This take-home final will be due Friday, June 18th during our last scheduled class period. There is no written final exam- all you have to do is turn in this paper during the exam time as your final. We will however have a 10 point quiz that day.

For this paper, you will read one of the following three contemporary novels (all written in the past 35 years) that deal with New York City during the Gilded Age/Progressive Era in an explicit fashion. You will then write a four to six page essay that touches on the following issues:

1. how the book increased your understanding of GAPE history.
2. how studying GAPE history in class improved your understanding of the book.
3. the relationship of plot & character development to the historical setting of the novel.
4. the effectiveness & appropriateness of historical fiction in a history class.

The paper will be double-spaced, using 12 point type. You will also have a title page, which is the only place your name should appear (no running headers with your name in them). Please staple the paper- do not use paper clips. There is no need for report covers or sleeves. On the cover sheet also type in the UF honor pledge & sign it. The pledge reads “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in the writing of this paper.”

This final will be worth 25 points towards the class total of 100.

The books are not ordered at any bookstore but are generally available in the fiction section of Barnes & Noble and Borders. They are also available (and probably easier & cheaper) on-line at Amazon.com & bn.com (the on-line service of Barnes & Noble).

Any questions, please talk to me- don’t wait until the last minute.

Ragtime  E L Doctorow- Underneath the surface, racial, gender, and class tensions play out within a middle class New York family

The Alienist  Caleb Carr  A heinous crime rocks 1900s New York, as an interesting mix of police and private detectives try to solve the crime.

Suspension  Richard Crabbe- Southerners still bitter over the outcome of the Civil War plot to blow up the Brooklyn Bridge.

The Given Day- Dennis Lehane- Boston embroiled in the Red Scare of 1918-19- Author also wrote Mystic River and Shutter Island

These are all remarkable novels- all four are cited on many “Best of” lists