

HSTAA 235
U.S. History Since 1940
Jennifer Seltz
Sections AF & AH
AF: 11:30, Balmer 309
AH: 12:30, Savery 131
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What section is

Section meetings are your chance to develop and practice historical thinking skills, to discuss the readings and material from lecture in a small group, and to get help researching and writing your paper. Section is also our chance to evaluate you based on something other than your performance on exams and on the paper.

How to prepare for section

Come to lecture and do the reading on time. Read actively and critically. If I or Prof. Singh distribute discussion questions or other material specifically to get ready for section, be sure to think about those questions before class.

How to do well in section

This part is easy. Show up. Contribute to discussion, but don't dominate it. Be respectful of others. Be curious, be ready to be challenged, and be ready to change your mind. Be sure you can back up your arguments with evidence – from lecture or from readings. Your section grade – 10% of your final class grade, as noted in the class syllabus – will be based on attendance and participation. If you miss more than three sections, you will fail this portion of the class. If you fail section, you cannot pass the class.

On papers

Your research paper is a major part of this course. Start thinking about what you might like to focus on now – you have tremendous latitude in choosing a topic. Feel free to come talk to me about it early and often.

A couple more rules, and a cautionary note

I will not accept the paper topic or the final draft as e-mail attachments. Rough drafts handed in late will be marked down .2 per day, up to 1.0 off the final grade for your paper. (No rough drafts will be read if they are more than 5 days late). Final papers handed in late will be marked down .5 per day. Do not shortchange yourself and your classmates by choosing to plagiarize. We take plagiarism seriously and will follow university disciplinary policies on it. If you have any questions on what constitutes plagiarism and what does not, please contact me, Prof. Singh, and/or the History Writing Center sooner rather than later.