



History 5400 (CRN 80536)
Twentieth Century U.S. History
Three (3.0) Credit Hours
Clayton State University, fall 2015
This is a 100 percent online course.

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Office Hours: All via internet. I will return all your messages within 24 hours, except on weekends.

Description

This course takes a thematic look at various forces shaping the United States during the 20th century. Prerequisites: HIST 2111 and HIST 2112.

Greetings, Fellow Historians!

This course intends to give you an overview of some special themes that shaped the United States during the twentieth century. The past century was substantially different from the previous ones in American history. The westward expansion, perhaps the most substantial force shaping America during previous centuries, was over. Both the politics and everyday life in America experienced serious transformations throughout the twentieth century. America emerged as the world's leading superpower. New groups gained prominence in the nation's culture, politics, and economy, including women, African Americans, and other minorities.

During this course, we will study and analyze some key forces shaping the nation's recent past. Some of the topics we focus on include globalization, changing policies of race and gender, America as a superpower, the growing role of entertainment in America, and Cold War. While it is impossible to acquire a thorough, complete understanding of all aspects of America's history during a single course, I believe we all can gain meaningful insights into the trends, policies, and events that have shaped this nation's recent history.

Learning outcomes

The goals of this course include learning a relatively sophisticated understanding of the twentieth century United States. We will improve our knowledge of the historiography of recent American past, sharpen our research- and critical reading skills, and learn to observe the forces that created the contemporary United States.

History Program Outcomes

Program outcomes for the B.A. in history degree at Clayton State are:

- Identify and describe basic chronologies of U.S. and world history.
- Identify and critically evaluate primary and secondary historical sources.
- Identify and evaluate conflicting historical interpretations of events and personalities.
- Perform historical research using primary and secondary sources in libraries, archives, and other repositories of historical records.
- Write in a clear, analytical, and organized manner, demonstrating appropriate professional documentation methods.
- Discuss historical findings in clear and coherent oral presentations.

Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 214, 770-961-3719, disabilityservices@clayton.edu.

Writing Assistance

The Writers' Studio 224 is located in the A&S building, room 224. There you can talk with trained writing consultants about your writing projects. They are available to work with you at any stage of your paper, from generating ideas to organizing your paper to understanding how to format it correctly. The service is free; you may drop in and wait for a consultant or sign up for a regular appointment. But remember: you, not your consultant, are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the papers you submit.

Aside from meeting with consultants one-with-one, you can also participate in writing workshops. In these workshops, faculty and consultants will guide you in discussions and activities important to academic writing topics. You will be identify, analyze, integrate, and synthesize writing principles through a series of writing exercises. Remember that we are here to collaborate with you as you develop your own experiences as a student-writer.

Visit the website for more information: <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio>. There you will find a link to register for appointments online: <http://clayton.mywconline.com>

You will need to do a one-time registration. Simply click on the "Click here to register" link once at MYWCONLINE.

Operation Study

At Clayton State University, we expect and support high motivation and academic achievement. Look for Operation Study activities and programs this semester that are designed to enhance your academic success such as study sessions, study breaks, workshops, and opportunities to earn Study Bucks (for use in the University Bookstore) and other items. See the following site for details:

<http://www.clayton.edu/operation-study>

Computer Requirement

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to:

<http://itpchoice.clayton.edu/policy.htm>

Computer Skill Prerequisites

Ability to use the Windows TM operating system
Ability to use Microsoft Word TM word processing
Ability to send and receive e-mail using Outlook TM or Outlook Express TM
Ability to attach and retrieve attached files via email
Ability to use a Web browser.

GeorgiaVIEW Desire2Learn (Online Classroom)

This is a 100 percent online course. All activity will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. You can gain access to Desire2Learn by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting "GaVIEW" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB, TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Grading

Your final grade will break down as follows:

Two book reviews – 20% (10 % each)
Two think pieces about movies – 20 % (10 % each)
Participation – 20 %
Final research paper – 40%

Grades

90 and above = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59 and below = F

Mid-term Progress Report

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued during the first week of October, reflects approximately 20-30% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, by mid-term, which occurs on October 9th. **The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is October 9th, 2015.**

Missed Tests, Papers, and Other Assignments

I will not accept late papers unless with valid documentation. If you miss a deadline, please provide me with a documented excuse: police report, doctor's note, et cetera.

Attendance

University Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The University reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades. I do expect you to visit our D2L –site regularly. If I see no record of participation in online activities, I consider that as an absence from the course.

Books and Movies

The books listed below are required for the class. Please let me know as soon as possible if you have a hard time finding the books or have any other problems with the texts.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, *Tarzan of the Apes*

Hunter S. Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*

Matthew Avery Sutton, *Aimee Semple McPherson and the Resurrection of Christian America*

Alan Petigny, *The Permissive Society: America, 1941-1965*

Gary M. Pomerantz, *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn: A Saga of Race and Family*

Gavin Wright, *Old South, New South: Revolutions in the Southern Economy since the Civil War*

Robin Kelley, *Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression*

Andrew M. Kaye, *The Pussycat of Prizefighting: Tiger Flowers and the Politics of Black Celebrity*

Christina Simmons, *Making Marriage Modern: Women's Sexuality from the Progressive Era to World War II*

The following movies are also required for the course.

Stanley Kubrick, *Dr. Strangelove* (George C. Scott, Peter Sellers)

Ben Stiller, *Tropic Thunder* (Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr.)

Craig Brewer, *Hustle and Flow* (Terrence Howard)

Oliver Stone, *Wall Street* (Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen)

Warren Beatty, *Bulworth* (Warren Beatty, Halle Berry)

Cheating

Presenting the work of somebody else as one's own, unaccredited quotations, letting others do one's work for him/herself, and other forms of academic dishonesty are strictly forbidden. Violators will be pursued and punished according to Clayton State University's guidelines and regulations. Usually cheating results in disqualification from the course and the final grade of "F." All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Life/Judicial Affairs. Judicial procedures are described at <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/judicial/>

Plagiarism detection software

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

Disruption of the Learning Environment

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom/online setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom/online behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from the group. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at:

<http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm>

Student Handbook

For issues concerning ethical rules, student life, student rights and responsibilities, et cetera, please consult the student handbook:

<http://adminservices.clayton.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook/foreword.htm>

Learning Units

FIRST THEME: GENDER (August 17-30)

Era of reforms: Populism, Progressivism, and Socialism. Suffragettes and sexual revolutionaries. Changing roles of women in the American life. Rosie the Riveter: Women and World War II. Post-World War II feminism: From Betty Friedan to Anita Hill. Read: *Aimee Semple McPherson, Making Marriage Modern*.

SECOND THEME: RACE AND ETHNICITY (August 31-September 13)

The strange birth and youth of Jim Crow. Immigration and the growth of multi-ethnic America. World Wars I & II and the spreading vision of racial equality. Civil Rights movement and the painful death of Jim Crow. Read: *The Pussycat of Prizefighting, Hammer and Hoe*.

THIRD THEME: AMERICA AND THE WORLD (September 14-27)

America's growing vision of global leadership. World War I and its aftermath. Wilsonian vision versus isolationism. World War II and the failure of isolationism. Cold War comes and goes. From bipolar world order to the United States as the sole superpower. Globalization - from Bretton Woods to Seattle riots. Watch: *Dr. Strangelove*.

FOURTH THEME: BUSINESS AND ECONOMY (September 28-October 11)

America as a new economic powerhouse. “The business of this country is business.” Why the Great Depression? The reasons and realities behind the nation’s economic collapse. World War II and the new economic juggernaut. From the world’s largest creditor to its leading debtor. The origins and emergence of the intertwined Ameriglobal economy. Read: *Old South, New South*. Watch: *Wall Street*.

REMEMBER: OCTOBER 9th IS THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A “W.”

FIFTH THEME: REBELS, CONFORMISTS, AND OTHER AMERICAN ICONS (October 12-25)

Outlaw, the great American anti-hero. John Dillinger and the Great Depression anti-capitalist revolt. The birth of counterculture. Beatniks, Hells Angels, and other subversives of the Cold War society. What were the sixties? From activism to hedonism. Sex, drugs, and rock’n’roll. The rise and fall of the 1960s counterculture. The 1980s. Wall Street and politics of neo-individualism. The rise of new conservatism. Read: *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Watch: *Hustle and Flow*.

SIXTH THEME: ENTERTAINMENT AND POPULAR CULTURE (October 26-November 8)

Field hollers and guitar-pickers. Blues and the emergence of African American musical genius. Jazz, America’s own art form. From hot to cool: Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis. Soundtrack for the teenage rebellion. Rock, rap, and the racial amalgamation of America. TV-revolution and suburban transformation. The arrival of television and the changing social spheres in America. Read: *Tarzan*. Watch: *Tropic Thunder*.

SEVENTH THEME: AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AND INTELLECTS (November 9-22)

The Lost Generation, Southern voices, and New York intellectuals. The rise of the Great American novelists, from Ernest Hemingway to Saul Bellow. From cultural Darwinism to American pragmatism and contemporary cultural critics. American twentieth century philosophical tradition, from William Sumner to John Dewey and Cornel West. Remarkable progress of American academia. Read: *The Permissive Society*.

EIGHT THEME: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICS (November 23-December 7)

Roots of post-WWII political thinking. The rise of the New Left and New Right. Read: *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*. Watch: *Bulworth*.

FINAL PAPERS DUE: DECEMBER 10th, 2015