

HSTAA 522
Readings in American History: Late-Nineteenth Century to the Present
University of Washington
Spring 2013 – Tues 2:30-5:20
<http://faculty.washington.edu/momara/HSTAA522.html>

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HSTAA 522 is the second in a two-quarter sequence whose primary goal is to introduce the variety of methods and conceptual and theoretical approaches that shape U.S. history scholarship. Without pretending to provide a comprehensive survey of U.S. history, the sequence aims to establish a bibliographic foundation for the research and teaching you will undertake as you move through the graduate program and beyond. (Students outside the History Department do not have to have taken HSTAA 521 as a prerequisite for this course.)

The temporal focus of HSTAA 522 is the late nineteenth century to the present. With only ten 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. Assignments are geared towards professionalization and preparation for comprehensive examinations and dissertation work – i.e., all are intended to have a useful application beyond this class.

Each week we will use the third hour of class to discuss issues related to the state of academe and the practice of history. These “H3 Discussions” can include pedagogy, multidisciplinary, academic publishing, and different methods and modalities for the practice of history, including digital and public/applied scholarship.

REQUIRED READINGS

All of these are in paperback and available for purchase at the University Bookstore. I strongly encourage you to add as many of them to your personal libraries if financial circumstances allow.

Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (1998)
Richard White, *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of America* (2011)
George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1994)
Thomas J. Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis* (1996)
George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World* (1995)
Bruce Schulman, *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt: Economic Development, Federal Policy, and the Transformation of the South, 1938-1980* (1991)
Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (2002)
Arnold Hirsch, *Making the Second Ghetto: Race and Housing in Chicago* (1983)
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)
Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class* (2010)

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), every student will be responsible for posting a 400-500 word entry of **notes and questions on the week's assigned reading** on GoPost the night before class every week (including the first week). Notes should include a succinct restatement of each reading's main argument; your assessment of whether the author makes the argument successfully; and at least two meaty questions raised by this reading that you would like to see discussed in class. Keep archived copies of your GoPost entries so that you can consult them during exam preparation, etc.
2. At least once during the quarter, each student will serve as a **discussion leader** and co-teacher. Responsibilities of the discussion leader are to read and synthesize the major questions posed by colleague's GoPost entries that week, to map out a discussion facilitation plan in email consultation with the professor the morning of class, and to join the professor in leading discussion. You will sign up for discussion leadership on the first day of class.
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 2014. 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 a 300-500-word **narrative** describing your choices of readings and assignments, challenges encountered, etc. This assignment should be submitted to me via email no later than 11am the day of the last class meeting.
4. In order to think about your public presentation of yourself, I ask that you create a **personal web page** that presents you and your scholarly interests and accomplishments to an online audience. The page serves as a way to introduce to you peers, colleagues, prospective employers, students, and the general public. You may use any platform you wish, including simply setting up a profile on Academia.edu; we will discuss different examples and platforms in class. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the Departmental web page redesign process and link this page to the UW History website. This is a pass/fail assignment. These pages should be created and accessible online no later than the ninth week of the quarter so that we can discuss them in class.
5. The end-of-term assignment is a **historiographic review essay** of about 3000 words entitled "New Directions in _____ History." The essay should begin by discussing the origins of the field (referencing seminal works), then present the current state of the field, then conclude by offering some promising new directions for the field. 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. Your topic could be a disciplinary subfield (labor history, urban history, Western history, business history, etc.) or scholarly methodology (digital history, public history). Please choose this topic in consultation with me. The essay should be emailed to me by 5PM on the Friday of exam week. Extensions or incompletes are strongly discouraged.

Assignments are weighed as follows: engaged, rigorous, verbal class participation and GoPost 40%; discussion leadership 15%; syllabus and narrative 15%; web page 5%; final essay 25%.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Progressivism(s)

Read:

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

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

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

H3 Discussion: becoming part of the professional community – associations, networks, and conferences

Recommended reading:

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

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

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)

Week 2: Business history

Read:

Richard White, *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of America* (2011)

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.

H3 discussion: spatial history and visualization; digital history

Recommended reading:

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

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)

Week 3: Race and ethnicity

Read:

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

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

H3 discussion: teaching strategies

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)

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)

Week 4: Urban history

Read:

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

Margaret O'Mara, "Suburbia Reconsidered: Race, Politics, and Property in the Twentieth-Century Metropolis," *Journal of Social History* (September 2005)

Margaret O'Mara, "Cities and Suburbs," *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Social History* (2012)

H3 discussion: writing reviews and topical essays

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)

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

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

Samuel Zipp, *Manhattan Projects: The Rise and Fall of Urban Renewal in Cold War New York* (2010)

Week 5: Gender and sexuality

Read:

Chauncey, *Gay New York*

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

H3 discussion: public/applied history

Recommended reading:

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)

Week 6: Policy and state-building

Read:

Bruce Schulman, *From Cotton Belt to Sunbelt: Economic Development, Federal Policy, and the Transformation of the South, 1938-1980* (1991)

Julian E. Zelizer, "Clio's Lost Tribe: Public Policy History Since 1978," *Journal of Policy History* 12:3 (2000) pp. 369-394

H3 discussion: the research and writing process

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)

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

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: Expert Debate and Public Participation in American Commercial Nuclear Power* (1991)

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (1994)

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

Week 7: America and the world

Read:

Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*

H3 discussion: transnational/comparative history

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 Propaganda 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)

Week 8: Poverty and inequality

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

H3 discussion: interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary

Recommended reading:

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)

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

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

American Journal of Sociology

Social Science History

Urban Studies

Week 9: Political history

Personal web page must be completed and accessible online before the start of class.

Read:

Philips-Fein, *Invisible Hands*

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

H3 discussion: presenting yourself online and beyond

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)

Week 10: Postindustrial America

Syllabi and narrative must be completed and emailed to instructor before class.

Read:

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

Cowie, *Stayin' Alive*

H3 discussion: the future of History

Recommended reading:

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)

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)

Suleiman Osman, *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn* (2010)

6/7 Final paper due 5PM via email to the instructor