

HISTORY 3290: THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1939
Fall/Winter 2012-2013

Winter Term:

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Fall Term:

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Welcome! This course will trace major developments in American history from the year 1939 to roughly 2001. It is organized in a chronological fashion, and will touch on aspects of the diplomatic, social, cultural, and political history of the nation. Because of the fast pace at which the course moves, it is essential that students keep up with the course material. Readings are designed to complement the lectures, and all course evaluation will draw equally from assigned readings and in-class material. Assignments in the course will help students develop skills in research, formulating an argument, and writing. Occasionally we will have discussions in class – this is good practice for taking seminars in history, can help you to become a more confident speaker, and makes the classroom a more interesting and dynamic place.

Rules and Regulations

It pains me to have to repeat this, but all written work for the course must be original. Do not be tempted to “borrow” materials from the internet or other sources without attribution. If something looks suspicious, I will check! All assignments should be typed and double spaced. Further details about written assignments will be provided in class. You will be provided with some evaluation before the Winter Term Voluntary Withdrawal date of March 20, 2013.

Pay close attention to due dates. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, if you contact me directly before an assignment is due. 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.

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.

Course Evaluation

Short Essay (3-5 pages)	15%	completed
Book Review (3-5 pages)	15%	completed
Research Proposal	5%	due January 29
Major Research Paper (12-15 pages)	25%	due April 2
Class Participation	10%	
Final Exam during exam period	30%	

Grade Distribution

A+ = 90 +	C+ = 66-69
A = 80-89	C = 60-65
B+ = 76-79	D = 50-59
B = 70-75	F = 49 and below

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

Fall Term

John Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. Pantheon Books, 1987.

Ellen Shrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism: A Brief History with Documents*. Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2001.

Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*. Princeton University Press, 2000.

Winter Term

Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism*. University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Christian Appy, *Working Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam*. University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Walter LaFeber, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*. W. W. Norton, 1999.

Other readings are available on reserve in the library, or online.

WINTER TERM

Week 1 Jan 8

- 1) Youth Culture
- 2) Library session – preparing a research proposal

Reading: Thomas Frank, *The Conquest of Cool*, Ch. 1-3

Week 2 Jan 15

- 3) Black Power
- 4) Johnson's struggle

Reading: *The Conquest of Cool*, Ch. 4-6

Russell J. Henderson, "The 1963 Mississippi State University Basketball Controversy and the Repeal of the Unwritten Law: 'Something more than the game will be lost,'" *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 63, No. 4. (Nov., 1997) 827-854. (JSTOR)

Week 3 Jan 22

- 5) New Left and New Conservatives
- 6) Vietnam – Soldier’s Experiences

Reading: *The Conquest of Cool*, to end

Week 4 Jan 29

- 7) Vietnam and Student Protest
- 8) 1968 – a pivotal year

Reading: *Working Class War*, Introduction , Chapters 1-2

***Research Proposal Due - January 26

Week 5 February 5

- 9) Nixon and the Rise of the Middle Americans
- 10) Vietnam – “Peace with Honor”?

Reading: *Working Class War*, Ch. 3-5

Week 6 Feb 12

- 11) Feminism and American Society
- 12) Identity Politics

Reading: *Working Class War*, Ch. 6-7

Week 7 READING BREAK – February 18-22 – NO CLASSES

Week 8 Feb 26

- 13) Watergate and its Legacy
- 14) Carter

Reading: *Working Class War*, to end

Week 9 March 5

- 15) 1970s Malaise
- 16) The Reagan Revolution

Reading: Carroll, *It Seemed Like Nothing Happened*, Ch. 12, 14-15 (on reserve)

Week 10 March 12

- 17) Reagan’s Domestic Agenda
- 18) The Cold War in Central America

No reading this week – work on your research papers!

Week 11 March 19

- 19) Reagan and Detente
- 20) The Culture Wars, 1980-1992

Reading: Walter LaFeber, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*, Ch 1, 2

Week 12 March 26

- 21) Assessing the 1980s
- 22) Clinton and the Move to the Centre

Reading: LaFeber, *Michael Jordan*, Ch. 3, 4

Week 13 April 2

- 23) 1990s Prosperity
- 24) Clinton and Impeachment Crisis

No Readings this week

*****Research Paper Due – April 2 in class**

Week 14 April 9

- 25) 9/11 and Beyond

Reading: Thomas Frank, *What's The Matter With Kansas*, Ch. 1-3 (on reserve)

FINAL EXAM DURING EXAM PERIOD – APRIL 12-26, 2013