

HSTAA 522
American History: Writings and Interpretations Since 1870
University of Washington
Spring 2011
Monday 3:30-5:20
<http://faculty.washington.edu/momara/HSTAA522.html>

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This readings and discussion course introduces you to the historiography of modern America and to some major contemporary debates in the field. With only nine class meetings and much ground to cover, I have been selective in my choices to balance out other regular graduate course offerings in this Department that cover certain modern U.S. subfields in greater depth. The reading load is heavy, and is organized chiefly by theme rather than by chronology. We will be reading both classics as well as recent works that complement and complicate earlier interpretations. Successful participation in the course will give students a solid grounding in the historiography and prepare them for more specialized research in one or more of its subfields and/or in other disciplines. Students will also have an enhanced understanding of how to teach this material to undergraduate students in both general and topical courses.

REQUIRED READINGS

All of these are available for purchase at the University Bookstore.

1. Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (1951)
2. Beverly Gage, *The Day Wall Street Exploded: A Story of America in its First Age of Terror* (2008)
3. Alfred P. Chandler, *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business* (1972)
4. George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1994)
5. Thomas J. Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis* (1996)
6. Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue, *The New Suburban History* (2006)
7. George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (1995)
8. William Leuchtenberg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* (1963)
9. Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980* (1990)
10. Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights* (2007)
11. Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (2002)
12. Meg Jacobs, William Novak, and Julian Zelizer, *The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History* (2003)
13. Sarah E. Igo, *The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public* (Harvard, 2008)
14. Julian Zelizer and Bruce Schulman, eds., *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s* (2008)

Required articles for this course can be found via the class website. For every week's subfield, I have listed recommended books that are considered important contributions to the historiography. You are not required to read these books for class but may use the list as a starting point in preparation of bibliographies, exam reading lists, et al. However, if you have already read one of the books listed as required reading for a given week, you should choose a book from the recommended list as a substitute for reading, write-up, and discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS

The assignments in this course are intended to support your professional education and are designed so that they may be repurposed at a later date in your training or your career. Naturally, participation, completion of readings, and collegial and productive participation in discussion are weighed heavily. The requirements are:

1. To assist in close reading of the text and provide some framing questions for class discussion (as well as give you a written summary of each book for future use later in your graduate and professional career), every student will be responsible for typing up one page (per book) of **notes on the book** for each week. These are for personal consultation during class time, and should be turned in to the instructor at the end of the session as an ungraded assignment that contributes to the participation grade. They do not need to feature gem-like prose, but they should be reasonably coherent and grammatically sound. Notes should include: a succinct restatement of each book's main argument; the evidence the author uses to support that argument (including major sources); your assessment of whether the author makes the argument successfully; major questions raised by this reading; and relationship to the broader historiography (the author's own historiographic notes can be useful in this regard). You are not required to type up notes for assigned articles.
2. At least twice during the quarter, every student will give a ten-minute **historiographic presentation** that outlines major debates within the subfield under discussion that week, situates the week's required reading within this literature, and provides a brief assessment of how you think the week's author(s) contributed to, and/or changed the terms of, the scholarly debate. In conjunction with this presentation, the student will draw up a short (one page, double-spaced) **bibliography** listing 1) key journals in the subfield, 2) important historiographic/theoretical essays about the subfield, 3) monographs in the field beyond the recommended reading list on the syllabus. This bibliography should be emailed to me and to your fellow students by 11AM on the day of your presentation. Students will sign up for these presentations at the first class session on March 28.
3. In order to begin to think about how you might teach this literature to future students, you will write a hypothetical **course syllabus** for an undergraduate survey course in twentieth century American history. The syllabus should be as substantively detailed and structurally precise as possible, built as if it were to be taught at the UW in Spring Quarter 2012. Although our twentieth-century survey (HSTAA 303) technically begins in 1877, you may begin closer to 1900 if preferred, as this is the more common practice elsewhere. The syllabus should be accompanied by an up to 500-word (one page, single-spaced) **narrative** describing your choices of readings and assignments. This assignment is due on or before May 23. The syllabus and narrative must be emailed to me and to your fellow students by 11AM that morning.
4. The final assignment is a 10-page (double-spaced) **historiographic review essay** on one major subfield in twentieth century history that includes discussion of at least four additional books on the "recommended reading" list below. Although shorter than a review article found in a refereed journal such as *Reviews in American History*, the essay should be similar in spirit and tone of analysis. Identify major works in the subfield and important turning points in the historiographical interpretation of the topic. Contrast/compare sources and methods; contextualize the work in the broader U.S. historiography. The paper topic **must be a different subfield** from those on which you gave the in-class historiographic presentations. You also may choose to focus on a subfield beyond those discussed in class but to which some course texts also relate (e.g., Western history, environmental history, labor history, intellectual history). Please choose this topic in consultation with me. The essay should be emailed to me by 5PM on June 10 (the Friday of exam week). Extensions or incompletes are strongly discouraged.

Assignments are weighed as follows: participation/readings/notes 50%; historiographic presentation and bibliography 15%; syllabus and narrative 15%; final essay 20%.

SCHEDULE

3/28 I: Finding Modern America

Read:

Thomas Bender, "Wholes and Parts: The Need for Synthesis in American History." *Journal of American History* 73 (1986): 126-36.

Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform* (1951)

Beverly Gage, *The Day Wall Street Exploded* (2009)

Bibliography presented by instructor; students will sign up for future bibliographic presentations.

Recommended reading:

Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (1998)

Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* (1986)

Roy Rosenzweig, *Eight Hours for What We Will: Workers and Leisure in an Industrial City, 1870-1920* (1983)

Michael Katz, *In the Shadow of the Poorhouse* (1986)

Eric Rauchway, *Murdering McKinley: The Making of Theodore Roosevelt's America* (2003)

William Tuttle, *Race Riot: Chicago in the Red Summer of 1919* (1970)

William Deverell, *Railroad Crossings: Californians and the Railroad, 1850-1910* (1996)

Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction* (1999)

Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (1982)

Michael Kazin, *The Populist Persuasion: An American History* (1998)

Robert Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920* (1967)

4/4 II: Business and Economic History

Read:

Alfred P. Chandler, *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business* (1972)

Naomi R. Lamoreaux, Daniel M. G. Raff, and Peter Temin, "Beyond Markets and Hierarchies: Toward a New Synthesis of American Business History." *The American Historical Review* 108, no. 2 (April 2003): 404-433.

Kathy Peiss, "'Vital Industry' and Women's Ventures: Conceptualizing Gender in Twentieth Century Business History," *The Business History Review* 72, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 218-241.

Recommended reading:

Angel Kwolek-Folland, *Engendering Business: Men and Women in the Corporate Office, 1870-1930* (1998)

Sharon Strom, *Beyond the Typewriter: Gender, Class, and the Origins of Modern Office Work, 1900-1930* (1994)

Clark Davis, *Company Men: White Collar Life and Corporate Cultures in Los Angeles, 1892-1941* (2001)

William H. Whyte, *The Organization Man* (1949)

C. Wright Mills, *White Collar: The American Middle Classes* (1952)

Jennifer Klein, *For All These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America's Public-Private Welfare State* (2006)

David Farber, *Sloan Rules: Alfred P. Sloan and the Triumph of General Motors* (2005)

Roland Marchand, *Advertising the American Dream: Making Way for Modernity, 1920-1940* (1986)

Philip Scranton, *Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865-1920* (2001)

Bethany Moreton, *For God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise* (2007)

Shane Hamilton, *Trucking Country: The Road to America's Wal-Mart Economy* (2008)

4/11 III: Race and Ethnicity

Read:

George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1994)

Eric Arnesan, "Whiteness and the Historians' Imagination," *International Labor and Working-Class History*, no. 60 (Fall 2001): 3-32

Recommended reading:

Barbara J. Fields, "Ideology and Race in American History," in *Region, Race, and Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of C. Vann Woodward*. Ed. J. Morgan Kousser and James M. McPherson (New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982), pp. 143-177.

Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (2009)

Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow: The Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina* (1995)

Nancy MacLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry: The Making of the Second Ku Klux Klan* (1994)

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955)

John Bodnar, *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America* (1985)

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005)

Russell Kazal, "Revisiting Assimilation: The Rise, Fall and Reappraisal of a Concept in American Ethnic History," *American Historical Review* 100 (1995), 437-471.

Jonathan Reider, *Canarsie: The Jews and Italians of Brooklyn Against Liberalism* (1987)

Ronald Formasiano, *Boston Against Busing: Class and Ethnicity in the 1960s and 1970s* (2003)

Josh Sides, *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* (2003)

William Chafe, *Civilities and Civil Rights: Greensboro, North Carolina and the Struggle for Black Freedom* (1980)

John McGreevy, *Parish Boundaries: The Catholic Encounter with Race in the Twentieth-Century Urban North* (1998)

Ira Katznelson, *City Trenches: Urban Politics and the Patterning of Class in the United States* (1981)

4/18 IV: Urban and Suburban History

Read:

Thomas J. Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis* (1997)

Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue, *The New Suburban History* (2006): read Introduction and Chapters 3 (O'Mara), 5 (Wiese), and 7 (Self)

Recommended reading:

[Also see Prof. O'Mara's syllabus and reading lists for HSTAA 590 American Urban History on her faculty website]

John Findlay, *Magic Lands: Western Cityscapes and American Culture after 1940* (1991)

Robert Fishman, *Bourgeois Utopias* (1987)

Greg Hise, *Magnetic Los Angeles: Planning the Twentieth Century Metropolis* (1993)

Alison Isenberg, *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It* (2005)

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of America* (1986)

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961)

Lewis Mumford, *The Culture of Cities* (1938) and *The City in History* (1961)

Becky Nicolaides, *My Blue Heaven: Life and Politics in the Working-Class Suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965* (2002)

Margaret O'Mara, *Cities of Knowledge: Cold War Science and the Search for the Next Silicon Valley* (2005)

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism* (1998)

Robert Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland* (2003)

Saskia Sassen, *Cities in a World Economy* (1990)

Anne Whiston Spirn, *The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design* (1986)

Jon Teaford, *The Rough Road to Renaissance: Urban Revitalization in America* (1990)

Andrew Weise, *Places of their Own: Black Suburbanization in America* (2001)

4/25 V: Gender and Sexuality

Read:

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (1994)

Nancy MacLean, "The Leo Frank Case Reconsidered: Gender and Sexual Politics in the Making of Reactionary Populism," *The Journal of American History* 78: 3 (Dec., 1991), pp. 917-948

Recommended reading:

Joan W. Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *The American Historical Review* 91: 5 (Dec., 1986), pp. 1053-1075

Nancy Cott, *The Grounding of Modern Feminism* (1989)

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (1989)

Gerda Lerner, *The Creation of Patriarchy* (1987)

Margot Canady, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America* (2009)

Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality* (2004)

Stephanie Coontz, *Marriage, A History* (2005)

Vicki Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950* (1987)

Estelle B. Freedman, *No Turning Back: A History of Feminism in America* (2003)

5/2 V: State-Building

Read:

William Leuchtenberg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* (1963)

Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., *The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order, 1930-1980* (1990)

Recommended reading:

[Also see Prof. O'Mara's syllabus and reading lists for HIST 590 Welfare States on her faculty website]

David M. Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in the Great Depression and World War II* (1999)

Jason Scott Smith, *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works* (2009)

Eric Rauchway, *The Great Depression and New Deal: A Very Short Introduction* (2008)

Neal Maher, *Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the Environmental Movement* (2009)

Julian Zelizer, *Taxing America: Wilbur B. Mills, Congress, and the State* (2000)

Ed Berkowitz, *Mr. Social Security: The Life of Wilbur J. Cohen* (1995)

Brian Balogh, *Chain Reaction* (1993)

Kim Philips-Fein, *Invisible Hands: The Making of the Conservative Movement from the New Deal to Reagan* (2008)

Bethany Moreton, *For God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise* (2009)

5/9 VI: America and the World

Read:

Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World*

Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*

Recommended reading:

Penny Von Eschen, *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War* (2006)

Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line: Race Relations in the Global Arena* (2003)

Paul Boyer, *By the Dawn's Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age* (1994)

Ellen Schrecker, *No Ivory Tower: McCarthyism and the Universities* (1986)

Christian Appy, *Cold War Constructions: The Political Culture of Cold War Imperialism* (2006)

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

Kenneth Osgood, *Total Cold War: Eisenhower's Secret Propoganda Battle at Home and Abroad* (2006)

Louis Warren, *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (2005)

John Louis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (1982)

5/16 VIII: Culture and Consumption

Read:

Sarah Igo, *The Averaged American*

Meg Jacobs, "Pocketbook Politics" in *The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History*

Lizabeth Cohen, "From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America," *The American Historical Review* 101: 4 (Oct., 1996), pp. 1050-1081

Recommended reading [also includes literature on poverty and inequality]:

Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (2003)

Meg Jacobs, *Pocketbook Politics: Economic Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (2007)

Alice O'Connor, *Poverty Knowledge: Social Science, Social Policy, and the Poor in Twentieth Century American History* (2002)

Michael Katz, *The Price of Citizenship* (2000)

James T. Patterson, *America's Struggle Against Poverty* (1993)

David Erickson, *The Housing Policy Revolution: Networks and Neighborhoods* (2010)

Arnold Hirsch, *Making the Second Ghetto* (1983)

William Julius Wilson, *When Work Disappears* (1998)

Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton, *American Apartheid* (1993)

5/23 IX: Politics

Read:

Meg Jacobs, William Novak, and Julian Zelizer, "Introduction" to *The Democratic Experiment: New Directions in American Political History*

Julian Zelizer and Bruce Schulman, eds., *Rightward Bound: Making America Conservative in the 1970s*

Recommended Reading:

Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism* (2005)

Matt Lassiter, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South* (2006)

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* (2001)

Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies* (2007)

Jonathan Schoenwald, *A Time for Choosing: The Rise of Modern American Conservatism* (2002)

Rick Perlstein, *Nixonland* (2008)

E. J. Dionne, *Why Americans Hate Politics* (1989)

Thomas and Mary Edsall, *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics* (1992)

Matthew Dallek, *The Right Moment: Ronald Reagan's First Victory and the Decisive Turning Point in American Politics* (2004)

Jacob Hacker, *The Divided Welfare State: The Battle over Public and Private Welfare Benefits in the United States* (2002)

5/30 Memorial Day: no class

6/10 Final paper due 5PM via email to the instructor