

United States History Since 1877  
History 152, Spring 2000

Russell Wigginton

Office: 401 Clough

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30-10:00; by appointment

Phone: (office) 843-3997, (home) 272-0885; please do not call after 10:00 p.m.

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide a general knowledge of the social, political, and economical developments in the United States from the post-Reconstruction era to recent times. In doing so, we will look closely at major events, ideas, institutions, and people over approximately 120 years. Hopefully, investigating such aspects of nineteenth and twentieth century America will provide the student with a historical context for more specific components of the American experience(s).

### Readings

Tindall and Shi, *America: A Narrative History*

Supplementary readings packet available through the History Department (308 Clough)

### Grading

Grades will be determined from the following course requirements:

1. 45% (15% each) - Three 2-4 page “reaction” papers. Throughout the semester, students will write essays in response to questions that arise from the readings, lectures, and discussions.
2. 20% - Exam I. This examination will consist of a few short answers (4-8 sentences) as well as at least one more lengthy essay. In answering these questions, students will be expected to incorporate the readings, lectures, and class discussions.
3. 20% - Final Exam. This examination will consist of short answers (6-8 sentences) that will cover material from the entire semester.
5. 15% - Attendance/Participation. Although lectures will take up much of class time, student discussions of issues raised throughout the semester will also be an important component. Thus, students are expected to attend class and be prepared to discuss the major themes from the readings.

\*Late Policy - There will be no extensions given on any written assignments without a letter grade per day penalty (this includes papers handed in on the same day but after the

designated time). The only exceptions will be those that the College deems as “acceptable” in the Student Handbook. Students should also note that having other exams and papers due on the same day will not be considered a valid excuse.

## Class Assignments

### Postwar 19th century America

1/13 Introduction

1/18 The New South--Tindall and Shi, chapter 19; pages 796-811; Woodward, “Forgotten Alternatives,” pg. 31-65

1/20 The West--Tindall and Shi, chapter 19; pg. 812-834

1/25 Business and Labor--Tindall and Shi, chapter 20

1/27 Immigration and Urbanization--Tindall and Shi, chapter 21

2/01 Gilded Age Politics--Tindall and Shi, chapter 22; pg. 926-947

2/03 Populism--Tindall and Shi, chapter 22; pages 947-963; “The Ocala Platform, 1890,” pg. 133-134; “Tom Watson’s Strategy,” pg. 134-139

2/08 Racial Conditions--Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address,” pg. 145-151;” Dubois, “The Niagara Movement,” pg. 236-253

2/10 Imperialism--Tindall and Shi, chapter 23

2/15 Paper 1 Due (15%); no reading

### 20th century America (Progressive Era)

2/17 Progressive Politics--Tindall and Shi, chapter 24

2/22 Progressive Race Relations/Women/Education--Crowe, “Racial Violence and Social Reform-Origins of the Atlanta Riot of 1906,” pg. 234-256; Leloudis, “Women and School

Reform in North Carolina,” pg. 260-275

2/24 World War I--Tindall and Shi, chapter 25

2/29 Exam 1 (20%)

### Post-WWI Society

3/02 “Red Summer” and “Red Scare” and the 1920s--Tindall and Shi, chapter 26; Garvey, “The Future as I See It,” pg. 73-78

3/14 “Normalcy”--Tindall and Shi, chapter 27

3/16 The Depression--Foner, “Black Workers During the Great Depression,” pg. 188-203

#### FDR and the New Deal

3/21 FDR and New Deal--Tindall and Shi, chapter 28

3/23 Paper 2 Due (15%); no reading

#### World War II Era

3/28 Wartime; Black Women and War--Tindall and Shi, chapter 30

#### Cold War Era

3/30 Postwar and Truman--Tindall and Shi, chapter 31

4/04 Eisenhower--Tindall and Shi, chapter 32 and 33

#### The Second Reconstruction

4/07 Kennedy and Johnson--Tindall and Shi, chapter 34; Brown v. Board of Education, pg. 540-541; “Southern Manifesto, 1956,” pg. 541-543

4/11 Civil Rights Movement--King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” pg. 544-557

4/13 Paper 3 Due (15%); no reading

4/18 Nixon: Vietnam and Watergate--Tindall and Shi, chapter 35

4/25 The 1980s--Tindall and Shi, chapter 36

4/27 The 1980-90s--Tindall and Shi, chapter 37

5/03 Final Exam (20%); 1:00-3:30