HIST 5106 – Graduate Colloquium in Modern U.S. History (Civil War to the Present) – Spring 2017

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Course Description

This course is designed to be a rigorous introduction to U.S. history and historiography since the Civil War. The course will be reading-heavy, with a book plus one or more articles per week required of each student. I also provide lists of suggested readings for each week that are largely meant to give you a sense of other important books in particular areas. The enterprising student might read reviews of some of these books and/or make an effort to figure out their basic arguments. My hope is that such extended reading lists will help you to prepare your comps reading list in modern U.S. history.

This course will also involve substantial writing of several kinds, including:

1) **Weekly Reaction Essays** – You will complete weekly reaction essays of *no more than two pages* (double spaced, 12 point type, with normal fonts and margins) that discuss the books and articles you have read. Please use these to explore your discussion questions/agenda and to work through issues raised by the readings that you think are particularly important. These essays should be engaged with and reflect a clear understanding of the readings, but they need not be regurgitations of them. Instead, they should demonstrate critical engagement with the author(s)’s argument(s), and they should develop a clear line of reasoning. In other words, they should be thoughtful reactions to the readings that develop/show the skills of interpretive engagement.

2) **Book Review** – Each of you will complete **one** 5-page book review over the course of the semester on a book that you will read *in addition to* the assigned readings for one particular class meeting. You will choose this book from the “Recommended” reading lists unless otherwise arranged. You will present a brief summary of your book to the class during the appropriate week. You will still be responsible for a weekly reaction essay on the assigned readings that same week.

3) **Lightning Historiographies** – Each of you will produce **two** historiographical essays, each approximately 12-15 pages (4000-5000 words), that examine major historiographies/historiographical debates in modern U.S. history. These will usually focus on one of the topics or themes that define our weekly discussions, and they are meant to increase your familiarity with specific historiographies and to teach you the craft of writing historiographical essays. I refer to these as “lightning historiographies” because I expect that you will rely more on reading book reviews and historiographical essays, and perhaps quickly reviewing the framing materials of the books covered, than on having carefully read a series of the most important books in a given subfield. The first essay will be on a pre-1930 topic, and the second will be on a post-1930 topic.
4) **Mock Comp** – At the end of the semester, each of you will be required to take a mock comprehensive exam in modern U.S. history. I will schedule that as the time approaches, but the basic idea is that you will be given one or two broad questions about modern U.S. historiography, and you will have a single day to produce answers, relying primarily upon course readings to do so. I may also ask you to complete other smaller assignments as the semester progresses.

The grading breakdown will be as follows:

- Weekly Reactions Essays: 25%
- Book Review: 5%
- Lightning Historiographies: 20%
- Mock Comp: 20%
- Attendance and Participation: 20%

**Required Books**

- Gregory Downs, *After Appomattox: Military Occupation and the Ends of War*
- Richard White, *Railroaded: The Transcontinental and the Making of Modern America*
- David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*
- Charles Postel, *The Populist Vision*
- Julie Greene, *The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal*
- Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*
- Daniele McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance—A New History of the Civil Rights Movement*
- Elizabeth Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*
- Robert Self, *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy since the 1960s*
- Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*
- Andrew Bacevich, *America’s War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*

**Other Resources:**

- *The American Yawp* – a free, online, and collaboratively built textbook that I will expect you to read along in as the semester proceeds.
- Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, *American History Now* – this is a useful collection of historiographical essays that you can access electronically through Chinook.
Course Schedule

January 17 – Reconstruction
Read:

- Downs, *After Appomattox*

Recommended:
- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*
- Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution*
- Leon Litwack, *Been in The Storm So Long: The Aftermath of Slavery*
- Laura Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction*
- Julie Saville, *The Work of Reconstruction: From Slave to Wage Laborer in South Carolina, 1860-1870*
- Susan O’Donovan, *Becoming Free in the Cotton South*
- Heather Cox Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901*
- Heather Cox Richardson, *West from Appomattox: The Reconstruction of America after the Civil War*
- Thavolia Glymph, *Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household*
- Moon-Ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation*
- Rebecca Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery*
- Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History*
- Stacey Smith, *Freedom’s Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction*
- Steven Hahn, *A Nation Without Borders: The United States and Its World in an Age of Civil Wars, 1830-1910*
January 24 – The West/Native America/Big Business

Read:
- White, *Railroaded*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 17

Recommended
- Patricia Nelson Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*
- William Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*
- Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*
- Margaret Jacobs, *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia, 1880-1940*
- Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn: An Apache Massacre and the Violence of History*
- Ari Kelman, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek*
- Richard White, *It’s Your Misfortune and None of My Own: A New History of the American West*
- Donald Worster, *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*
- Andrew Isenberg, *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History, 1750-1920*
- Elliott West, *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story*
- Louis Warren, *Buffalo Bill’s America: William Cody and the Wild West Show*
- Katherine Benton Cohen, *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands*
- Sven Beckert, *Monied Metropolis: New York City and the Consolidation of the American Bourgeoisie, 1850-1896*
- Alfred Chandler, *The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business*
- David Hounshell, *From the American System to Mass Production, 1800-1932*
- Philip Scranton, *Endless Novelty: Specialty Production and American Industrialization, 1865-1925*
- Jonathan Levy, *Freaks of Fortune: The Emerging World of Capitalism and Risk in America*
January 31 – New South/Jim Crow/Memory
Read:
- Blight, *Race and Reunion*
- Barbara Y. Welke, “When All the Women Were White, and All the Blacks Were Men: Gender, Class, Race, and the Road to *Plessy*, 1855-1914,” *Law and History Review* 13, 2 (Fall 1995): 261-316.
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 18

Recommended:
- Grace Elizabeth Hale, *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*
- Fitzhugh Brundage, *The Southern Past: A Clash of Race and Memory*
- C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of the New South, 1877-1913*
- Jane Dailey, Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, and Bryant Simon, eds., *Jumpin’ Jim Crow: Southern Politics from Civil War to Civil Rights*
- Edward Ayers, *The Promise of the New South: Life after Reconstruction*
- Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy since the Civil War*
- Tera Hunter, *To ‘Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women’s Lives and Labors after the Civil War*
- Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America*
- Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity.)*
- Stephen Kantrowitz, *Ben Tillman and the Reconstruction of White Supremacy*

February 7 – Populism and Progressivism
Read:
- Postel, *The Populist Vision*
- *American Yawp*, Chapters 16, 20

Recommended:
- Richard Hofstadter, *The Age of Reform: From Bryan to FDR*
- Robert Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920*
- Elizabeth Sanders, *Roots of Reform: Farmers, Workers, and the American State, 1877-1917*
- Stephen Skowronek, *Building a New American State: The Expansion of Administrative Capacities*
- Lawrence Goodwyn, *The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*
- Steven Hahn, *The Roots of Southern Populism: Yeoman Farmers and the Transformation of the Georgia Upcountry, 1850-1890*
- Michael Kazin, *The Populist Persuasion: An American History*
- Michael Willrich, *Pox: An American History*
- Nell Irvin Painter, *Standing at Armageddon: The United States, 1877-1919*
- Jackson Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920*
- Maureen Flanagan, *America Reformed: Progressives and Progressivism, 1890s-1920s*
- Robin Muncy, *Creating a Female Dominion in American Reform, 1890-1935*
- Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age*
- Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America*
- Shelton Stromquist, *Reinventing “the People”: The Progressive Movement, the Class Problem, and the Origins of Modern Liberalism*
- Gabriel Kolko, *The Triumph of Conservatism: A Reinterpretation of American History, 1900-1916*
- Samuel Hays, *Conservation and the Gospel of Efficiency*
- Nancy Cott, *The Grounding of Modern Feminism*

**February 14 – Labor and American Empire**

**Read:**

- Greene, *The Canal Builders*
- *American Yawp, Chapter 19*

**Recommended:**

- Paul Kramer, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, and the Philippines*
- Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*
- Kristin Hoganson, *Consumer’s Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920*
- Emily Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945*
- Walter LaFeber, *The New Empire: An Interpretation of American Expansion, 1865-1898*
- Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*
- Amy Kaplan, *The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture*
- Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940*
- Ian Tyrrell, *Crisis of a Wasteful Nation: Empire and Conservation in Theodore Roosevelt’s America*
- Catherine Ceniza Choy, *Empire of Care: Nursing an Migration in Filipino American History*
- Julie Greene, *Pure and Simple Politics: The American Federation of Labor and Political Activism, 1881-1917*
- Thomas Andrews, *Killing for Coal: America’s Deadliest Labor War*
- David Montgomery, *Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925*
- Melvin Dubofsky, *We Shall Be All: A History of the Industrial Workers of the World*
- James Green, *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement, and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America*
- Leon Fink, *Workingmen’s Democracy: The Knights of Labor and American Politics*

**February 21 – World War I and American Society**

Read:

- Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 21

Recommended:

- David Kennedy, *Over Here: The First World War and American Society*
- Christopher Capozzola, *Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern Citizen*
- Alan Dawley, *Changing the World: American Progressives in War and Revolution*
- Ellis Hawley, *The Great War and the Search for a Modern Order*
- Thomas Knock, *To End All Wars: Woodrow Wilson and the Quest for a New World Order*
- Adriane Lentz Smith, *Freedom Struggles: African Americans and World War I*
- Michael Kazin, *The War against War: The American Fight for Peace, 1914-1918*
- Chad Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era*
- William Tuttle, *Race Riot: Chicago in the Red Summer of 1919*

**February 28 – Immigration/The 1920s**

*Read:*
- Kelly Lytle Hernandez, *Migra!*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 22

*Recommended:*
- John Bodnar, *The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*
- Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants the Alchemy of Race*
- George Sanchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*
- Roger Daniels, *Guarding the Golden Door: American Immigration Policy and Immigrants since 1942*
- Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*
- Nyan Shah, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco*
- Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America*
- Donna R. Gabaccia and Vicki L. Ruiz, eds., *American Dreaming, Global Realities: Rethinking U.S. Immigration History*
- David Gutierrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*
- Lisa McGirr, *The War against Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State*
- Edward Larson, *Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trail and America’s Continuing Debate over Science and Religion*
- Matthew Sutton, *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*
- Dana Frank, *Purchasing Power: Consumer Spending, Gender, and the Seattle Labor Movement, 1919-1929*
- Nancy MacLean, *Behind the Mask of Chivalry: The Making of the Second Ku Klux Klan*
- Lynn Dumenil, *The Modern Temper: American Culture and Society in the 1920s*
March 7 – The New Deal/World War II
Read:

- Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself*
- *American Yawp*, Chapters 23-24

Recommended:
- Lizabeth Cohen, *Making a New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1918-1939*
- Jennifer Klein, *For All These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America’s Public-Private Welfare State*
- Patricia Sullivan, *Days of Hope: Race and Democracy in the New Deal Era*
- Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War*
- Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression*
- Jason Scott Smith, *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933-1956*
- Jess Gilbert, *Planning Democracy: Agrarian Intellectuals and the Intended New Deal*
- Sarah Phillips, *This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal*
- Paul Sutter, *Driven Wild: How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement*
- Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*
- Marsha Weisiger, *Dreaming of Sheep in Navajo Country*
- James Sparrow, *Warfare State: World War II Americans and the Age of Big Government*

March 14 – Postwar America/Cold War America/Sexuality
Read:

- Kate Brown, *Plutopia*
- *American Yawp*, 25
Recommended:
- Allan Berube, *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II*
- George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940*
- Joanne Meyerowitz, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States*
- Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America*
- Melvin Leffler, *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War*
- Gretchen Heefner, *The Missile Next Door: The Minuteman in the American Heartland*
- Paul Boyer, *By the Bomb’s Early Light: American Thought and Culture at the Dawn of the Atomic Age*
- Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*
- Kevin Boyle, *The UAW and the Heyday of American Liberalism, 1945-1968*

March 17 – Lightning Historiography # 1 due by 5 pm. Please email it to me.

March 21 – NO CLASS

March 28 – Spring Break

April 4 – The Long Civil Rights Movement – Part I
Read:
- McGuire, *At the Dark End of the Street*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 26

Recommended
- Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*
- Glenda Gilmore, *Defying Dixie: The Radical Roots of Civil Rights, 1919-1950*
Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Tradition*
- Charles Payne, *I’ve Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle*
- Michael Klarman, *From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality*
- James Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro*
- John Egerton, *Speak Now Against the Day: The Generation Before the Civil Rights Movement in the South*
- John Dittmer, *Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*
- Chana Kai Lee, *For Freedom’s Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*
- Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*
- Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena*
- Zaragosa Vargas, *Labor Rights Are Civil Rights: Mexican-American Workers in Twentieth Century America*
- Robert Rogers Korstad, *Civil Rights Unionism: Tobacco Workers and the Struggle for Democracy in the Mid-Twentieth Century South*
- Hassan Jeffries, *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama’s Black Belt*
- Jason Sokol, *There Goes My Everything: White Southerners in the Age of Civil Rights, 1945-1975*
- Jason Ward, *Hanging Bridge: Racial Violence and America’s Civil Rights Century*

**April 11 – The Long Civil Rights Movement – Part II**

**Read:**
- Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 27

**Recommended:**
- Thomas Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*
- Nancy McLean, *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*
- Peniel Joseph, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*
- Matthew Garcia, *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Worker Movement*
- Annalise Orleck, *Storming Caesar’s Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty*
- Marisa Chappell, *The War on Welfare: Family, Poverty, and Politics in Modern America*
- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
- *JAH* special issue – “Constructing the Carceral State,” 102, 1 (June 2015)

**April 18 – Postwar American Politics/Women and Family/Metropolitan History**

**Read:**

- Self, *All in the Family*
- *American Yawp*, Chapters 28

**Recommended:**

- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*
- Victoria DeGrazia, *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through 20th Century Europe*
- Meg Jacobs, *Pocketbook Politics: Economic Citizenship in the Twentieth-Century United States*
- Alice Kessler Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in 20th-Century America*
- Rosalind Rosenberg, *Divided Lives: American Women in the Twentieth Century*
- Susan Douglas, *Where the Girls Are: Growing Up Female with the Mass Media*
- Kathy Peiss, *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America’s Beauty Culture*
- Sara M. Evans, *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left*
- Sara M. Evans, *Tidal Wave: How Women Changed America at Century's End*
- Dorothy Sue Cobble, *The Other Women’s Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America*
- Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*
- Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*
- Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*
- Robert Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*
- Matthew Lassiter, *The Silent Majority: Suburban Politics in the Sunbelt South*
- Matthew Connolly, *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida*
- Lily Geismer, *Don’t Blame Us: Suburban Liberals and the Transformation of the Democratic Party*
- Andrew Needham, *Power Lines: Phoenix and the Making of the Modern Southwest*

**April 25 – The Rise of Conservatism/Intellectual History**

**Read:**

- Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*
- *American Yawp*, Chapter 29

**Recommended:**

- Joseph Crespin, *In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution*
- Rick Perlstein, *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus*
- Judith Stein, *Pivotal Decades: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance in the Seventies*
- Gil Troy, *Morning in America: How Ronald Reagan Invented the 1980s*
- Donald Critchlow, *Phyllis Schlafly and Grassroots Conservatism: A Woman’s Crusade*
- Michelle Nickerson, *Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right*
- Jennifer Burns, *Goddess of the Market; Ayn Rand and the American Right*
- Shane Hamilton, *Trucking Country: The Road to America’s Walmart Economy*
- Darren Grem, *The Blessings of Business*
- Kim Phillips-Fein, *Invisible Hands: The Businessman’s Crusade against the New Deal*
- Kevin Kruse, *One Nation Under God: How Corporate American Invented Christian America*
- Darren Dochuk, *From Bible Belt to Sun Belt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*
- Molly Worthen, *Apostles of Reason: The Crisis of Authority in American Evangelicalism*

**May 2 – Postwar American Foreign Relations/Recent American History**

**Read:**

- Bacevich, *America’s War for the Greater Middle East*
  - *American Yawp*, Chapter 30

**Recommended:**

- Melvyn Leffler, *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*
- Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World: America’s Vision for Human Rights*
- Frederik Logevall, *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America’s Vietnam*
- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*
- Michael Sherry, *In the Shadow of War: The United States since the 1930s*
- Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945*
- Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*
- Nick Cullather, *The Hungry World: America’s Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia*
- Daniel Sargent, *A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970s*
- David Farber, *Taken Hostage: The Iran Hostage Crisis and America’s First Encounter with Radical Islam*
- Daniel Immerwhar, *Thinking Small: The United States and the Lure of Community Development*
- Jennifer Mittelstadt, *The Rise of the Military Welfare State*
- James Patterson, *Restless Giant: The United States from Watergate to Bush v. Gore*

**May 5 – Lightning Historiography # 2 due by 5 pm. Please email it to me.**