

Instructor: Deirdre Moloney
Fall 1994

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626: American Social History Since 1860
Department of History
University of Wisconsin, Madison

This course examines the broad changes that have occurred in American society since the Civil War. It emphasizes movements on behalf of racial and gender equality. It also analyzes the ways in which additional groups challenged existing social conditions and values--including farmers, labor unions, and anti-war protesters. Throughout the semester, we will trace changes in immigration and migration patterns, as well as in the economy and workplace. We will also survey the impact of three wars on society. The course will further reveal the ways in which the government's role increased dramatically over this period, especially since the 1930's. Students will develop their writing and critical thinking skills, and will be expected to discuss issues raised by the readings and lectures.

There are six books on the required reading list. Additional readings listed below are available on reserve at College Library, H.C. White Hall, under the author's name.

There will be a mid-term and final exam, each with a take-home component. In addition, students will each write a research paper of about 12 pages. A list of suggested topics will be distributed, but students are encouraged to pursue topics of their own choosing, with the instructor's approval. The course grade breakdown is as follows: mid-term--25 percent; final--35 percent; term paper--30 percent; participation and short assignments--10 percent. There will be an additional requirement for those students who have opted to register for four credits.

BOOKS: Paula Giddings, When and Where I Enter; John Bodnar, The Transplanted; Nella Larsen, Passing; Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest; Jack Kerouac, On the Road; Peter Carroll, It Seemed Like Nothing Happened.

Week 1

SEPT. 1
Course Introduction

Week 2

SEPT. 6
Civil War: Its Impact on Northern and Southern Society
SEPT. 8
Reconstruction

READINGS:

Eric Foner, A Short History of Reconstruction (1988), chapters 1 and 3.

Week 3

SEPT. 13
Jim Crow and the Anti-Lynching Campaigns
SEPT. 15
Immigration and Restriction: Europeans and Asians

READINGS:

Paula Giddings, When and Where I Enter (1985), chapters 1 and 3.

Week 4

SEPT. 20
Late Nineteenth Century Indian Policy and Resistance
SEPT. 22
New Technologies, Transportation, and Urbanization in the Late Nineteenth Century

READINGS:

John Bodnar, The Transplanted (1985).

L.G. Moses and Margaret C. Szasz, "'My Father Have Pity on Me!': Indian Revitalization Movements of the Late Nineteenth Century," Journal of the West (1984) 23 (10): 5-15.

Week 5

SEPT. 27

Labor Unions and Non-unionized Labor

SEPT. 29

Farming and Populism

READINGS:

David Montgomery, Worker's Control in America (1979), Chapters 1 and 2.*Week 6*

OCT. 4

Progressive Era Urban Reform

OCT. 6

Social Thought in the Early Twentieth Century

READINGS:

Rivka Lissak, "Myth and Reality: The Pattern of Relationship Between The Hull House Circle and the 'New Immigrants' On Chicago's West Side, 1890-1919," Journal of American Ethnic History 1983 2 (2): 21-50.Mina Carson, "Agnes Hamilton of Fort Wayne: The Education of a Christian Settlement Worker," Indiana Magazine of History 1984 80 (1): 1-34.*Week 7*

OCT. 11

Suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment

OCT. 13

The Revival of the Ku Klux Klan: Racism and Anti-Catholicism in the 1920's

READINGS:

Susan Levine, "Labor's True Woman: Domesticity and Equal Rights in the Knights of Labor," Journal of American History (1983): 323-339.

Nancy Cott, "Feminist Politics in the 1920's: The National Woman's Party, " Journal of American History (1984) 71 (1) 43-68.

Week 8

OCT. 18

The Great Migration and The Harlem Renaissance

OCT. 20

MID-TERM

READINGS:

Nella Larsen, Passing (1929). [A Novel]

Week 9

OCT. 25

Video: Episode from the PBS Series, "The Great Depression"

OCT. 27

The Great Depression

READINGS:

Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest (1982). (first half)

Week 10

NOV. 1

The New Deal

NOV. 3

Work and World War II

READINGS:

Finish Voices of Protest.

Week 11

NOV. 8

The African-American Church and Civil Rights

NOV. 10

More than Martin and Malcolm: Women in the 50's and 60's Civil Rights Movement

READINGS:

Ruth Milkman, Gender at Work: The Dynamics of Job Segregation during World War II (1987) Chapters 1 and 2, and conclusion.Paula Giddings, When and Where I Enter, chapters 15 and 16.*Week 12*

NOV. 15

Suburban Frontiers: G.I. Bill, The Federal Highway System, and Social Security

NOV. 17

An Alternative Nation?: The Sixties from a Distance

READINGS:

Jack Kerouac, On The Road (1957).

TERM PAPER DUE--Nov. 17

Week 13

NOV. 22

The War At Home: Vietnam

NOV. 24

THANKSGIVING BREAK

READINGS:

Kenneth T. Jackson, "The Crabgrass Frontier: 150 Years of Suburban Growth in the United

States," in Mohl and Richardson, eds. The Urban Experience (1973), 196-221.

Charles DeBenedetti, "On the Significance of Citizen Peace Activism: America, 1961-75," Peace and Change 9 (Summer 1993), 6-20.

Week 14

NOV. 29

A Reactivated Women's Movement

DEC. 1

The 1970's

READINGS:

Judith Smith, "When the Personal Became Political: Re-Viewing Harvard SDS," Radical America 1988 22 (5) 30-35.

Peter Carroll, It Seemed Like Nothing Happened (1982), Parts I and II.

Week 15

DEC. 6

Reagan's America

DEC. 8

Gay and Lesbian Rights: From Stonewall to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

READINGS:

John D'Emilio, Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970 (1983), chapters 6, 11, 12.

Week 16

DEC. 13

America in the Post-Cold War Era: California as a Microcosm.

DEC. 15

CONCLUSION/REVIEW

FINAL EXAM--Dec. 22