

Charleston and the American Century (History 320-01)
Capers 405. MWF 1-1:50pm

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Course objectives

Scholars and pundits refer to the 20th Century as the American Century due to its impact on world culture, its success in two world wars and its emergence from the Cold War as the global hegemon. All of these developments were reflected in local politics and life in Charleston, but with some key differences. The city and the region suffered for most of the 20th Century; its revival occurred late in the 20th Century. Like most of the South, Charleston survived on federal government largesse until tourism and global trade sparked a very recent period of robust economic growth. This chapter of the city's history continues to unfold. Over the course of the semester, we will familiarize ourselves with the broad outlines of Charleston's 20th Century history, while considering its relevance to the politics and culture of the United States.

Assigned weekly readings provide a guide to some of the highlights of the region's past. We will complement our readings with regular visits to historic sites as well as guest speakers, some of whom are scholars and others who were first hand participants in the events under discussion. Additional components of the class are structured around your own original research and work with primary sources.

In addition to the regular readings, exams, and writing assignments, this class makes some demands on you that are a bit different from many history classes. First, you are expected to be active learners. Come to class with prepared comments and questions for me, your classmates, and guest speakers. Develop your own ideas about the region's history. Second, the logistics of getting you off campus require you to be on time, follow directions, and take responsibility for one another. You have to approach our trips with all of the attention and seriousness you would an exam or written assignment.

Course structure

During most weeks, Monday will be given over to lecture and discussion. Wednesday will feature your group presentations, and on Friday we will visit historic sites or entertain guest speakers.

Assignments, Requirements, and Expectations

Attendance. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss class you should expect your grade to suffer.

Exams. There are three exams scheduled for the course. They test the information covered in the readings and lectures. Make-up exams will be given only in extraordinary circumstances. If an emergency arises, contact me immediately. If you do not show up for an exam and I have not heard from you, you will receive an F.

Final Project. A final project (4-7pp.) will require you to conduct primary historical research to illuminate various aspects of life in Charleston during the last century. I will go over my expectations in much more detail in a few weeks. The paper will be due on April 25, the date of your final exam.

Participation. Participation is crucial to your success in this course. Students who do not actively participate will receive an F for participation.

Group projects and writing assignments. You will complete two group projects based on your reading of a Charleston daily newspaper. Additionally, over the course of the semester, I may assign several brief writing assignments, which you'll complete in class.

Grading

3 Exams: 60%

Participation, quizzes, group projects, and short writing assignments: 20%

Final paper: 20%

Required Readings

A packet of course readings will be distributed by email. You are expected to have the week's required reading done by Monday's class.

Instructional assistance

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of services provided by OASIS and the Writing Center. If you have a learning disability and need to use OASIS for testing, remember that you must follow OASIS guidelines in scheduling an exam. *It is your responsibility to do so.*

The Honor Code

The Citadel Honor Code governs all academic endeavors. **PLAGIARISM:** Is defined as using the words or ideas of others without giving proper credit (a footnote or endnote with the full bibliographic citation). **ALL** material (books, articles, worldwide web articles) that you consult, paraphrase, or quote **MUST** be cited in the paper: otherwise, it is plagiarism and a violation of the Citadel Honor Code. When in doubt, **CITE IT** using Chicago Manual of Style.

Course schedule

January	11-13	Introduction
	18-20	Charleston and the New Century
	23-27	The Charleston Exposition (Fraser, Macaulay, Crooks and Bostick)
	30-3	Great War, Red Summer (Hamer, Charron)
February	6-10	It's a Lapazoo! Longshoremen Teach a Nation to Dance/Exam 1
	13-17	Through the Golden Haze of Memory: the Charleston Renaissance (Brundage, Yuhl)
	20-24	A New Deal for Charleston (Fraser)
	27-2	The Good War in the Holy City (Hamer)
March	5-9	Brown v. Charleston County School District (Fraser)
	12-14	Black Power at Work: the Charleston Hospital Workers Strike/Exam 2 (Grose, Fraser)
	19-23	From The Citadel to City Hall: the Rise of Joseph P. Riley
	26-30	Spring break
April	2-6	Stories of the Hurricane: Hugo and its Aftermath (Greene, Estes)
	9-13	On the Global Waterfront: the Struggle to Free the ILA 5
	16-20	Presentations/Exam 3
	23	Presentations