

HIST 2230 W
History of the United States from 1607
Fall/Winter 2014-2015

Room: 215 Tier
Instructor: George Buri

Time: MWF 8:30-9:20

Required Books: Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States 1492-Present*
F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

Office Hours: I will be in my office 343 University College from 10-11:30 Tuesday and Thursday. Please feel free to drop by to discuss assignments etc. If this is not convenient we can set up another time to meet or you can e-mail me at george.buri@umanitoba.ca.

Objectives: This course traces the development of the United States of America from 1607 to the present day including political, economic, social and cultural approaches to history. Emphasis will be placed upon specific over-arching themes throughout American history including slavery and race, immigration and immigrant experience, industrialism and its impact on the working classes, gender, political conflict and struggles for equality.

Assignments:

1. Primary Source Analysis = 10% (Due Oct. 17)
2. Film Assignment = 15% (Due Nov. 21)
3. Novel Assignment = 20% (Due Jan.14, Jan 26, Feb. 13)
4. Research Essay =25% (Due March 13)
5. Final Exam = 30%

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must pass the requirement for written English in order to pass the course.

All assignments are to be typed, double spaced and in 12 point font with standard margins. Citations should be in the form of footnotes or endnotes that follow Chicago Style.

Primary Source Analysis: You must write a 3-4 page (750-1000 words) analysis of a historical document. The documents can be found online through D2L. Analyze and review the document by answering the following questions: Who wrote the document and why? Why is the document historically significant and how does it help us understand the past? What biases and limitations are present in the document and how should a historian overcome them? You may extend your analysis of the document beyond these questions as well. It is recommended that you consult secondary sources in order to better understand and place the document in context.

Film Assignment: Choose a narrative film dealing with American history from a list provided. Write a 3-4 page (750-1000 words) critical review of the film focusing on its portrayal of historical events. Use the following questions to guide your review: How historically accurate is the film?

How and why have events been changed or embellished? How have the filmmakers' inclusions and exclusions shaped their account of history? How well does the film place its events into broader context. Does this work of fiction capture historical "truth"?

Novel Assignment: You must write a 4-5 page (1000-1250 words) essay on one of the three novels assigned for this course. In these essays you are to evaluate a work of fiction as an account of American history. Explore how the novel functions as a source for someone wishing to better understand American history. What are its strengths and its limitations? To what extent is this novel a "true" account of history? What is the author trying to say about American politics, life and society in the time period covered by the novel? What impact if any did the novel have in the time it was written? You are expected to do additional research for this assignment in order to properly put the novel into its historical context. Each novel assignment is due the day we discuss the novel in class.

Research Essay: The research essay is to be 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words) in length and written on a topic of the student's own choice. Students may choose their own topic or select from a list provided by myself. A handout on essay writing and a list of topics will be handed out separately.

Exam: The exam will consist entirely of essay questions in which you will be required to develop and argue a thesis using the information learned in this course. A list of potential essay questions will be distributed prior to exam.

Late policy: For Essays you will lose one grade for every class that your essay is late. If you cannot hand your essay to me in person it may be handed into the history office where it will be date stamped. Deadlines may be flexible if you ask for an extension IN ADVANCE (the farther in advance the better). If you are experiencing problems with the workload in this or a combination of courses please come to see me and we can work something out.

Regarding Plagiarism:

The University's regulations re plagiarism, cheating and impersonation can be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html) which reads:

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of **F** on the paper and a final grade of **F (DISC)** (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this 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 common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is **F** for the paper, **F (DISC)** for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses

taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Marking: Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.

Appeals: 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 has been made available to them.

Uncollected term work will become property of the faculty of arts and will be subject to destruction.

The Voluntary Withdrawal Date: is March 19, 2015 and evaluation of term work will be provided before then.

Class Schedule: Due Dates in Bold

Sep. 5: Introduction to the Course

Sep. 8-12: America to 1600 / Europe in the Age of Discovery (Zinn Chapter 1)

Sep. 15-19: Colonization of the 13 Colonies (Zinn Chapter 2)

Sep. 22-26: Colonial America / Roots of the American Revolution (Chapter 3)

Sep 29-Oct 3: The Revolutionary War and Constitution (Chapters 4 and 5)

Oct. 6,8: The Jeffersonian Republic (Chapter 6)

Oct. 10: Westward Expansion (Chapter 7, 8)

Oct. 13: NO CLASS: Thanksgiving

Oct 15, 17: Manifest Destiny and War with Mexico

Oct 17: **Primary Source Assignment Due Today**

Oct. 20, 22: Industrial Revolution in the North

Oct 24, 27: Slavery and the South

Oct. 29-Nov 3: The Civil War (Chapter 9)

Nov. 5,7: Reconstruction

Nov. 10-14: Western Expansion (Chapter 12)

Nov. 17-21: Industrialism and the “Gilded Age” (Chapter 10, 11)

Nov. 21: **Film Essay Due Today**

Nov. 24-28: The Progressive Era (Chapter 13)

Dec. 1-3: American Empire and Participation in WWI

Jan. 7-12: The 1920s

Jan 14: **Seminar: *The Great Gatsby* (Essay Due)**

Jan 16-23: The Depression and New Deal (Chapter 15)

Jan 26: **Seminar: *The Grapes of Wrath* (Essay Due)**

Jan 28-30: The “Good War” (Zinn Chapter 16)

Feb 2-6: Cold War America

Feb 9,11: The 1950s

Feb 13: **Seminar: *On the Road* (Essay Due)**

Feb 16-20: NO CLASS MID TERM BREAK

Feb 23-27: Jim Crow and The Civil Rights Movement (Chapter 17)

March 2-6: The Student Movement and Vietnam (Chapter 18)

March 9, 11: Second Wave Feminism (Chapter 19)

March 13: The Counterculture / **Research Essay Due Today**

March 16: The New Right

March 18, 20: The Nixon Era and Watergate (Chapter 20)

March 23: Reagan's America (Chapter 21)

March 25, 27, 30: Economic Crisis and Neoliberalism 1970s to Present (Chapter 22, 23, 24)

April 1, 3: The End of the Cold War and American Empire Post 9/11 (Chapter 25)

April 6, 8, 10: Post 9/11 America: The Bush II and Obama Eras / Film: Dirty Wars