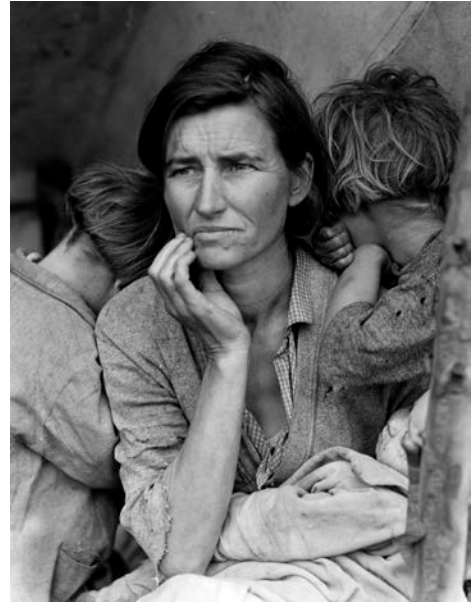


# HIS 4301E: The United States in the Twentieth Century

Department of History  
The University of Western Ontario  
Fall/Winter 2015-16  
Mondays 11:30 to 1:30  
Stevenson Hall 3166



**Instructor:** Geoffrey Stewart  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12:00 to 2:00  
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The United States emerged from the twentieth century as arguably the most powerful nation in the world. It wields its tremendous influence politically, economically and culturally. How did this come to be? What intrinsic and external forces were at work? What challenges lie ahead? This seminar attempts to answer these questions by examining the social, political and cultural history of the United States from the 1890s to the present. Through a variety of media, including primary texts, secondary sources and film, we will examine the triumphs and tragedies of what has been called “the American century.” Thematically we will engage, among other things, the struggles for racial, gender and sexual equality; class and the role of the state in society; and how American identity has been shaped at home and abroad. Topically, we will look at the Gilded Age, the Progressive Era, the world at war, the New Deal, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Me Decade, the conservative resurgence and everything in between.

### **Outcomes:**

Students in this course will:

- collaborate in a year-long investigation of 20th-century United States history
- locate, interpret, and evaluate primary sources, identifying their meaning and demonstrating awareness of their historical context, significance, audience, and goals
- read selected secondary source works and engage that literature in both class discussion and written work
- research and write essays making sustained historical arguments, supported with evidence from primary and secondary sources, presented in clear and correct prose
- engage with their peers in complex and constructive discussion of both the course content and the process of doing and writing history
- situate contemporary issues in a historical context, identifying and assessing the present-day relevance of the history covered in this course

### **Textbooks**

The following books are required reading for this course. They should be available at the campus bookstore, from a variety of book sellers, and on 2-hour reserve at Weldon Library.

- Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- Michael Hunt, *The American Ascendancy: How the United States Gained and Wielded Global Dominance* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Louise Knight, *Jane Addams: Spirit in Action* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010).
- Eric Rauchway, *The Great Depression and the New Deal: A Very Short Introduction* (London: Oxford, 2008).
- Bruce Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism: A Brief Biography with Documents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007)
- **1 book yet to be determined**

**Each week there will also be primary source readings, not listed here. These will be posted Owl, and you will be responsible for discussing them in class.**

## Evaluation

Research Proposal	10%	due November 2
Rough Draft of Research Paper	20%	due February 8
Feedback on Classmate Papers	10%	due March 7
Final Draft of Research Paper	30%	due April 4
Participation	30%	every week

## Assignments

This is a seminar class, and it depends upon everyone's **active participation** every week, in the form of reading, discussion, and engagement with historical sources. We will talk more in class about what active participation means and requires.

You will write one substantial **research paper** in History 4301; it will be between 20-25 pages long, including footnotes (approx. 4500-6000 words). A paper of this length cannot be written overnight, or even in a two-week burst at the end of term. You should expect to work on this paper, a little at a time, all year long. All of the written assignments for the course represent stages of this project. A short **research proposal** outlining your topic and available sources is due in early November. A **rough draft** of your paper is due in February. In March, you will read and provide **feedback** on some of your classmates' papers; the **final draft** is due in April. There is **no midterm or final exam**.

## Films

We will also watch and discuss three feature films over the course.

- ***The Grapes of Wrath***. Directed by John Ford; screenplay by Nunnally Johnson from the book by John Steinbeck. 1940.
- ***The Manchurian Candidate***. Directed by John Frankenheimer; screenplay by George Axelrod from the book by Richard Condon. 1962.
- ***Do The Right Thing***. Written and directed by Spike Lee. 1989.

## Optional Texts

Some students find it useful to supplement their reading with a textbook. If you feel you need more background information, I encourage you to acquire a standard U.S. history textbook and read along when necessary, but I do not require this and I do not have strong feelings about which textbook you should use. Eric Foner's ***Give Me Liberty! An American History*** (which you may have used in History 2301) is a good text, available on the reserve shelves at Weldon, but you are free to use any other textbook if you wish.

There are many books that offer advice on doing historical research or academic writing in general. Sometimes the advice will seem basic, but even basic advice can be useful when engaged in a complicated research project. Two books that I recommend are Booth, Colomb and Williams' ***The Craft of Research*** and Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein's ***They Say/I Say:***







## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and

indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western), <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or [msherif5@uwo.ca](mailto:msherif5@uwo.ca)