This course deals with topics in the political, social, and cultural history of the United States between the years 1877 to roughly 1980. The course readings have been selected in order to expose students to a broad range of approaches to the study of American history. We will explore the types of sources used by historians, the evolution of historiographical debates, the challenges of writing history, the accomplishments and the occasional failings of the scholars we will be reading. The course is designed as a seminar. Each week, students will arrive in class having completed the assigned reading, and prepared to discuss it with the rest of the group. So much of a seminar’s success depends on you! Come to class ready to engage in a lively debate. Don’t worry if you didn’t understand an aspect of the readings – we will work this out together, and chances are, others had questions as well. To get the most out of this course, read carefully, listen to others in the class, and be confident in your own assessments of the readings. Students will be graded on their active participation in discussion, occasional presentations, and written work. This seminar will be attended by both graduate and undergraduate students. It is expected that graduate students will take on a leading role in discussions, and are required to submit slightly longer written work.

Students are reminded that all written work submitted for the course must be original. You are advised to consult the University of Manitoba’s regulations regarding plagiarism, cheating and impersonation found on page 27-28 of the 2010-2011 Undergraduate Calendar. The common penalty in the Faculty of Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test, or examination is $F$ on the paper and $F (CW)$ (for Compulsory Withdrawal) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication. The last date for Voluntary Withdrawal from a full year course is March 18, 2011. Some evaluation in the course will be provided before this date.

All assignments should be typed and double spaced. Further details about written assignments will be provided in class. Pay close attention to due dates. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Papers are due in class on the date indicated. Late papers will be penalized 2.5% per day. Evaluation will be provided before the Voluntary Withdrawal date of March 18, 2011.
Grade Breakdown

First Term
Seminar Participation 10%
Book Review (1000-1500 words/4-6 pages) 10% due Oct. 21
Historiographical Essay (2500-3000 words/10-12 pages) 20% due Dec. 2

Second Term
Seminar Participation 10%
Research Proposal (250-500 words/1-2 pages) 5% due Feb. 3
Research Presentation to class 10%
(sign up in class for presentations)
Research Paper (5750-7500 words/23-25 pages) 35% due April 7

Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exemplary</td>
<td>90 and above</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>75-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>70-74</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly above avg.</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>50-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Required Texts

These books are available at the campus bookstore. Other readings are available online or as photocopies in the box affixed to my office door.


**Course Schedule – First Term**

**Week 1** September 9 Introduction

**Week 2** September 16 America in the 19th Century - group presentations

**Week 3** September 23 Historiography

Excerpt from Peter Novick, *That Noble Dream*, available in folder outside my office door

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, “Competing Histories of America,” from *Telling the Truth About History*, available in folder outside my office door

**Week 4** September 30 America interacts with the world
Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues*

**Week 5** October 7 The West
Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History” – this is available online in various places, including the link here: [http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/turner/chapter1.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~Hyper/turner/chapter1.html)

Patricia Nelson Limerick, introduction from *The Legacy of Conquest* (available on my office door)


**Week 6 October 14** Region, Gender, Race  
Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

**Week 7 October 21** Environmental History  


***Book Review Due***

**Week 8 October 28** Labour and Environmental History  
Andrews, *Killing for Coal*

**Week 9 November 4** Whiteness Studies  
David Roediger, *The Wages of Whiteness*, introduction (available on my door)


Grace Hale, excerpt from *Making Whiteness* (available on my door)


**Week 10 November 11**  
Remembrance Day – no class

**Week 11 November 18** Immigration History  
Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*  
This book is also available in an electronic format through the library.
Week 12 November 25  Urban History
Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*

Week 13 December 2 History and Scandal: The Case of Michael Bellesiles

Bellesiles, “Statement on Emory University’s Inquiry into Arming America” (available online at History News Network, [http://hnn.us/articles/691.html](http://hnn.us/articles/691.html))


***Historiography Due***

Second Term

Week 1 January 6
*Professor Elvins is out of town at a conference. Complete reading for next week and work on research proposals.*

Week 2 January 13 The Cold War
(link is at bottom of page)


Week 3 January 20  Race and Memory
Hendrickson, *Sons of Mississippi*
**Week 4 January 27** Consumption History


**Week 5 February 3** Pop Culture and History

Wright, *Comic Book Nation*

***Research Proposals Due***

**Week 6 February 10** The New Conservatives

McGirr, *Suburban Warriors*

**Week 7 February 17**

*Professor Elvins is out of town at a conference. Work on Research Presentations.*

**Week 8 February 24** – Midterm Break, no class

**Week 9 March 3** Family and Politics

Zaretsky, *No Direction Home*

**Week 10 March 10**

Presentations

1)

2)

3)

4)
Week 11  March 17
Presentations
5)
6)
7)
8)

Week 12  March 24
Presentations
9)
10)
11)
12)

Week 13  April 7
***Research paper due