

## Syllabus

## HIST 1161-003

# U.S. History Since 1865

UNC-Charlotte, Spring 2017

This course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00-12:15 in CHHS 376

Instructor: Dr. Mark Wilson, Professor, History Dept.  
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Main UNCC Canvas page: [canvas.uncc.edu](http://canvas.uncc.edu)

### Course Description and Goals

This lecture and discussion course surveys the history of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the present. We concentrate on three major themes: race, sex, and citizenship; the USA and the world (including war, peace, and foreign relations); and political economy. (This semester, the political economy unit will include a special focus on the subject of taxes.) One of the challenges of the course is to trace major developments in all three of these fields across a century and a half of time. Doing so should enrich students' understanding of the world in which they live today, as well as their appreciation of the past. This should make them better-informed, more effective citizens. Course assignments encourage students to improve their writing skills and their abilities to critically assess information.

### Attendance, Etiquette, and Participation

Attendance is required; attendance will be taken each day, using a seating chart and/or the short answers to in-class exercises, submitted by individuals and teams. Teams will be created during the second week of the semester. You should plan on attending every single class meeting.

All exams and other assignments assume that students have attended each class meeting and have carefully followed each lecture and discussion. If an emergency causes you to miss a class meeting, you should contact the instructor or a fellow student to ask about the content of that meeting. If you have a lengthy illness or other persistent problem that causes you to miss more than two class meetings, you should contact the Dean of Students and speak with the instructor.

During class, turn off electronic devices (unless they are used to take notes for personal use), be on time for class, stay for the duration, and be respectful when others are speaking. All students will benefit from taking notes during class.

To each regular class session, bring with you a notebook and pens, as well as the hard copies of the required readings for that day and/or your detailed notes on those required readings.

### Exams

The midterm exam (covering Unit 1 of the course) and final exam (covering Units 2-3) will consist of short answer and essay questions. All exams will be written in blue examination books, which you will need to purchase in advance. Make-up exams will be given only to students who have a valid and documented medical or activities-related excuse. Please note that the final exam is scheduled for 11:00 AM -1:30 PM on May 9.

### Short Papers

There are two required short papers: one on the Wells book, and one on the Manela book. Each paper will be approximately 1,000 words in length (about 4 double-spaced pages). Detailed guidelines for these papers will be distributed well in advance of the deadlines.

### Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty and integrity are essential to the existence and growth of an academic community. Without the maintenance of high standards of honesty, members of the instructional faculty are defrauded, students are unfairly treated, and society itself is poorly served. Maintaining academic standards of honesty and integrity is ultimately the formal responsibility of the instructional faculty; and this responsibility is shared by all members of the academic community. For a formal statement of university policy on this matter, see <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>

Plagiarism on any assignment will bring a minimum penalty of zero credit for the assignment, as well as an academic settlement that will likely result in a minimum of recording the violation with the Dean of Students. More severe penalties, including an F for the course, may also be imposed, depending on the circumstances. For guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and its consequences, please visit <http://history.uncc.edu/Student-Resources/plagiarism>

### Diversity:

UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the diversity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

### Disability:

If you believe that you have a disability that requires special accommodations in this course (or others), you should contact immediately the Office of Disability Services, 704-687-0040, [disability@uncc.edu](mailto:disability@uncc.edu), <http://ds.uncc.edu/>.

Weight of course requirements for grading purposes (100 total available points):

Attendance and participation, including completion of short in-class exercises (one full point for each of the 29 regular class sessions attended <u>and</u> with satisfactory completed exercise. Attendance only = one half point)	29%
Short paper #1 (on Wells book), due Jan. 31	13%
Midterm exam, in class, scheduled for Feb. 21	15%
Short paper #2 (on Manela book), due March 16	13%
Final exam, scheduled for May 9, 11:00-1:30	30%

Bonuses and extra credit: In-class exercises will be assessed using a simple three-grade system, including check-minus (unsatisfactory exercise, credit for attendance only); check (satisfactory); and check-plus (outstanding). Check-plus grades will be assigned only to those exercises that demonstrate clearly a deep engagement with the question and a thorough command of the relevant required readings, with highly relevant specific examples used as evidence. Each check-plus grade on an in-class exercise earns the team or individual a half-point bonus (extra credit).

Students may also earn up to 2 points of extra credit by attending a relevant out-of-class talk or event (such as a talk on campus given by a visiting speaker) and submitting a 200-word discussion of the event and its relation to the content of our course.

Required books (available at UNCC bookstore and on reserve in the library):

Ida B. Wells, *Southern Horrors and other Writings*, 2nd edition, ed. Jacqueline Jones Royster (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016).

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Students should also purchase 3 blue books, for exams, at Gray's or UNCC bookstore.

Course Calendar

Note that the reading and writing assignments (in bold) are due on the day under which they are listed, so they must be completed in advance. You will want to start reading each of the two required books early, pacing yourself, so that you do not have to scramble to read dozens of pages at the last minute.

10 January     Introductions

12 January     Why Study History? / Introduction to Unit 1: Race, Sex, & Citizenship  
**Read before class on January 12: Stearns article—see link on Canvas**

- 17 January Reconstruction  
**Read Constitutional amendments 13, 14, 15. See link on Canvas.**  
**Also, get ahead by starting to read in the Wells book**
- 19 January The End of Reconstruction and the Rise of Jim Crow  
**Read the following article (see link in Canvas): Andrea Meryl Kirshenbaum, “ ‘The Vampire That Hovers Over North Carolina’: Gender, White Supremacy, and the Wilmington Race Riot of 1898,” *Southern Cultures* 4, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 6-30.**
- 24 January Special Focus on Ida B. Wells  
**Read, in the Wells book, the entire “Red Record” section, pp. 69-151.**
- 26 January Feminisms and the Rights of Women, Part 1 (1865-1920)  
**Read the Royster introduction to the Wells book, pp. 1-44.**
- 31 January: Immigrants and Immigration Policy in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
**Due in class today: Short paper on Wells book**
- 2 February: Civil Rights during the era of the New Deal and World War II, 1930s-1940s
- 7 February: The Black Freedom Struggle during the Cold War Era, 1950s-60s  
**Read King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (1963)—see link on Canvas**
- 9 February: Feminisms and the Rights of Women, Part 2 (1960s-present)
- 14 February: Civil Rights, Immigration, and Citizenship, 1960s-2010s  
**Read Charlotte ordinance Feb. 2016; “HB2”(March 2016)—links on Canvas**
- 16 February: Review of Unit 1  
**Review your notes and all readings since the beginning of the course**
- 21 February: **Midterm exam—bring a blue book and pens**
- 23 February: Intro to Unit 2: Foreign Relations, War, & Peace—Looking Bkwd. from 2017  
**Begin reading Manela book**

- 28 February: The Spanish-American War and the Debate over US Imperialism in the 1890s  
**Read excerpts from Albert J. Beveridge, “March of the Flag” speech, Sept. 1898—see link to National Humanities Center version, on Canvas**
- 2 March: World War I  
**Continue to read Manela book**
- 7-9 March: NO CLASS--Spring Break  
**Continue to read Manela book**
- 14 March: Special Focus on “The Wilsonian Moment” (c. 1919)  
**Finish reading Manela book**
- 16 March: World War II and the Early Cold War  
**Due in class today: Short paper on Manela book**
- 21 March: Choosing War: Vietnam  
**Read Transcript of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s 28 July 1965 press conference; listen to the MP3 files of his 2 July 1965 telephone conversation with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and at least one other telephone conversation from mid-1965. See links on Canvas.**
- 23 March: US Foreign Policy in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 28 March: Recent Developments (2001-present); Review of Unit 2  
**Review your notes and all readings since the beginning of Unit 2**
- 30 March: Intro to Unit #3: Political Economy (focus on Taxes)—Looking Bckwd fm 2017
- 4 April: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century: Business and Labor in an Industrializing Economy  
**Read Ajay K. Mehrotra, “ ‘More Mighty Than the Waves of the Sea’: Toilers, Tariffs, and the Income Tax Movement, 1880-1913,” *Labor History* 45, no. 2 (May 2004): 165-98. See link on Canvas.**
- 6 April: Party Politics and Economics in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
**Read Populist Party Platform (1892)—see link on Canvas**

- 11 April: Progressive Reform: Focus on the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
**Read Robin L. Einhorn, “Progressivity and Sectionalism in the United States” (2016 working paper)—see link on Canvas**
- 13 April: TBA
- 18 April: The Great Depression and the New Deal  
**Read Mark H. Leff, “Taxing the ‘Forgotten Man’: The Politics of Social Security Finance in the New Deal,” *Journal of American History* 70, no 2 (Sept. 1983): 359-81. See link on Canvas.**
- 20 April: World War II and Early Cold War Political Economy
- 25 April: Deregulation, the Decline of Unions, Tax Revolts, & the Rise of “Neoliberalism”  
**Read Kevin M. Kruse, “The Politics of Race and Public Space: Desegregation, Privatization, and the Tax Revolt in Atlanta,” *Journal of Urban History* 31, no. 5 (July 2005): 610-33. See link on Canvas.**
- 27 April: Recent Developments, including the Election of 2016 and its aftermath
- 2 May: Final Class Meeting: Review of Unit 3 and Review for Final Exam  
**Review your notes and all readings since the midterm**
- 9 May: **Final exam, scheduled for 11:00-1:30. Bring a blue book or two, and pens.**