Studies in American History since 1877 HIST 4100  
2011-2012

Prof. David S. Churchill  
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Office Hours: 10:00am to 11:30pm Tuesday.

This course will provide a selective overview of the history and historiography of the United States since 1877. The class will move chronologically and topically, paying particular attention to the changing social, cultural and political reality of the U.S. since the end of Reconstruction. Within this framework the course will explore specific themes that have generated considerable interest and debate within recent scholarly work.

Assignments

1. **Class Participation** – Students will be expected to attend all classes and to take part actively in discussion. In addition, all Pre-MA, MA and PhD students must hand in reading notes for the week’s class at the beginning of the seminar. (20% of final grade).

2. **Historiographical Essay** – You are responsible for writing an essay discussing at least five books within a particular field of the course (race, gender, whiteness, cultural history, working-class experience, urbanism etc.). The essay must discuss the books comparatively, and argue how they individually and collectively define and/or revise their field of study. What are the central problematics of the scholarly literature? What for example, are the major interpretive and methodological debates in the field? How do these debates relate to broader questions of United States history? You may choose only one book, of the five you must consider, from the required texts listed in this syllabus to include in your essay. Your essay must be between 15-20 pages in length (30% of final grade). **Due Date November 30th, 2011.**

3. **Research Essay** – This is a major assignment. Students are required to do an in depth scholarly paper on a topic of their choosing, that builds on one of the major themes of the course, and provide a critical analysis of the existing literature. The paper must be drawn from both primary and secondary source materials. This material may be difficult to get so students are advised to work well in advance and to utilize Inter-Library loans for collections of letters, periodicals, newspapers, government documents etc. that might be available from research libraries and archives. Drafts of the essays will be circulated amongst the students for constructive critical review in the weeks prior to the submission deadline. Your essay must be between 25-30 pages. (50% of final grade). **Due date April 5th, 2012.**

Late Assignments: All assignments must be completed on time, late assignments will not be accepted unless the student has received permission form the instructor for an extension prior to the due date. Late assignments without an extension will receive no grade.

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty as laid out in Section 8 of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2011-2012. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is F on the paper and F for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department 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.

Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. For a guide to proper citation consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, These and Dissertations*. A copy of this manual can be found in the reference room at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library (LB 2369 T8 1987).

Evaluative feedback will be provided by the withdrawal deadline date of March 16, 2012.

**Grade Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>85-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-85%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>75-79%</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>F</td>
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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.

**Required Texts** (available at the University Bookstore)


Mattew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*


Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America*


