Syllabus for HIST 212: US History Since 1877 (03) Section 004 (CRN 21847)
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.  Kinard 207

Dr. Ginger Williams
Office Hours:  T,R: 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  (And by appointment)
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Course Description:

HIST 212, United States History Since 1877. This course examines the major social, economic, and political trends and events that have shaped what becomes the United States Since 1877.

Course Objectives:

1) That the student strives to understand important major trends and facts in United States history since 1877, 2) That the student demonstrates his/her knowledge of class notes and assigned readings on exams, 3) That the student demonstrates his/her proficiency in reading the assigned textbook and readings, and 4) That the student attend class regularly and participate in class discussions with the goal of becoming more proficient in making oral arguments, and 5) That the student build on essay writing skills through writing coherent fact-based essays on exams and in online discussions, and 6) That the student improve their skills in making connections between U.S. events and themes and current events and themes.

History Department Mission, Student Learning Outcomes, and University Level Competencies:

The mission of the Department of History at Winthrop University is to promote in students historical skills and knowledge. Our students develop the habit of critical thinking and the capacity for “historical thinking.” Historical thinking means developing a firm grasp of the multiplicity and intricacy of historical causes and effects, and understanding of how knowledge is a human construct, an ability to think from a global perspective, and an appreciation for the variety of approaches of historical interpretation. Students also advance their fluency in written and oral expression and argumentation. Students develop the skills to conduct independent research. This course (HIST 212) fulfills three of six of the Learning Outcomes of the history department, including Student Learning Outcome #2: Students will demonstrate understanding of ethical dimensions of historical moments, processes, and developments; Student Learning Outcome #4: Students will communicate effectively core themes, ideas, and subject matter in both written and oral form; and Student Learning Outcome #6: Students understand and critically discuss significant issues and themes of United States history. History department Student Learning Outcomes #2 and #4 are also University Level Competencies.

Course Requirements:

1) Students are required to attend class. I take roll every class period. Class attendance and participation counts for 10% of your course grade. (See further notes on class participation on this syllabus)
2) Students are required to take each of the three exams on scheduled exam days. For each exam, students are required to bring a bluebook and write in pen. Each exam counts for 20% of your course grade. You may not take an exam without a bluebook and you must write in pen. If you write in pencil you will automatically lose ten points on your exam grade.

3) Students are required to write one book review based on a scholarly history book that covers the time frame of the course (since 1877). The required book review counts for 10% of your course grade. All book reviews will be turned in to me and posted on turnitin. You will receive book review guidelines separately.

4) Students must purchase course texts. I will check for course texts on the Monday of the third week of classes. Showing ownership of course texts counts for 5% of your course grade.

5) You will take three quizzes that will come from the book Such As Us: Southern Voices of the Thirties. These quizzes will be announced in class. Each quiz counts for 5% of your course grade for a total of 15%.

Failure to complete all of the requirements results in a failing grade for the course.

Exams:

There will be three exams; each exam counts for 20% of your course grade. Exams will consist of identifications and essays. Exam questions will be taken from class discussions, lectures, assigned readings, and all pertinent material covered in class. **To pass the exams you must study class notes and read all pertinent material.**

Grades will be assigned on the following grading scale: 92-100=A, 90-91=A-, 88-89=B+, 82-87=B, 80-81=B-, 78-79=C+, 72-77=C, 70-71=C-, 68-69=D+, 62-67=D, 60-61=D-, below 60=F.

**Note on Grades:** Grades are earned, not given. If you want a particular grade, plan to put the effort in to earn that grade.

Required Texts:


- Tom Terrill and Jerrold Hirsch, Such as Us: Southern Voices of the Thirties (WW Norton and Company, 1979.)

Late Papers and Exam Makeups:

All papers and class work are to be turned in on time. Only written medical excuses or confirmation of a personal or family tragedy will be accepted as excuses. Late papers will be docked ½ letter grade for each class day it is overdue. Make-up exams will be given during the last week of the semester.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend class. If you are absent you are personally responsible for all pertinent material. I do not repeat class notes or lectures outside of class. If you miss more than five classes you will fail the course. You must be in class on time. **Arriving late will count as ½ of an absence. Do not**
expect to make a habit of being late to class. It is disruptive to both me and to your classmates. Attendance and class participation counts for 10% of your course grade.

**Cell Phones:**

All cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. Cell phones must remain off during class. If your cell phone rings during class, or if you text during class, **you will be counted absent for the day and your attendance/class participation grade will be lowered one letter grade.** You may not take notes on a laptop or tablet unless you have documentation from the Office of Disability Services. **If you have your cell phone on a second time, you will lose ten points from your final grade.**

**Final Exam:** The final exam is scheduled for **April 30 at 11:30 a.m.** You must take the final exam at this time. There will be no final exam make up.

**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.

**Opinions, Questions, Comments, Criticisms:**

Debate, discussion, disagreement and freedom of thought are essential to education and to a free society. Comments are always welcome as long as you are respectful to me and to your classmates. Grades do not depend on agreement with the professor.

**Additional Information:**

If you have any problems or questions, please come by and see me during my office hours to clear them up as soon as possible. Also, remember that you are here to learn. That can be accomplished only if there is a clear understanding of my expectations, your responsibilities, and an earnest desire to do so.

**Important Dates:**

**First Exam:** Tuesday, February 10

**Second Exam:** Thursday, March 12

**Book Review:** Tuesday, April 21 (in class)

**Final Exam:** Thursday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m.

**Schedule:**

**Week One:** January 13-January 16: Introduction to course, review syllabus, Summary of Reconstruction, and US Western Expansion. Reading: *America’s History*, chapter 16.


Week Six: February 16-20: The United States and World War I. Reading: America’s History, chapter 22.

Week Seven: February 23-27: The United States and the Roaring 20s: Reading: Such As Us: Southern Voices of the Thirties, pp. 3-29, pp. 45-64. Reading quiz on Thursday, February 26.

Week Eight: March 2-6: The United States and the Great Depression Reading: Such As Us, pp. 72-108, America’s History, chapter 23. Second reading quiz on Thursday, March 5.

Week Nine: March 9-16: The United States and World War II: Reading, America’s History, chapter 24, Such As Us, pp. 121-188. Second Exam: Thursday, March 12.

Week Ten: No classes for spring break. Reading: Such as Us, pp. 243-270.


Week Twelve: March 30-April 3: The United States and the Cold War. Reading: America’s History, chapter 25.


Note: This syllabus is subject to change. All changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. The syllabus to this course will appear electronically on blackboard and on the History Department’s website. I can send you an electronic copy of the syllabus whenever you request one.