Welcome! This course deals with topics in the political, social, and cultural history of the United States between the years 1877 to roughly 1980. The course readings have been selected in order to expose students to a broad range of approaches to the study of American history. We will explore the types of sources used by historians, the evolution of historiographical debates, the challenges of writing history, the accomplishments and the occasional failings of the scholars we will be reading. The course is designed as a seminar. Each week, students will arrive in class having completed the assigned reading, and prepared to discuss it with the rest of the group. So much of a seminar’s success depends on you! Come to class ready to engage in a lively debate. Don’t worry if you didn’t understand an aspect of the readings – we will work this out together, and chances are, others had questions as well. To get the most out of this course, read carefully, listen to others in the class, and be confident in your own assessments of the readings. Some students become very anxious about the prospect of speaking up in class – don’t worry, we will work on this together and you will develop more confidence as time goes on. Students will be graded on their active participation in discussion, occasional presentations, and written work.

Rules and Regulations
Students are reminded that all written work submitted for the course must be original. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

The last date for Voluntary Withdrawal from a full year course is March 20, 2013. Some evaluation in the course will be provided before this date. All assignments should be
typed and double spaced. Further details about written assignments will be provided in class. **Pay close attention to due dates.** Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Papers are due in class on the date indicated. Late papers will be penalized 2.5% per day.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

**Grade Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review (750-1250 words/3-5 pages)</td>
<td>10% due Oct. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historiographical Essay (2000-2500 words/8-10 pages)</td>
<td>20% due Dec. 5</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal (250-500 words/1-2 pages)</td>
<td>5% due Feb. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Presentation to class</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sign up in class for presentations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (4500-5000 words/18-20 pages)</td>
<td>35% due April 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>90 and above</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Required Texts**

*These books are available at the campus bookstore. Other readings are available online or as photocopies in the box affixed to my office door.*

**First Term**


**Second Term**


**Course Schedule**

**Week 1  September 12**  Introduction

**Week 2  September 19**  America in the 19th Century - group presentations

**Week 3  September 26**  Historiography

Excerpt from Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream*, available in folder outside my office door

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, “Competing Histories of America,” from *Telling the Truth About History*, available in folder outside my office door

**Week 4  October 3**  America interacts with the world
Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues*

**Week 5  October 10**  The West
Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” – this is available online in various places, including the link here:  
[http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/turner/chapter1.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/turner/chapter1.html)

Patricia Nelson Limerick, introduction from *The Legacy of Conquest* (available on my office door)


**Week 6  October 17**  Region, Gender, Race
Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

**Week 7  October 24**  Environmental History

(contr’d)


***Book Review Due***

**Week 8  October 31  Labour and Environmental History**  
Andrews, *Killing for Coal*

**Week 9  November 7  Whiteness Studies**  
David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*, introduction (available on my door)


Grace Hale, excerpt from *Making Whiteness* (available on my door)


**Week 10  November 14  Immigration History**  
Mary Lui, *The Chinatown Trunk Mystery*

**Week 11  November 21  A Nation in Depression and War**  


**Week 12 November 28 Medical History**

Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story*

**Week 13 December 5 History and Scandal: The Case of Michael Bellesiles**


Bellesiles, “Statement on Emory University’s Inquiry into Arming America” (available online at History News Network, http://hnn.us/articles/691.html)


***Historiography Due***

**Second Term**

**Week 1 January 9 Urban History**

Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*

**Week 2 January 16 The Cold War**

George Kennan, “Long Telegram” (Feb. 22, 1946), available online at [http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/) (link is at bottom of page)


**Week 3 January 23** Consumption History


**Week 4 January 30** Race and Memory
Hendrickson, *Sons of Mississippi*

**Week 5 February 6** Pop Culture and History
Wright, *Comic Book Nation*

***Research Proposals Due***

**Week 6 February 13** The New Conservatives
McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*

**Week 7 February 20 – Midterm Break, no class***

**Week 8 February 27** Vietnam
Excerpts from *The Turning* and Appy, *Working Class War*

**Week 9 March 6** Into the 1980s
Excerpts from Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart* and Zaretsky, *No Direction Home*

**Week 10 March 13**
Presentations

1) 
2) 
3) 
4)
**Week 11  March 20**
Presentations
   5)
   6)
   7)
   8)

**Week 12  March 27**
Presentations
   9)
  10)
  11)
  12)

**Week 13  April 3**
  13)
  14)
  15)
  16)

**Week 14  April 10**
***Research paper due***