

Required reading:

Eric Foner, *The Story of American Freedom*

Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, second edition, ed. by David W. Blight

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, ed. by Christopher Phelps

Cheri Register, *Packinghouse Daughter: A Memoir*

John Hellman, *American Myth and the Legacy of Vietnam*

George W. Hopkins, "Constructing the New Mythic West: *Dances With Wolves* as a Revisionist Western"*

George W. Hopkins, "Historians and the Vietnam War: The Conflict Over Interpretations Continues"*

*Materials on e-reserve at the library; password: american

Coverage of historical and current topics in the news

This course will explore the origins and evolution of American culture and society. By examining American literature, thought, arts, and actions in historical context from the colonial era to the present, the course provides an interdisciplinary analysis of the complexity and diversity of the American experience. Race, ethnicity, class, and gender, as well as relative power and powerlessness, will be among the key concepts used to explore American culture over time.

Grading will be based on two essay examinations during the semester [20% each]; an 8-10 page typewritten analytical paper [15%]; brief reaction papers to specified readings [10%]; a final essay examination [25%]; and a grade based on possible quizzes and class participation [10%]. Lectures will include material not found in the readings and will offer interpretive comments on the topics discussed and the materials read or viewed. Examinations will cover lectures, discussions, readings, and documentary videos. If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material covered and for any changes in assignment or procedure announced in class. No make-up examinations or late papers will be accepted without a verifiable excuse acceptable to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The success of the course depends on the interest and participation of the student as well as that of the professor.

My office is 330 Maybank. I will have office hours on MW, 2-3 pm; TR, ~~3:15-4pm~~; and by appointment. Please feel free to discuss any questions or problems you have with the course. My phone is 953-8103; e-mail is hopkingsg@cofc.edu

Structure of the course: the following topics will be discussed on the days indicated. You should complete the assigned reading BEFORE each class to enable you to get the most out of the lecture and to be able to participate effectively in class discussion. Time will be provided for questions and discussions. Your informed participation will enrich and enliven the course.

Date	Topic	Assignment
8/24	Introduction to the course	Definitions and Methods
8/26	Course Theme: Concepts of Freedom	Foner, Introduction; Hellman, Preface and 3-15.
8/29	1492: Before and After	Zinn, "Columbus, Indians, and Idea of Human Progress" on e-reserve

8/31	English Colonial Concepts of Freedom	Foner, 2-12
9/2	Slavery: Serpent in the American Garden of Eden	Foner, 29-35; film and discussion
9/5	Forging American Identity: From Revolution to Constitution	Foner, 12-28 and 35-45; Declaration of Independence and Constitution on e-reserve
9/7	Old South, Old North, and West as "Empire of Liberty"?	Foner, 46-68
9/9	"Free Labor" or "Wage Slavery"?	Foner, 58-68; video and discussion
9/12	Challenging Boundaries of Antebellum Freedom	Foner, 69-81; begin Douglass
9/14	Antislavery, Antitextentionist and Abolitionist Movements	Foner, 81-94; complete Douglass; quiz and discussion
9/16	Examination	Bring 1 bluebook to class; don't write in it; put it on the table
9/19	Civil War and Reconstruction	Foner, 95-113; South Carolina Declaration of the Causes of Secession on e-reserve
9/21	Charleston, Reconstruction, and Robert Smalls	Film and discussion
9/23	From <i>Dances with Wolves</i> to Custer's Last Stand to Wounded Knee; Turner's Frontier Thesis	Hopkins, "Constructing the New Mythic West: <i>Dances With Wolves</i> as a Revisionist Western," on e-reserve
9/26	Native Americans: How the West was Lost	Film and discussion
9/28	1877: Class Conflict Replaces Regional Conflict	Foner, 114-117; film and discussion
9/30	"Liberty of Contract" vs Workers' Protests: Haymarket, Homestead, Pullman	Foner, 118-126
10/3	Populism: Farmers' Revolts	Foner, 126-130; film and discussion
10/5	New South: Segregation, Disfranchisement, Lynching	Foner, 130-133; film and discussion
10/7	"New Immigration"	Film and discussion
10/10	1898: From Republic to Empire	Foner, 134-137; begin <i>The Jungle</i>
10/12	Debs and American Socialism	Foner, 138-151; continue <i>The Jungle</i>
10/14	<i>The Jungle</i>	Complete <i>The Jungle</i> ; reaction paper, quiz, and discussion
10/17	Fall Break	
10/19	Class, Race, Gender and the Limits of Progressive Reform	Foner, 152-161
10/21	Radicals and Civil Liberties: IWW, Margaret Sanger	Foner, 161-168
10/24	World War I and the Red Scare	Foner, 168-185
10/26	1920s: Social Tensions and Cultural Conflicts	Foner, 185-193
10/28	EXAMINATION	Bring 1 bluebook to class; don't write in it; put it on the table
10/31	Great Depression and New Deal	Foner, 194-210
11/2	CIO Sits Down	Film and discussion
11/4	World War II: Four Freedoms—and Home Front	Foner, 219-247
11/7	"Rosie the Riveter"	Film and discussion
11/9	Hiroshima: Why US Dropped the Atomic Bomb	Film and discussion

11/11	Cold War Freedom and McCarthyism	Foner, 248-262; Hellman, review 3-15, read 15-38; begin Register
11/14	Suburbia and Consumerism; 1959: Class and Gender in Minnesota	Foner, 262-273; complete Register: reaction paper, quiz, discussion
11/16	Freedom Movement and Civil Rights, 1955-1965	Foner, 274-282; film and discussion
11/18	New Frontier/Great Society; Malcolm X, Black Power, Ghetto Rebellions	Foner, 282-287
11/21	Vietnam War: From Green Berets to Antiwarriors	Foner, 287-292; Hellman, 41-95; Hopkins, "Historians and the Vietnam War" on e-reserve
11/23-27	Thanksgiving Break	
11/28	Vietnam War: Home Front and Veterans	Hellman, 99-150
11/30	Vietnam War in Literature and Film	Hellman, 150-204; reaction paper, quiz and discussion
12/2	Second Wave Feminism and Rights Movements	Foner, 292--305
12/5	Conservative Freedom: YAF, Goldwater, Wallace, Reagan, Religious Right; American Freedom Today	Foner, 306-332; Hellman, 205-224; discussion
12/9, 12-3 pm	Final Examination	Bring 2 bluebooks