

FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Humanities Program

U.S. History from 1865
TuTh 11:00-12:15 420 CRF Rm 212
TuTh 2:00-3:15 302 QAD Rm 117

Dr. Mieczkowski

HUM2332
Spring 2023

How to contact me:

office: Crawford Hall, Rm. 506

telephone: 674-8797 (try Tues., Thurs.)

e-mail: ymieczkowski@fit.edu

office hours: TuTh 8:15-9:15 AM, 1:00-1:45 PM
or any other time by appointment

These office hours are “official.” I’m on campus Tues., Thurs. for long stretches, so please feel free to make an appointment to meet at other times that are mutually convenient.

Books: • Give Me Liberty! (vol. II), by Eric Foner (6th edition is current, but save yourself \$ and by an earlier one—5th, 4th, 3rd, or even older)
 • Triangle: The Fire That Changed America, by David Von Drehle
 • The Tunnels of Cu Chi, by Tom Mangold and Jon Penycate
 • The Routledge Historical Atlas of Presidential Elections (second edition, 2021), by Yanek Mieczkowski

My recommendation is that you buy (rather than rent or borrow) the books.

REQUIRED READINGS:

For the midterm exam (October 5):

• Von Drehle: Prologue, chs. 5-9, Epilogue

For the final exam:

• Mangold and Penycate; read chs. 1-6, 8-10, 16-17, 21-22 (in other words, read all **except** chs. 7, 11-15, 18, 19 and 20)

• Mieczkowski: Introduction and Elections 1868-2016

Recommended Readings:

• Foner chapters listed on last three pages

Grading Policy: You must complete the required readings to pass this course!

Exams, which comprise short answers and essays, are based heavily on reading; the balance of material reflects lecture. Because exams constitute most of your final course grade, failure to read the assigned books will result in course failure. Class lecture comprises approximately 40 percent of the exams. Ergo, it is also essential that you come to class and take notes effectively.

Evaluations: Student Profile (**due Jan. 17**); mid-term exam (**Feb. 21 or Feb. 23, TBD**); research paper (**due March 28**); final exam (**the week of May 1**). Exams will be in-class, in-person (not virtual).

- Attendance 5%
- Student Profile 3%
- Mid-term exam 24%
- Final exam 33%
- Term paper 35%

You must be physically present and take exams on the announced dates.

Make-up exams are administered only for documented problems, such as a medical illness or a family emergency. (Automobile breakdowns or airline flights do not constitute valid excuses.)

Final Exam Information. To avoid booking airplane flights during the final exam, please consult the following schedule:

9:30-10:45 a.m. section: Friday, May 5 1:00-3:00 p.m.

2:00-3:15 p.m. section: Friday, May 5 10:30 a.m-12:30 p.m.

Student Profile. The Student Profile, **due on Tuesday, January 17**, will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis (i.e., if you answer all the questions carefully, you will get full credit). But you **MUST** complete the SP in a thorough and thoughtful manner. Cursory completion will result in a “zero” grade with no chances to rewrite.

Please submit a paper copy. If you wish to type the SP, you may download it from Canvas, type your responses, and print out a paper copy to turn in to me.

A note about Covid and other illnesses:

Please attempt social distancing. More information is available at Florida Tech’s Coronavirus Central: <https://www.fit.edu/coronavirus/> (Links to an external site.).

If you miss class due to illness, you may watch online during class time or view the recording. I will give you an excused absence if you notify me of your condition.

Please remember your responsibility in keeping track of assignments and deadlines and making up missed work. Please be safe and responsible!

Grades will be based on performance, not on need. I will grade you solely on performance. A “need” to pass this course—for whatever reason—will not factor into your final grade. These needs include (but are not limited to) all of the

following that students have expressed to me: scholarship, graduation, institutional transfer, athletic eligibility, tuition reimbursement, a prospective job, visa renewal, “good student” discount on auto insurance, childbirth, family welfare, and spectacular bodily harm expected from parents.

Do not procrastinate. If you are having problems with any material in the course, see me immediately. Do not wait until the day of the exam or until the semester is over. That is too late. By then, I cannot answer questions or provide help. (Should you elect to have your parents or athletic coach monitor your performance, consistent with FERPA laws, this warning applies to them as well. Please give them a copy of this syllabus today!)

The semester ends at Week 17. If you start to care about your performance at Week 18 or later, you have waited too long. Please do not contact me after the term is finished about remedying or raising your course grade; I cannot do so.

Think of your performance and the school term as a sports game. You cannot change the score once the contest is completed. You will no longer have chances to redo particular plays or correct mistakes once the game is over. Please understand this concept.

Student Learning Outcomes: When this course concludes, you should have gained the following:

- 1) Improved reading speed and comprehension
- 2) Advanced writing skills (in particular, the ability to edit your own prose and express yourself clearly, concisely, and correctly in writing)
- 3) An ability to assess and criticize an author's argument
- 4) An aptitude for creating a colorful story using a historical incident (narrative history in the form of anecdotes)
- 5) Knowledge of proper history citation forms (including footnotes and bibliography entries)
- 6) Submit your writing to review and editing; revise and rewrite based on critiques
- 7) Greater understanding of the political, economic, diplomatic, military, cultural, and social history of America from Reconstruction to the Cold War

Extra Credit. This course does not offer extra credit projects to boost your final grade. Please do not ask for it. But you will have an Extra Credit opportunity during the first month and a half of the semester (explained below).

Academic Dishonesty: Please be honest in your work! Avoid any academic misconduct! When you write your paper and compose essays for exams, the work must be yours and should reflect your individual reading and understanding of the assigned history books. When you take the exams, you will be affixing your signature and yours alone; the exams are not group projects. Please consult the FIT student handbook for more information on academic honesty.

Attendance: Class attendance is required. Absences will hurt your final course and exam grades, because the exams contain lecture material. Excused absences are given only for the documented problems described above. If you expect a sports-related absence, please see me in advance. Should you must miss class, please watch the class recording on Canvas, check with me, and also try to get notes from other students.

The following formula will determine your attendance grade:

0 absences=100 1 absence=95 2 absences=85 3 absences=70 4 absences=50

More than four unexcused absences will result in zero credit for attendance.

Excessive classroom departures (i.e., leaving and returning to class) will lead to a conversation with me, after which you will be marked as absent for any class involving such infractions.

Some students have shown a proclivity to skip the in-person class and watch virtually instead. FIT discourages this practice. On this issue, my course policy reflects university rules: you will lose your attendance grade. (I can make exceptions for illness and emergencies.)

How I will conduct roll: I will do an oral roll count for students in class. Once I have learned your names, I will take attendance silently just before class begins. For this reason, you should arrive to class punctually, which is the next topic.

Punctuality: “Don’t get here *on time*—get here *early*.” Class will begin promptly at the appointed time, 9:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m., depending on your section. Please be seated **before 9:30 or 3:30**. More than two late arrivals during the semester will make any lateness thereafter tantamount to an absence. Punctuality will also be important for the attendance component of your grade (as discussed above).

-If you expect to leave class early, please tell me before class begins.

Participation: Please be alert and engaged in class. You can participate in a number of ways besides being attentive—by answering questions that I pose to the class, asking an occasional question or raising an issue, or being active in discussing documents. Participation also means good citizenship and courtesy. Please read the four rules of conduct below.

Classroom comportment: I ask you to observe these four rules of conduct:

- 1) Please raise your hand when you wish to speak, rather than blurting out comments or questions.
- 2) Please refrain from conversation or other discourtesies during class. In particular, show respect toward your fellow classmates. When one of them has the floor, listen carefully as if you were the one speaking.
- 3) Weapons of Mass Distraction, i.e., phones. Off and out of sight!
- 4) Please leave your seat only for emergencies. Attend to personal errands before class begins (e.g., trips to the restroom, phone calls, text messages). Do not throw out your garbage during class. Wait until class ends to visit the garbage can.

Flagrant misconduct or disrespect for the classroom community (i.e., your classmates, the professor, or FIT property) will result in forfeiture of the participation portion of your final grade, an attendance penalty, a report to the vice president for student affairs, and/or withdrawal from the course.

Seating: Permitted anywhere; because of Covid and social distancing concerns, try to spread yourselves out.

Eating/Drinking: Permitted, with discretion.

Laptops: Not permitted (with regrets). With even greater regret, I no longer allow iPads. I understand that these proscriptions may cause some of you consternation. Please recognize that “dopamine detox” benefits your brain, as does note-taking by hand. If you worry about your note-taking ability, you may record the lectures and play the recording into a transcription program. If you anticipate or experience an in-class “emergency” requiring prolonged texting or emailing, please leave the room quietly so that you may resolve your crisis elsewhere.

Texting during class: Not permitted. Should I observe repeated infractions to the point that I speak to you about it, you will lose attendance credit for that day and for any day thereafter that I observe the problem. If the behavior persists, I will assign you a permanent seat. Texting during an exam will result in a zero for that exam. If u txt, ur profs can cu. #badimpression #destructivehabit

Office hours visit: Encouraged. Please do take a moment during the semester to visit—update me on your progress, ask questions, and chat about history or other topics. You may stop by impromptu, but I suggest that you email me beforehand so that I may bloc time for you. You are always welcome to see me, and you may visit as often as you’d like—it’s what I’m here for!

Extra Credit: As an added incentive, I will award an extra three percentage points to your final course grade for an office hours visit *during the first month and a half of the semester only* (January 10-February 28). Stop by and visit! One proviso: If you make an appointment outside office hours, *you must be punctual and reliable*. If you miss the appointment, you forgo any chance to reschedule.

E-mail: Please e-mail me using your FIT account—no home or personal accounts. Frequently, e-mailing through Canvas creates trouble (messages fail to reach me; documents cannot be attached). When you write to me, start a new e-mail directly to me, outside of Canvas: ymieczkowski@fit.edu
For the first three weeks of the semester (approximately), please include your course and **class meeting time** in your subject line so that I know who you are (you may also repeat this information in the introductory sentence of your email).

Once I learn students' names and which class you are taking, you will no longer need to identify yourself in this way.

E-mail etiquette: Please respect your professors when you e-mail. Disrespectful or dyspeptic e-mails have no place in a student-professor discourse. As part of proper etiquette, when you initiate an e-mail communication, please begin with a salutation (e.g., "Hi Dr. Mieczkowski," "Hello Professor," "Dear Dr. Mieczkowski," unless you and I are exchanging multiple short e-mails), and please close by signing your name. I will not respond to emails that fail to include these courtesies. Wikihow posts a useful tutorial on recommended courtesies when emailing a professor: <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Please consult!

Canvas: I will post study guides here and communicate with all of you via email. Please check regularly!

Academic Accommodations and Special Needs: If you require learning aids (e.g., a scribe, extended exam time), the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR) supports documented disabilities. I will gladly accommodate your needs. Please let me know of any arrangements that I should make in cooperation with OAR. OAR's contact information: 321-674-8285; email is accessibilityresources@fit.edu. Website is <https://www.fit.edu/accessibility-resources>.

Course Recording: I am opting to continue the practice of recording classes, which will allow you to view lectures anytime during the semester. The recording process involves a privacy waiver. University policy prohibits the recordings from being duplicated, shared with students not in the course, or uploaded/disseminated onto other online platforms.

Progress, opportunities, and extra help: I care emphatically about your progress in this course. I wish for all of you do well and will provide ample opportunities for you to do so. Next week I will furnish detailed study guides to prepare for the midterm exam. If you find yourself in trouble while studying for these tests, do visit me for help. Please do not wait until exam days. An excellent resource is the Student Success and Support Center in the Allen Henry Building. In fact, you will be required to visit the SSSC to review your term paper with a tutor. Please stop by, get to know them (they are very friendly!), and avail yourself of their services.

Individual Attention: Because FIT's classes are manageable in size, professors can afford to provide individual attention to students, and I try to do so. Please make sure to use this attention to maximize your study habits, academic performance, and college experience.

Title IX: Please remember FIT's policy, which you may read at: <https://www.fit.edu/policies/title-ix/>

FIT creates an environment conducive to learning and free from discrimination and sexual discrimination and harassment. You may report any incidents to Grace Gamage, Title IX Coordinator (321-674-8885; email ggamage@fit.edu). Professors will report any Title IX infractions. You may also seek recourse at the Student Counseling Center (321-674-8050).

A critical question: Please ask yourself if you like reading. Or at a minimum, will you complete the reading assignments? Your answer will help you determine whether this course is the right option for you.

How to read for this course: In reading the course books, do not simply highlight or underline. Such reading is passive. Be an active learner! **Take reading notes**, write the ideas in your own words, ask yourself questions. This kind of active reading may take more time, but the pay-off will come when it is time to study and learn the material.

The following is a planned lecture schedule. Chapter numbers refer to the Foner text, which you may read to accompany the lectures. You may complete the reading before the corresponding lecture to increase your understanding of it. Please keep up with the reading and try to review your lecture notes weekly. Do not wait until the notes get "cold" in your mind.

One final proviso: I do tend to fall behind in the schedule, but I will try my best to keep pace.

Week 1:

Tues. Jan. 11: Course introduction

Thurs. Jan 13: Term paper; Reconstruction introduction Ch. 15

Week 2:

Tues. Jan. 17: **Student Profile due**; showdown over Reconstruction: AJ vs. Congress; Reconstruction ends, Jim Crow rises, Supreme Court codifies Ch. 15

Thurs. Jan. 20: **Decide on biography for term paper (please email me!);** Immigration Ch. 16

Week 3:

Tues. Jan. 25: Urbanization Ch. 18

Thurs. Jan. 27: Industrialization Ch. 16

Week 4:

Tues. Jan. 31: Labor organizes—then organized labor strikes! Ch. 16

Thurs. Feb. 2: Populism: "America's Most Successful Failure," and "We're off to see the wizard!" ch 17

Week 5:

Tues. Feb. 7: Spanish-American War ch. 17

Thurs. Feb. 9: Progressivism, Part I ch. 18

Week 6:

Tues. Feb. 14: Progressivism, Part II: reform at the national level ch. 18

Thurs. Feb. 16: The “Great War”: How Did It Start? Ch 19

Week 7:

Tues. Feb. 21: **Mid-term exam? TBD** Or The “Great War”: How Did It End?
Ch 19

Thurs. Feb. 23: **Mid-term exam? TBD**

Week 8:

Tues. Feb. 28: The trial of the century

Thurs. Mar. 2: The Great Depression: How did it start? What toll did it take?

Week 9:

Tues. Mar. 7: The New Deal, or so many acronyms, so little time... ch 21

Thurs. Mar. 9: The 2nd New Deal; “Voices of Protest”; assessment

Week 10:

Spring break: March 11-19

Week 11:

Tues. Mar. 21: **Term papers due**; World War II ch 22

Thurs. Mar. 23: The Cold War: Containment theory ch 23

Week 12:

Tues. Mar. 28: The Cold War: Containment applications, Korean War ch 23

Thurs. Mar. 30: Red Scare and McCarthyism ch 23

Week 13:

Tues. April 4: 1950s America ch 24

Thurs. April 6: Suburbanization ch 24

Week 14:

Tues. April 11: Eisenhower Revisionism; DE as crisis manager ch 24

Thurs. April 13: CRM: causes, events, apogee ch 24

Week 15:

Tues. April 18: Kennedy Foreign Policy ch 25

Thurs. April 20: Richard Nixon: foreign policy and Watergate ch 26

Week 16:

Tues. April 25: Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter: The case for revisions ch 26
Thurs. April 27: No class—university study days

Week 17:

Dec. 12-16: Final Exams

Don't procrastinate with the readings. "DO IT NOW!"