HIST 7190 T03
Studies in American History Since 1877
2019-2020 Fall/Winter

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This course deals with topics in the political, social, and cultural history of the United States between the years 1877 to roughly 2000. 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 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.

Grade Breakdown

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical assessments of weekly readings</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>(You will write roughly 500-750 words/2-3 pages of analysis of any given week’s assigned readings. You will be required to complete ten over the course of the year and hand in each before discussion of the readings in class. You may hand in more than ten and the top marks will be recorded.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal (250-500 words/1-2 pages)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>due Feb. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation to class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>(sign up in class for presentations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (5750-7500 words/23-25 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>due April 4</td>
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Please note: In the case of PhD students taking the course in preparation for a comprehensive field exam in American history, adjustments to the assignments can be made as follows in place of the research proposal and research paper:

**Preparation of Comprehensive Reading List**  
(with 250-word statement outlining rationale behind list organization and category choices)  
5% due Feb. 4

**Oral presentation of one debate in U.S. historiography**  
10%

**Historiographical papers**  
(based on two categories from reading list; 1250 words/5 pages each; 2 X 15%)  
30% due April 4

**Grade Distribution**

- Exemplary 90% & above A+
- Superior 80-89% A
- Very Good 75-79% B+
- Good 70-74% B
- Slightly above avg. 65-69% C+
- Average 60-64% C
- Marginal 50-59% D
- Failure below 50% F

**Fall term**

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad* (Hill and Wang, 2001)


**Winter term**


**Students are reminded that all written work submitted for the course must be original.** University policy on academic integrity will be enforced. A full description of academic integrity matters, including plagiarism and cheating, can be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Graduate Academic Calendar & Catalog of the University of Manitoba.

The last date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is January 17, 2020. Evaluation and feedback will be provided to you before this date.

**Computers, Cellular Phones, Tablets, etc.**
All phones must be on silent/vibrate mode and stored in pockets, bags or purses for the duration of the class. Texting, checking social media, instant messaging, and surfing the web are not appropriate behaviours in class.

**Assignments and Late Policy**
All written 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 have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

**Student Resources – Where to go if you need help!**

**Academic Resources**
There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): [http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/). The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage ([http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: [http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html).

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: [http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history](http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history). Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.
Student Counseling Centre
Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html

Student Support Case Management
Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don’t know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html

University Health Service
Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/

Student Advocacy
Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy

Finally, I would encourage you to come by my office during office hours, or to make an appointment to come by another time, if you require any clarification about assignments or course content. A lecture course can sometimes feel intimidating to students new to the university. I welcome you to come and introduce yourself, and if you are having any problems with an upcoming assignment, come and talk to me and we can work out a solution.
Class Schedule

Week 1  Introduction September 10

Week 2  September 17  A crash course in American historiography
Suggested Readings (you will be given further instructions in class September 12 about how to divide up the readings):

Peter Novick, That Noble Dream**** the definitive work on the history of American historians – there are copies in the library and an e-book available online

Walter Palmer, From Gentleman’s Club to Professional Body

John Higham, History: Professional Scholarship in America


Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, “Competing Histories of America,” from Telling the Truth About History


James M. Banner, ed. A Century of American Historiography

Anna Green and Kathleen Troup, The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century History and Theory

Week 3  The West  September 24
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


Patricia Nelson Limerick, introduction from The Legacy of Conquest


**Week 4 America and the World** October 1
Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad*

**Week 5 Gilded Age Race Relations** October 8
Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here*

**Week 6 Labour and Environmental History** October 15
Andrews, *Killing for Coal*

**Week 7 Whiteness Studies** October 22
David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*, introduction

Grace Hale, excerpt from *Making Whiteness*


**Week 8 October 29 Capitalism and Imperialism**
Nan Enstad, *Cigarettes, Inc.*

**Week 9 November 5 Indigenous History**
Chantal Norrgard, *Seasons of Change: Labor, Treaty Rights, and Ojibwe Nationhood*

**Week 10 November 12**
FALL TERM BREAK, NO CLASSES
Week 11  November 19  Food History


Week 12  November 26  Environmental History


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


HOLIDAY BREAK

Week 1 January 7 The Great Depression

Neil M. Maher, “‘Work for others but none for us’: the economic and environmental inequalities of New Deal relief,” Social History (August 2015): 40 no. 3: 312-334.


Week 2 January 14 World War II


Week 3 January 21 The Cold War
George Kennan, “Long Telegram” (Feb. 22, 1946), available online at http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/coldwar/documents/


Week 4 January 28 Vietnam
Meredith Lair, *Armed with Abundance: Consumerism and Soldiering in the Vietnam War*

Week 5 February 4 History of Sexuality


Excerpt from Tiemeyer, *Plane Queer*

Proposal Due

Week 6 February 11 Consumption History


Week 7 February 18 – Midterm Break, no class

Week 8 February 25 History of Capitalism
Hamilton, *Truckin’ Country*

Week 9 March 3 Religion, Region and Capitalism
Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart*
Week 10 March 10  The Carceral State


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Week 11 March 17
Presentations

Week 12 March 24
Presentations

Week 13 March 31
Presentations

Week 14 April 4
***Research paper due***