



**HIST 264.01HE (#82413)  
Forrest Gump's America  
Course Syllabus: Fall 2018**

**Location and Time:** M/W/F 2:00p-2:50p, BA 244

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew C. Baker

**Office Location:** Ferguson 106

**Office Hours:** M/W 3 – 5 pm, T/R 3:30 – 4:30 pm and by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-468-8742

**University Email Address:** [Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu](mailto:Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu)

Required Materials

Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968, any edition)

Jimmy Carter, *An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood* (Simon & Schuster, 2001)

Ron Kovic, *Born on the Fourth of July* (any edition)

Nancy MacLean, *The American Women's Movement, 1945-2000* (Bedford/St. Martins, 2009)

*Forrest Gump* (DVD/Blue Ray) (or web access)

Additional readings can be found on D2L, under the document sharing tab, or through links provided in this syllabus.

Course Description

A cultural, political, and social history of the United States from 1945 to the 1990s through memoir, music, and film. Topics include race in the US South, the 1960s counterculture, soldiers' experiences of Vietnam, feminism, and evangelicalism.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will craft an argumentative essay on a topic from post 1945 US history using a diversity of primary sources.
2. Students will be able to weigh the costs and benefits of using fiction and/or film to convey historical understanding to a public audience.

**Course Assignments**

Magazine Project

One of the major goals of this course is to introduce you to the lived experience of US history from the 1950s – 1990s. This means reading both what people at the time had to say and what they read. Your task is to select a topic in American social, cultural, or political history and write a 3-5 page, thesis-driven paper that analyzes contemporary understandings of your issues using only periodicals as your sources. The paper is due on November 12. We will discuss your findings in class that day.

Your paper must draw on at least four articles on the topic, with no more than two from any one publication. Two advertisements and/or letters to the editor may substitute for an article, but you must have at least two genuine articles in your paper. The dates of the publications must be between 1950 and 1992. We will be visiting the TAMU-C library on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to allow you to begin your research in the bound collections on the second floor. The library maintains holdings for the period in the following journals/periodicals.

### Music Project

Each Student will choose and become an expert on the history, lyrics, and musicality of one song from the Forrest Gump soundtrack. Come to class prepared to make your selection at the beginning of class on August 27. You will have ten minutes of class time to creatively introduce the songwriter/performer and to explain the song's historical and artistic significance as well as its relevance to the plot and characters of the film. On August 31, you will propose a class period where you believe your song best fits into our course schedule. Dr. Baker will determine the final schedule by September 3. Your presentation will be on the day indicated within that schedule.

### East Texas War and Memory Project (ETWMP) Presentation:

Each student will sign up for one of the ETWMP interviews available on the Northeast Texas Digital Collections site ([online](#)). You are responsible for watching the interview and writing a 2-3 page analysis of the interview. You are also responsible for presenting this paper (5-7 minutes) to your classmates on the dates indicated in the course schedule. We will use these interviews to place Lt. Dan in the larger context of veteran experiences.

### Papers

The bulk of your grade for this course will come from four 5-7 page papers. The first three papers will each cover one of the main characters from the film (Bubba, Jenny, and Lt. Dan) and will function as a take-home test from each respective unit. The final paper will be comprehensive. For each, students will respond to a prompt provided one week before the due date. These papers should follow standard formatting as indicated in the guide on D2L. You must submit a digital copy to the D2L dropbox in addition to bringing a hard copy to class. We will spend the class period on each day discussing the papers. These papers will be evaluated for insight, argument, use of evidence, and clarity of presentation—in that order of importance.

### Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:  
A = 90%-100%  
B = 80%-89%  
C = 70%-79%  
D = 60%-69%  
F = 59% or Below

Papers	150 (3)	450
Magazine Project		100
Music Project		100
Participation		100
ETWMP Presentation		50
<u>Final Paper</u>		<u>200</u>
Total		1000

### Student Responsibilities

#### Classroom Participation

Students are expected to contribute to classroom discussions. Thoughtful participation means more than talking frequently, although this is encouraged. It means demonstrating both a knowledge of and a willingness to think critically about the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to engage not only with the professor and the material, but also with each other where appropriate. Students must remain a respect for their colleagues at all times.

#### Technology

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

Some course materials will be posted to the course website, managed through Pearson LearningStudio. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx). <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

### Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Do not engage in any of the following:

- **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
- **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Going online and taking information without proper citations, copying parts of other student's work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else's thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please come see me to clarify. Any cases of academic misconduct may be reported to university administration for violating the academic honesty requirements in the student handbook. They will also result in failure of the assignment in question and possibly for the course.

### Collaboration

Do not let the fear of committing plagiarism scare you away from genuine intellectual engagement and discussion with your colleagues. The best ideas will come out of such collaborative engagement, both during and outside of class. This type of collaboration should lead you to produce superior individually written papers.

## Procedures and Policies

### Electronic Devices

Students are permitted to bring laptop computers to class for the purpose of note taking. Students are NOT permitted, however, to check e-mail, use the internet, complete other assignments, update facebook profiles, or use their computer or cell phone for any purpose other than taking notes unless expressly instructed to by the professor. Please silence your phones when you arrive each day.

### Email Communication

All course communications will come through your university email account. Be sure to check it regularly. You should contact me through my TAMU-C email address (Andrew.Baker@tamuc.edu). I check my email regularly between 8 am and 5 pm Monday – Saturday. I do not check my campus email on Sunday. A failure of planning on your part does not constitute a crisis on my part.

### Attendance

Regular attendance is vital so success in the course. Each unexcused absence after the fourth will result in a loss of 30 points from a student's final grade. Only medical and family emergencies and university approved absences will be excused. Normal sickness does not qualify as an emergency. Students are expected to obtain class notes from fellow students when absent. Students who show up more than ten minutes late to class will be considered absent for that day.

### Late Work/Make-up Work

All papers are due on the date indicated in the syllabus, late papers will be penalized a letter grade per day late. No alternate makeup work will be granted. All work must be submitted by the day of the final exam or it will be marked as a zero.

### Syllabus Changes

The syllabus represents your instructor's hopes and expectations for the course before it launches. As we proceed, circumstances and events may make it necessary for your instructor to modify the syllabus. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced as far in advance as is practicable and will, where possible, work to the benefit of the student.

### ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library- Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)  
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

### Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Course Schedule**

(All readings and assignments are to be completed for class on the day listed)

Week 1

August 27: Course Introduction  
Music Signup

August 29: Course Philosophy  
Strauss and Howe on Generations ([online](#))

- August 31: Gump as Narrator  
Music Schedule Proposal Due
- Week 2
- September 3: No Class – Labor Day
- September 5: Gumpian Romanticism  
You must (re)watch the movie by this point
- September 7: The South c. 1950  
DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (forethought and chapters 1 and 7, [online](#))
- Week 3
- September 10: Growing up Black in the South  
Moody, Chapters 1-9
- September 12: Growing up White in the South  
Carter, Chapters 1-5
- September 14: Race and Class for the Black Southerner  
Moody, Chapters 10-17
- Week 4
- September 17: Race and Class for the White Southerner  
Carter, Chapters 6-11  
Is the sky blue? ([online](#))
- September 19: Race and Justice in the South  
Joseph Crespino, “The Strange Career of Atticus Finch,” *Southern Cultures*, 6  
(Summer 2000)  
Watch *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- September 21: The Civil Rights Movement  
Moody, Chapters 18-30  
MLK, “I Have a Dream” (1963) ([online](#))
- Week 5
- September 24: Whites and the Civil Rights Movement  
Flannery O’Connor, “Everything that Rises Must Converge” ([online](#))
- September 26: Integrating Alabama  
George Wallace Speech ([online](#)); Kennedy Speech ([online](#))
- September 28: Paper I Due
- Week 6
- October 1: Women, gender, and sexuality before the sexual revolution  
McClellan, Docs. 2, 11  
Sex and the College girl ([online](#))
- October 3: Feminism as Movement  
McClellan, 1-43, Docs. 1, 7, 9, 17
- October 5: Jenny the Victim  
McClellan, Docs., 14, 19, 20, 28
- Week 7
- October 8: Drugs, Beats, and the Counter Culture  
Matusow, *The Unraveling of America*, 275-307 (D2L)
- October 10: Going to San Francisco  
The Port Huron Statement ([online](#)), Introduction, Values

October 12: The New Left  
Sontag, "What's Happening in America" (D2L)

Week 8

October 15: Black Feminists  
Casey Hayden and Mary King, "Feminism and the Civil Rights Movement (D2L)  
McClellan, Docs., 8, 22, 26, 30

October 17: Jenny Lost, Jenny Regained  
McClellan, Doc., 37  
AIDS timeline ([online](#))

October 19: Paper II Due

Week 9

October 22: Getting into Vietnam

October 24: Fighting Vietnam  
Kovic, *Born on the Fourth of July*

October 26: Protesting Vietnam  
Kovic, *Born on the Fourth of July*

Week 10

October 29: ETWMP Interview Presentations

October 31: ETWMP Interview Presentations

November 2: Stolen Valor  
Santoli, Bird, Beamon, Klinkhammer (D2L)  
Burkett, *Stolen Valor* (D2L)

Week 11

November 5: Paper III Due  
Introduce Magazine Project

November 7: Magazine Research Day

November 9: Magazine Research Day

Week 12

November 12: Magazine Project Due

November 14: Running Messiah (The 1970s)

November 16: Running Messiah (The 1970s)  
Jimmy Carter, Malaise Speech ([online](#))

Week 13

November 19: Catch-Up Day

November 21: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

November 23: No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

November 26: Uncovering Watergate

November 28: Uncovering Watergate II

November 30: Uncovering Watergate Due

Week 15

December 3: Family values and the politics of the 1980s/90s

December 5: Pat Buchanan, 1992 Convention Speech ([online](#))  
Gumpian redemption?  
December 7: *Forrest Gump* as history  
Dinner at Dr. Baker's Home (Commerce, TX)  
  
Final Exam: Take-home exam due December 10 in class, 1:15 PM