

“All of this is on account of we want to register, to become first-class citizens. And if the Freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America. Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hooks because our lives be threatened daily, because we want to live as decent human beings, in America?”

-Fannie Lou Hamer

Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, Democratic National Convention 1964



Fannie Lou Hamer (center) meets with Annie Devine and Victoria Gray outside the Capitol on January 4, 1965. The civil rights advocates traveled from Mississippi to Washington, D.C., to increase public understanding about barriers preventing African Americans from voting.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROFESSOR:

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CONFERENCE HOURS

This is a fully online course.

Email anytime. Please allow 48-hour response time. Zoom conferences are available Monday through Wednesday before 4pm. Email to arrange.

MODALITY

We will have Live Lectures on specific Tuesdays as a class/group throughout the semester as noted on the calendar below. All are welcome to use the sessions as an opportunity to ask questions, gain clarity and commune with one another. All students must watch the live lectures. Students can do so one of two ways:

1) Attend live with your camera on. Doing so will boost your grade when contributing to the discussions as outlined by the professor. 2) If you cannot attend the scheduled live lectures, there will be no penalty to your grade, nor will there be an opportunity for extra credit. The lecture will be recorded, and you are to watch the recording when your schedule allows in order to prepare for quizzes and exams.

All students must have functioning wifi at all times, especially during periods which require submission of materials. The university library and early submission of materials are the best ways to avoid tech related challenges. Due to the nature of this course, malfunctioning wifi will never be accepted as a valid excuse for failure to submit or late submission of assignments, tests or quizzes.

OVERVIEW:

This course will cover the history of the United States from the Civil War up to the present day. We will examine how the United States has changed socially, politically, demographically, economically, and ideologically over time. We will discuss Americans' diverse experiences with the growing industrial economy, the expanding reach of the American geopolitical and economic empire, the crusades of reformers, and the long rise of modern conservatism. Students will have the opportunity to consider the founding principles of the nation--liberty, equality, and freedom--how they have been enjoyed by some and denied to others. We will together discuss how Americans have disagreed over what it means to be American and what the idea of America has represented at home and abroad.

THEMES:

Citizenship: Who has enjoyed it, who has been denied it, how has it been contested, and what does it mean?

Rights: How have they been created, contested, denied, earned, redefined and by which

individuals and groups United States as a global power?

Empire: When did the US become an empire, how did American involvement reshape global politics and economics and vice versa; how has a globally engaged US changed American values?

CIVIC LITERACY COMPETENCIES:

- Identify and explain the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government,
- An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application,
- Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance, and
- An understanding landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions, and their impact on law and society.

LEARNING GOALS:

In this course, students will:

- Develop core competencies in the historical changes in the United States over the past 150 years across political, economic, cultural, social, and environmental relationships
- Practice ethical historical inquiry by considering complex arguments, contradictory sources, and the relationship of the past to the present
- Build skills to analyze, interpret, and contextualize primary and secondary sources to understand and explain continuity and change over time.
- Analyze competing perspectives and develop methods to consider and describe historical events from multiple perspectives.

ACCOMODATIONS

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know. Please provide your accommodations documentation at the start of the semester and email the professor before quizzes and any other assignment that should be modified according to your needs.

REQUIRED TEXT

US History via Rice University/Open Stax. No purchase required. Access here:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/us-history>

GRADING SCALE

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
59 and Below	F

*Grades will be calculated according to a 100-point scale and will not be based on percentages earned.

GRADING STUCTURE

Exam 1	25 points
FAMU History Project	25 points
Discussion Posts (5 Posts)	20 points (4 points each)
Final Exam	30 points
Accountability Contract — Contract must be submitted to clear attendance holds.	

Grading Calculation:

Simply add all earned points. The sum is the final grade for the course. DO NOT attempt to calculate your grade by the percentages or averages provided by Canvas. Simply add the points received for Discussion Posts, Projects, and Exams. There will be **NO make-up opportunities** for exams or other assignments unless arranged PRIOR to the due date by student and professor. Extended times for submission of exams and assignments (except Virtual Discussion Circles) will already be in place so that students can excel and work at times most convenient for them. That said, therefore a need for extensions will not exist and none will be given unless required by CEDAR.

Course Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading

Participation—*Attendance and Participation is critical to making this course successful.* Not only does it offer a broader range of ideas, but it also provides better observation for evaluating how well each student is processing the reading materials.

Live Lectures—Attendance will be worth 4 extra credit points per session/meeting, given you contribute to the discussion by providing extensive and informative responses to questions the professor will pose about the weeks and the previous week’s assigned reading. Make sure you attend sessions/meetings prepared to discuss assigned materials in depth. Expect sessions to last about 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).

Discussion Posts—Students will respond to discussion posts throughout the semester and offer thoughtful commentary and meaningful analysis in the post about a specific section within the week’s (or the week prior’s) reading. Responses should be packaged in a paragraph with at least 7 sentences and published on the Discussion Board thread in Canvas.

Exams—Exams consist of multiple choice, short essay, and essay questions. They are held online. Students will be given prior notice.

Educational Costs—Students should anticipate paying about \$35 total over the course of the semester (**IF** they do not already have access to Netflix, Amazon Prime, Apple Downloads, etc.) for access to various multimedia sources.

Important University Policies

Incompletes: The grade of “I” is given only when a student’s who is passing the course at the end of the semester cannot finish the class due to events beyond his or her control. The missing work may be a major quiz, a final examination, a term paper, or other work. It is not given in lieu of an F. The instructor will stipulate, in writing, at the time the grade is given the conditions under which the “I” may be removed. This temporary grade of “I” is non-punitive and semester hours for the course are not considered in the computation of the quality-point average. Removal must be within one calendar year after the “I” is assigned, or the “I” grade shall become an “F”. The grade “I” is not assigned if the student must retake the course. In the event a student who earns a grade of “I” decides to retake the course, the student is required to pay for that course.

Withdrawal: You will not be automatically withdrawn from a course because you stopped attending class and doing your work; we make no assumptions. Therefore, such a student will get an “F” at the end of the semester, which will affect financial aid and jeopardize his or her standing at FAMU. Students who have stopped attending classes in a given semester due to

personal or health reasons, should officially withdraw from his or her courses altogether to avoid getting an “F”.

Scholastic Dishonesty: Students must maintain a high standard of honesty in their academic work. They should avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, especially the following:

- a. Plagiarism. The appropriation of passages, either word for word (or in substance) from the writing of another and the incorporation of these as one’s own written work offered for credit.
- b. Collusion. Working with another person in the preparation of notes, themes, reports, or other written work offered for credit unless such collaboration is specially approved in advance by the instructor.
- c. Cheating on an examination or quiz. Giving or receiving, offering or soliciting information, or using prepared material in an examination or testing situation. On examinations and quizzes students are expected (a) to remain in the examination room until the examination is finished, (b) to refrain from talking, and (c) to refrain from bringing notes and books into the examination room.
- d. Impersonation. Allowing another person to attend classes, take examinations or to do graded assignments for an enrolled student under his or her name is strictly forbidden.

A violation of any of the above offenses will incur severe disciplinary action ranging from suspension to expulsion from the University. Specific guidelines will be administered by each dean.

The Department of History’s policy is that students will get a zero on the assignment the first time he/she is caught plagiarizing/cheating. Students will automatically fail the course after a second violation. All papers are run through SafeAssign.

COURSE CALENDAR:

- Virtual lectures will take place on Tuesdays at 2 PM EST, unless otherwise noted. Keep up with changes via Canvas.
- Live Lecture Extra Credit: Students must attend the entire session with their cameras on, ask thoughtful questions and contribute to the discussion. At the close of the lecture, they will include their names in the chat to receive 3 extra credit points.
- Discussion Posts: Students will respond to discussion posts throughout the semester and offer thoughtful commentary and meaningful analysis based on the Discussion Board prompt posted in Canvas. The prompt will require students to watch a multi-media presentation.

Week 1: AUG 28-SEP 1

- **Live Lecture August 29 @ 3:30 PM EST – Course Introduction**
Key Lessons:
- Troubled Times: The Tumultuous 1850s

Week 2: SEP 4-8

- **Discussion Post #1 Due September 5 @ 11:59 PM EST**
*Prompt will come from “The African Americans: Into the Fire”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBFOK8JANI0&list=ELI3DPOfJfsH8&index=4>
- **Required Reading: Chapters 14- 16**
- **Signed Accountability Contract Due September 8 @ 11:59 PM EST**
Key Lessons:
- The Civil War & Reconstruction

Week 3: SEP 11-15

- **Live Lecture September 12 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 17 & 18, to be completed BEFORE the lecture.**
Key Lessons:
- Westward Expansion and Industrialization

Week 4: SEP 18-22

- **Discussion Post #2 Due September 19 @ 11:59 PM EST**
*Prompt will come from “Booker T. Washington and the Struggle against White Supremacy” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hDzaxtBw6A>
- **Required Reading: Chapter 19 & 20**
Key Lessons:
- Urbanization and the Politics of the Gilded Age

Week 5: SEP 25-29

- **Live Lecture September 26 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 21, 22 & 23, to be completed BEFORE the lecture.**
Key Lessons:
- The Progressive Movement, Foreign Policy & The Great War

Week 6: OCT 2-6

- **Discussion Post #3 Due October 3 @ 11:59 PM EST**
*Prompt will come from C-SPAN “The Progressive Era” <https://www.c-span.org/video/?457834-2/progressive-era>
- **Required Reading: Chapter 24**
Key Lessons:
- The Jazz Age

Week 7: OCT 9-13

- **Live Lecture October 10 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 25, to be completed BEFORE the lecture.**
Key Lessons:
- The Great Depression

Week 8: OCT 16-20

- **Midterm**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 26**
Key Lessons:
- FDR & The New Deal

Week 9: OCT 23-27

- **FAMU History Project Due October 24 @ 11:59 PM EST**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 27**
Key Lessons:
- World War 2

Week 10: OCT 30-NOV 3

- **Live Lecture October 31 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**

- **Required Reading: Chapter 28, to be completed BEFORE the lecture.**
Key Lessons:
- Pop Culture, Mass Media and Civil Rights

Week 11: NOV 6-10

- **Discussion Post #4 Due November 7 @ 11:59 PM EST**
Prompt will come from PBS Makers “Women Who Make America” Parts 1 and 2
√ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxrOe1aGa7M>
√ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUkBeVdOZO>
- **Required Reading: Chapter 29**
Key Lessons:
- Kennedy, LBJ & Civil Rights

Week 12: NOV 13-17

- **Live Lecture November 14 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**
- **Required Reading: Chapter 30, to be completed BEFORE the lecture.**
Key Lessons:
- Vietnam & The Tumultuous Sixties, 1960-1968

Week 13: NOV 20-24: THANKSGIVING

Week 14: NOV 27-DEC 1

- **Discussion Post #5 Due November 28 @ 2 PM EST**
Prompt will come from “Planet Rock” <https://vimeo.com/63091487>
- **Required Reading: Chapter 31**
Key Lessons:
- Culture Wars

Week 15: DEC 4-8

- **Live Lecture December 5 @ 2 PM EST. See Canvas for login.**
Key Lessons:
- Challenges of the 21st Century

Week 16: DEC 11-15

- **Final Exam on December 11. Must be submitted within 72 hours of publication.**