permission and assignment to a computer seat. To retain computer privileges, students must e-mail class notes to me immediately following each class session. Failure to do so will result in loss of privileges for the term.

Important Dates: 4 February, Essay One; 18 February, Exam One; 9 March, Essay Two; 30 March, Exam Two; 13 April, Essay Three; 5 May, 3:00-5:00, Final Exam.

*THE ABOVE SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE EVENT OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.*