

HIST 3290
THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1939
FALL/WINTER 2017-2018

Professor Sarah Elvins
Office: 353 University College
Phone: 204-474-8860
Email: sarah.elvins@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays,

Follow the Department of History on twitter: @UM_HistoryDept

This course will trace major developments in American history from the year 1939 to the present. It is organized in a chronological fashion, and will touch on aspects of the diplomatic, social, cultural, and political history of the U.S. during a dramatic period in the nation's history. Because of the fast pace at which the course moves, it is essential that students keep up with the course material. Readings are designed to complement the lectures, and all course evaluation will draw from assigned readings and all in-class material. Assignments in the course will help students develop skills in research, formulating an argument, and writing.

All written work must be original. *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.

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. In addition to handing in a hard-copy of all written assignments, students are required to submit a copy of the paper electronically through UM Learn (as a word document). The file name for the document should be as follows: SURNAME Given name Assign # HIST 3290

Evaluation will be provided before the Voluntary Withdrawal date of January 16, 2018.

Required Texts

John Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. Pantheon Books, 1987

Glenn Altschuler, *All Shook Up: How Rock 'n' Roll Changed America* (texts continue...)

Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the American Working Class*

Walter LaFeber, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*

Grade Breakdown

Short Essay (3-5 pages, 750-1,250 words)	15%	due October 13
Book Review (3-5 pages, 750-1,250 words)	15%	due November 30
Research Proposal	5%	due January 25
Major Research Paper (15-18 pages, 3,750-4,500 words)	25%	due March 30
Class Participation	10%	
Take-Home Final Exam	30%	due April 16

Grade Conversion - % to Letter Grade (and vice versa)

Exemplary	90% and above	A+
Superior	80-89%	A
Very Good	75-79%	B+
Good	70-74%	B
Slightly above average	65-69%	C+
Average	60-64%	C
Marginal	50-59%	D
Failure	below 50%	F

Week 1 Sept 7

1) Introduction

Week 2 Sept 12

2) 1939 – enduring a decade of Depression

3) Neutrality and Diplomacy

Reading: John Dower, *War Without Mercy*, Part 1

Week 3 Sept 19

4) Pearl Harbor

5) Mobilizing for War

Reading: Dower, *War Without Mercy*, Part 2

***Essay Assignment Sheet Handed Out

Week 4 Sept 26

- 6) The European Theatre
- 7) The Pacific Theatre

Reading: Dower, *War Without Mercy*, Part 3

Week 5 October 3 – the University is closed October 5

- 8) Social Change at Home

Reading: Dower, *War Without Mercy*, to end

Meg Jacobs, "'How About Some Meat?': The Office of Price Administration, Consumption Politics, and State Building from the Bottom Up, 1941-1946," *Journal of American History* 84 No. 3 (Dec. 1997), 910-941.

Week 6 October 10

- 9) Enola Gay and American Memory
- 10) Decision to Drop the Bomb

No reading this week

***Short Essay Due - October 13

Week 7 Oct 17

- 11) Start of the Cold War
- 12) Transition From War to Peace

Reading: Altschuler, *All Shook Up*, Ch. 1, 2

Week 8 Oct 24

- 13) Cold War Heats Up in Asia
- 14) The Cold War at Home

Reading: Altschuler, *All Shook Up*, Ch. 3, 4

***Book Review Assignment Sheet Handed Out

Week 9 October 31

- 15) The Cold War in Popular Culture
- 16) 1950s Affluence

Reading: Altschuler, *All Shook Up*, to end

Week 10 Nov 7

- 17) 1950s Suburbs
- 18) Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

Readings: Michael S. Mayer, "With Much Deliberation and Some Speed: Eisenhower and the Brown Decision," *Journal of Southern History* 52 No. 1 (Feb. 1986), 43-76.

Mary Dudziak, "Josephine Baker, racial protest, and the cold war," *Journal of American History* September 1994 Vo. 81 no. 2 pp. 543-570.

Week 11 Nov 14

- 19) Civil Rights and the Courts
- 20) The Road to Vietnam

Readings: Scott A. Sandage, "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," *Journal of American History* 80 No. 1 (June 1993) 135-167. (www.jstor.org)

Week 12 Nov 21

- 21) Ike and Malls
- 22) Electoral Politics in the Postwar Period

Reading: Lizabeth Cohen, "From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America," *American Historical Review* 1996 Vol. 101 no. 4: 1050-1081.

Thomas Hanchett, "U.S. Tax Policy and the Shopping-Center Boom of the 1950s and 1960s," *American Historical Review* 1996 vol. 101 no. 4: 1082-1110.

Week 13 Nov 28

- 23) The 1960 Election
- 24) JFK's Presidency

Reading:

James H. Meriwether, "'Worth a Lot of Negro Votes': Black Voters, Africa, and the 1960 Presidential Campaign," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 95 no. 3 (December 2008): 737-763.

Mark White, "Apparent Perfection: The Image of John F. Kennedy," *History* 98:330 (April 2013)

***Book Review Due - November 30

Week 14 Dec 5

- 25) JFK and Vietnam
- 26) Into the 1960s

No Reading this week - start thinking about research topics over break

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Term 2

Week 1 Jan 4

- 1) 1960s Protest and Alienation

Week 2 Jan 9

- 2) Library session – preparing a research proposal
- 3) Fall of the Great Society

Reading: TBA

Week 3 Jan 16

- 4) New Left, New Right
- 5) Counterculture

Reading:

Russell J. Henderson, “The 1963 Mississippi State University Basketball Controversy and the Repeal of the Unwritten Law: ‘Something more than the game will be lost,’” *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 63, No. 4. (Nov., 1997) 827-854.

James Hijiya, “The Conservative 1960s,” *Journal of American Studies* Vol. 37 no. 2 (2003): 201-28.

Week 4 Jan 23

- 6) Vietnam – Soldier’s Experiences
- 7) 1968

Reading:

Simeon Man, “Aloha, Vietnam: Race and Empire in Hawai’i’s Vietnam War,” *American Quarterly*, Vol. 67 No. 4 (December 2015): 1085-1108.

Research Proposal Due January 25

Week 5 Jan 30

- 8) Identity Politics
- 9) Feminism

Reading:

Betty Luther Hillman, “‘The Clothes I Wear Help Me to Know My Own Power’: The Politics of Gender Presentation in the Era of Women’s Liberation,” *Frontiers* Vol. 34 No. 2 (2013): 155-185.

Week 6 February 6

- 10) Vietnam – “Peace with Honor”?
- 11) Nixon

Reading: “Spin” and “How to Tell a True War Story” from Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried* (New York, 1990).

Week 7 Feb 7

- 12) Malaise
- 13) 1970s culture

Reading: Cowie, *Stayin’ Alive*, Intro, Ch. 1, 2

Week 7 Feb 14 – MID-TERM BREAK

Week 8 Feb 21

- 13) Watergate and its Legacy
- 14) Carter

Reading: Cowie, Ch. 4, 5

Week 9 Feb 28

- 15) Election of Reagan
- 16) Reagan and the Cold War

Reading: Cowie, Ch. 6 to end

Week 10 March 7

- 17) Reagan’s Domestic Agenda
- 18) The Cold War in Central America

Reading: TBA

Week 11 March 14

- 19) Reagan and Detente
- 20) The Culture Wars, 1980-1992

Reading: Walter LaFeber, *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*, Ch 1, 2

Week 12 March 21

- 21) Assessing the 1980s
- 22) Clinton and the Move to the Centre

Reading: LaFeber, *Michael Jordan*, Ch. 3, 4

Week 13 March 28

- 23) 1990s Prosperity
- 24) New Immigration

No Readings this week

***Research Paper Due – March 30

Week 14 April 4

- 25) Clinton and Impeachment Crisis
- 26) 9/11 and beyond

Reading: LaFeber, to end

STUDENT RESOURCES

Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counseling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422932261087799/> or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.