



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

**Treeless
Edition**

Jan 14, 2004

SGHP Course Offerings

General Now that we've seen the new GPSs (Georgia Performance Standards (online at <http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/spotlight/gps1.htm>), we have a very clear picture about where we need to go with SGHP. All our efforts should be directed toward preparing ourselves professionally to make sure our students get a solid grounding in content areas so they can pass the end of course tests. As you know by now, EOCTs in US history will not occur until SY2006-2007 but that's not a great deal of time when one considers things such as new textbook adoption and transition steps. And if you've looked at the new standards, you know that there is a tremendous difference between what you're doing now and what you'll be going to.

Georgia Learning Connections

It's become very clear that SGHP's primary job is to help you make the GPS transition through support and augmentation of your teaching efforts. Your staff professors have been very diligent in this area, both in formulation and presentation of graduate courses and in the selection of a personal library of course textbooks. The graduate courses are closely aligned with GPS standards and the textbooks selected have direct relevance to specific tasks in the US history GPS.



What's also becoming very clear is that the pendulum in education is swinging toward teacher preparation in the content of the discipline that they teach. If the goal of SGHP is to build a core of master US history teachers in our region (YOU!) then we must concentrate on graduate studies in that discipline to increase content knowledge. Your professional preparation will not only benefit your students directly but will insure that you become the faculty in your school around which school improvement is built.

Lessons Learned

Dr Johnson's Fall graduate course on the early Gilded Age was a learning experience for everyone. On the graduate faculty side, Drs Johnson and Dunn immediately saw that public school teachers have needs unlike traditional graduate students and have designed our program accordingly. As for the students (teachers), they caught a glimpse of a time period in US history most knew very little about and had their intellectual curiosity revived - the course was a very positive experience for everyone.





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From this past Fall's course came many decisions, reduced to bullet comments:

- three courses are needed to adequately cover the new GPSs.
- Courses must be non-traditional in time allotted and presentation methods.
- Teachers have specific needs for material that can be transferred to the classroom.
- Courses must be applicable to existing graduate programs but not overlap coursework already taken or offered.
- Content area is king; the ability to synthesize historic trends and events for students is dependent on content area knowledge.
- Everyone in the class can directly benefit from the research of each if it is captured properly.

The list could be much longer but you get the idea.

The Courses

Following is a brief description of the courses that have evolved and will be offered over the next 3 years. Note that they are seminar courses; for a MA in History at VSU, one needs 5 seminar courses and these can be applied toward that requirement.



Seminar #1 - The Early Gilded Age, 1877-1904, Dr. Charles Johnson.

An examination of the period following Reconstruction to the first elected term of Theodore Roosevelt. Areas covered are politics and foreign affairs, eg. Populism, Spanish-American War, Panama Canal, etc, social trends and cultural milestones. Emphasis is placed on the emergence of the US on to the world stage, the search for order in a rapidly industrializing nation and the beginnings of many modern social reforms.

Seminar #2 - The Progressive Era & '20s, 1905-1932, Dr Charles Johnson.



Covers the period from TRs inaugural to the start of the New Deal. Includes WWI and the Roaring 20's. This course is a continuation of #1, but will emphasize a maturing nation and the

development of events started in the previous course. Since Dr Johnson is a cultural historian, you will see an examination of events such as Prohibition, women's suffrage,



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and the failure of the League of Nations that affected the rest of the century.



Seminar #3 - Years of Conflict - 1932-1975.

This will be a very diverse course, broken into time periods and taught by various instructors with specialty

knowledge. The periods are:
1931-1940 - Depression, 1940-1945 - WWII, 1945-1960 - Post WWII and Cold War and 1960-1975 - The Vietnam Era. This will be a Year 3 course that we're still developing.

The Textbooks

Textbook issue for the past fall course was 10 books, many that were classics (*Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy, *The Search for Order*, by Thomas Wiebe), others that were based on primary sources (*Path Between the Seas* by David McCullough, *Tom Watson*, *Agrarian Rebel* by Vann Woodward). Those of you taking the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 courses (#1 and #2) will receive an issue of 40 textbooks prior to the course. We're still working on a text list for course #3. This

textbook issue should form the heart of a personal professional library to help you in your teaching.

Scheduling and Locations

The Fall course was presented at VSU for the CP RESA teachers and we're programmed to take Seminar #1 on the road to SW Georgia - most likely Pelham since it's centrally located - in Fall 2004. Thereafter, there will be a spring and fall offering that our scheduler is still trying to work out.

Stay Tuned

The 3 Year Schedule of events for SGHP will be the next newsletter topic.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

January 14, 1963

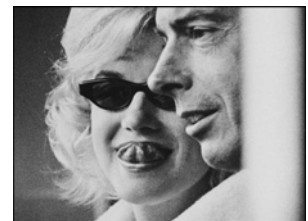
George Wallace Defends Segregation

George Wallace is sworn in as governor of Alabama pledging "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!" First as a segregationist governor, then as a third-party candidate for president, Wallace articulated a discontent with Democratic Party liberalism that made him a hero to millions of American voters in the 1960s.



January 14, 1954

Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe are





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married in San Francisco.

Always envied that guy!!