



The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 4301E

The United States in the Twentieth Century
Fall/Winter 2018-19

Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 pm, Somerville House 3355

Instructor: Professor Rob MacDougall

Office: Lawson Hall 2228

Office Hours (Fall Term): Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm, or email for appointment

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Course Description

A survey of American history, 1901 to the present, with emphasis upon political, social, and economic developments. Intensive examination of selected topics in seminar.

Prerequisite: 2.0 courses in History at the 2200 level or above. Restricted to Honors Students.

Unless you have either the requisites for this 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. The 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.

Course Syllabus

This course explores the history of the United States from the 1890s to the present, from the America of Jane Addams and Teddy Roosevelt to that of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Our topics include political struggles and cultural upheavals, racial segregation and the civil rights movement, the World Wars and the Cold War, the genius and the cost of American capitalism, America's gifts to the world and America's crimes. We'll try to get past simple arguments between the United States' cheerleaders and its critics, in order to understand the real complexities of "the American century." And we will ask how we can use this history in the present, since the story of the United States in the 20th century undeniably shapes our lives—here in Canada and around the world.

Assignments and Expectations

This is a seminar class, and it depends upon everyone's **active participation** every week, in the form of reading, discussion (both in class and online), and engagement with historical sources. Participation certainly includes—but is not limited to—attendance at all classes and film screenings.

You will write one substantial **research paper** in History 4301; it should 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**.

Course Materials

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.

- Carol Anderson, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017).
- 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).
- Sam Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph Over Plutocracy That Created the American Middle Class, 1900-1970* (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2012).
- Bruce Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism: A Brief Biography with Documents*, 2nd Edition (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

Each week there will also be **primary source readings**, not listed here. These will be posted on the course website (OWL), and you will be asked to comment on them there. These additional readings are not optional; in many ways they are the heart of this course.

Films

We will also watch and discuss three feature films over the course of the semester. There will be an evening screening of each film in the week before the film is to be discussed. (Times, dates, and locations will be announced in class and online.) **I do expect you to attend these evening screenings.** If you really cannot attend a screening, you must find some way to view the film on your own time before we discuss it in class. Copies may be available at Weldon, on the internet, or from me.

- *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. 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: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. You are not required to buy either, but you may find them useful in your work. Both are available in the library.

Evaluation

Research Proposal	10%	due November 7
Rough Draft of Research Paper	20%	due February 13
Feedback on Classmate Papers	10%	due March 6
Final Draft of Research Paper	30%	due April 3
Participation (in class & online)	30%	every week

Participation, both in class and online, counts for 30% of your final grade; you may weight this as 20% in class and 10% online, or vice-versa (whichever benefits your grade).

Academic Accommodation

Contact me in advance if you must miss a class or film screening, submit an assignment late, or require accommodation for any work worth less than 10% of the final grade (such as each week's online comments on the readings). Any unexcused absences will lower your participation grade. Late assignments will receive a late penalty of 5% for the first day late and 2% per day thereafter (including weekends).

Accommodation for repeated absences, or for any assignment worth 10% or more of the final grade, requires documentation from the Academic Counselling Office or the Dean's Office of your home faculty.

For more information, please see Western's Policy on Accommodation for Illness, here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

The Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling website is also useful:

<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/index.html>

Learning Outcomes

Students in History 4301 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 historical context, identifying and assessing the present-day relevance of the history covered in this course

Course Schedule

Most weeks you will read a few **chapters from the required texts** along with a short selection of additional **primary sources**. These will be posted on the course website at <http://owl.uwo.ca> The exact topics or readings for each week may change. Please check OWL each week for the most up to date information.

Fall Term**Week 1 | September 12 | Introduction to the Course****Week 2 | September 19 | The United States and the World at Century's Start**

- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2.
- Additional readings to be assigned; check the course website.

Week 3 | September 26 | American Crucible: Race and Ethnicity at Century's Start

- Anderson, *White Rage*, Prologue and Chapter 1.
- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 4 | October 3 | The Gilded Age

- Knight, *Jane Addams*, Preface and Chapters 1, 2, and 3.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

READING WEEK | October 8 - 12 | NO CLASS**Week 5 | October 17 | Wealth Against Commonwealth**

- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 6 | October 24 | The Progressives

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 2.
- Knight, *Jane Addams*, Chapters 4 and 5.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 7 | October 31 | The United States and the Great War

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 3.
- Knight, *Jane Addams*, Chapter 6.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 3.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 8 | November 7 | The Roaring Twenties**RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE NOVEMBER 7**

- Anderson, *White Rage*, Chapter 2.
- Knight, *Jane Addams*, Chapter 7.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 9 | November 14 | Boom and Bust**FILM SCREENING: *The Grapes of Wrath*.** (Date, time, and location to be announced.)

- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapters 4 and 5.
- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Chapter 3.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 10 | November 21 | The New Deal

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 4.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 6.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 11 | November 28 | The United States and World War II

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 5.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 7.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 12 | December 5 | The First Global Superpower

- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Chapters 4 and 5.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Winter Term**Week 13 | January 9 | The Cold War at Home**

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 6.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 8.
- Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 14 | January 16 | The Golden Age?

- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapters 9, 10, and 11.
- Anderson, *White Rage*, Chapter 3.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 15 | January 23 | Cold War Liberalism**FILM SCREENING: *THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE*.**

(Date, time, and location to be announced.)

- Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson*, Chapters 2, 3, and 4.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 16 | January 30 | The Freedom Struggle

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 7.
- Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson*, Chapter 5.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 17 | February 6 | Vietnam and the Fracturing of American Liberalism

- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Chapter 6.
- Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson*, Chapters 6 and 7.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 18 | February 13 | New Left and Cultural Upheaval

ROUGH DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 13

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 8.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

READING WEEK | February 18-22 | NO CLASS

Week 19 | February 27 | New Right and Neoliberalism

- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Chapter 7.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 12.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 20 | March 6 | Peer Feedback Week

FEEDBACK ON CLASSMATE PAPERS DUE MARCH 6

- This week you will read and respond to each other's research paper rough drafts.

Week 21 | March 13 | American Crucible Revisited: Race and Ethnicity at Century's End

FILM SCREENING: *DO THE RIGHT THING*. (Date, time, and location to be announced.)

- Anderson, *White Rage*, Chapter 4.
- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 9.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 22 | March 20 | The United States and the World at Century's End

- Hunt, *The American Ascendancy*, Chapter 8 and Conclusion.
- Pizzigati, *The Rich Don't Always Win*, Chapter 13.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 23 | March 27 | Obama's America, and Trump's

- Gerstle, *American Crucible*, Chapter 10.
- Anderson, *White Rage*, Chapter 5 and Afterword.
- Additional readings to be assigned.

Week 24 | April 3 | Conclusion

FINAL DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE APRIL 3

- Readings to be assigned.

Additional Statements**Accessibility Options**

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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

to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. 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.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Scholastic 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

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 (<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.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.