May Session 2011
Monday - Thursday ... 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
312 Kirby Plaza
Scott Laderman
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www.d.umn.edu/~laderman
Office Hours: Thursdays ... 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.,
and by appointment

Course Description

History 1305 is designed to introduce you to U.S. political, social, and cultural history from Reconstruction to the present. Through lectures, discussions, and a number of documentary films, you will be required to consider a wide range of historical and contemporary events. One of the purposes of the course is to foster critical thinking; you will thus be encouraged to reflect on historical methodologies and to compare and contrast the various theories advanced by historians to explain the complexity of the past. In examining such theories you will develop analytical tools intended to help you understand both the past and the present.

As a liberal education course, History 1305 will examine basic values and encourage active citizenship and social responsibility by focusing on various important topics, from domestic tensions during the World War I era and the social effects of the Great Depression to the civil rights and women’s movements and the right-wing resurgence of the late twentieth century. Moreover, the class will introduce you to a number of intellectual, artistic, and literary figures, and it will put United States history and current events into global perspective by covering a number of important issues in U.S. foreign relations.

Required Book


Course Requirements

1. Class Participation and Attendance. I expect you to have completed all of the daily reading by its corresponding date on the syllabus; I may call on you to answer questions or discuss pertinent points. The class meetings, however, will complement, not duplicate, the required reading. Attendance is mandatory. I must be notified ahead of time of any and all absences. If you are confused or concerned about any of the material, you are encouraged to speak with me during my office hours. If you cannot meet during my regular office hours, you may e-mail me to schedule an appointment at another time. (10 percent of final grade)

2. Quizzes and Exam. There will be three quizzes and a final exam. They may cover the reading, films, and/or lectures. The quizzes will be given on May 19, May 25, and May 31. Students who are absent on the day of a quiz and do not notify me ahead of time will receive an “F”; make-up quizzes
will not be given. The final exam – scheduled for June 3 – will be worth 20 percent of your final grade, and each quiz will be worth 10 percent. (50 percent of final grade)

3. Response Papers on Primary Documents. You will be required to compose responses to the questions asked of selected primary documents. The documents and questions can be found on the pages of *Give Me Liberty!* in parentheses next to the due dates below. Your response papers will each be worth 10 points, which is 10 percent of your final grade. In your responses, which must be typed and double-spaced, you will need to draw on specific evidence from the documents to demonstrate the validity of your argument. The papers will be due on May 18 (pp. 532-533), May 24 (pp. 698-699), May 26 (pp. 824-825), and June 2 (pp. 984-985). No late response papers will be accepted. (40 percent of final grade)

Special Arrangements

It is my goal to enable your full participation in the classroom and in my assignments. Any student with a documented disability condition (for example, physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must notify me and contact the Office of Disability Resources (218-726-8217) at the beginning of the term.

Grading Policy

The following criteria will be used to determine students’ grades:

A ... Achievement outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B ... Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
C ... Achievement meeting the basic course requirements in every respect.
D ... Achievement worthy of credit even though it does not fully meet the basic course requirements in every respect.
F ... Performance failing to meet the basic course requirements.

Grades are based on a one hundred-point scale. The response papers, which comprise forty percent of your grade, are worth forty points, for example. I use the following scale in calculating grades:

A ... 94 to 100
A- ... 90 to 93.95
B+ ... 87 to 89.95
B ... 83 to 86.95
B- ... 80 to 82.95
C+ ... 77 to 79.95
C ... 73 to 76.95
C- ... 70 to 72.95
D ... 67 to 69.95
F ... 0 to 66.95

Students who engage in academic dishonesty will be given an “F” in this course and will be reported to the appropriate university authorities for further disciplinary action. According to the New Student Guide [http://www.d.umn.edu/~clasa/clal001/SA/academicdishonesty.htm] of the College of Liberal Arts, academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, and academic misconduct.
Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to follow, and I will enforce, the University’s Student Conduct Code (http://www.d.umn.edu/assl/conduct/code). Appropriate classroom conduct promotes an environment of academic achievement and integrity. Disruptive classroom behavior that interrupts either my ability to teach or the ability of your peers to learn is prohibited. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, reading the newspaper or books for other courses, speaking with your classmates when not asked to do so, and inappropriate use of technology in the classroom – from ringing cell phones and text-messaging to watching videos, playing computer games, doing e-mail, or using the Internet instead of note-taking or other instructor-sanctioned activities.

Reading Schedule

*Note: The reading must be completed by the class session next to which it appears. In other words, the reading listed for May 17 must be completed by the beginning of class on May 17.*

May 16  WELCOME

May 17  Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, xxiii-xxx, 520-566

May 18  DUE: RESPONSE PAPER NO. 1  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 566-614

May 19  QUIZ NO. 1  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 614-661

May 23  Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 661-729


May 25  QUIZ NO. 2  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 796-851

May 26  DUE: RESPONSE PAPER NO. 3  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 851-899

May 30  HOLIDAY

May 31  QUIZ NO. 3  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 899-956

June 1  Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 957-1015

June 2  DUE: RESPONSE PAPER NO. 4  … Reading: Foner, *Give Me Liberty!*, 1015-1070

June 3  FINAL EXAM

*NOTE: I retain the right to revise or alter the syllabus at any time. I will notify you in class if changes are made.*