

HISTORY 3290
The United States from World War II to the War on Terror

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Course Description

The United States is a nation that has been continuously at war for nearly eighty years. Beginning with World War II (WWII), the US has engaged in a series of active, proxy, administrative, and conceptual wars. As such, this course will approach war not simply as an active, armed conflict between, or even within, nation states, but rather as a way of understanding administrative mobilization, responses to social problems, and conflict. This course will explore the ways that the history of US warfare has not only reshaped US society but has had significant and lasting global impact. Moreover, we will examine the ways that the idea of war became the standard for bureaucratic response as well as a way of interpreting and understanding contentious domestic politics and dissent.

Academic Integrity

All written work must be original and written in student's own words.

The University's regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may 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 at

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html

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, hard copy only, on the date indicated.

Required Readings:

John Dower, *The Violent American Century: War and Terror Since World War II* (New York: Dispatch Books, 2017).

Elizabeth Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017).

Kathy Belew, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019).

Ta-Nehisi Coates, *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*

Marilyn Young, *The Vietnam Wars 1945-1990* (Harper Perennial, 1991)

Assignments

Assignment 1: due October 16th

This assignment requires students to read three articles from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal* and examine how these articles cover a specific war and present war to its readers. This is **not** a descriptive exercise but rather a textual analysis of historical events, persons, and the legitimacy of the conflict itself. Pay close attention to the language used and the types of details and sources that appear in the article. Students can write on: WWII, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, War on Poverty, War on Drugs, Cultural Wars, or War on Terror. Other topics must be cleared with instructor. Essay should be 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages).

Assignment 2: due November 29th

This assignment is a historical cultural analysis of the depiction and representation of war in popular media. Students can choose a film, television program, novel, or work of fine art, and discuss the ways that these cultural works relate to and/or are informed by US wars. Again, students must avoid providing descriptions of these works. Instead, they should be contextualizing the work, discussing the perspective/viewpoint(s) of the work in relation to war. Students can write on a film, television program, novel, or work of fine art that deals with, is set during, or is an allegory for: WWII, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, War on Poverty, War on Drugs, Cultural Wars, and War on Terror. Other topics must be cleared with instructor. Essay should be 1200-1500 words (4-5 pages).

Research Essay Proposal: due January 24th

This assignment requires students to write a 150-200 word proposal for a research essay on a topic of their choosing – based on the themes of the course. Additionally, students will have to do a bibliography of at least 12 secondary sources and a list of at least 10 primary sources that they will be using in their essay. Students can write on: WWII, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, War on Poverty, War on Drugs, Cultural Wars, and War on Terror. Other topics must be

cleared with instructor. Research proposal should be 150-200 words (½-1 page) with bibliography and a list of sources.

Assignment 4: due April 3. Students must write a research essay based on their Essay Proposal. A research essay is a sustained inquiry into a topic and requires students to utilize both primary and secondary sources. Essays should be 4500-5500 words (15-18 pages) in length and be written on: WWII, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, War on Poverty, War on Drugs, Cultural Wars, and War on Terror.

Grade Breakdown

Short Essay (4-5 pages)	15%	due October 16
Media-Cultural Analysis (4-5 pages)	15%	due November 29
Research Proposal	10%	due January 24
Major Research Paper (15-18 pages)	30%	due April 3
Take-Home Final Exam	30%	

Grade Distribution

Exemplary	87 and above	A+
Superior	80-86	A
Very Good	75-79	B+
Good	70-74	B
Average	65-69	C+
Needs Improvement	60-64	C
Poor	50-59	D
Failure	below 50	F

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal date of January 17, 2020.

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 the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Class Dates and Themes

An outline of the weekly readings will be handed out in class and posted on UMLearn.

Week 1 Sept 4

1) Introduction

Week 2 Sept 9

The coming of War.

Politics of neutrality and war preparation

Week 3 Sept 16

Pearl Harbor

The War in the Pacific

Internment of US citizens of Japanese heritage

Week 4 Sept 23

The War in Europe

Home Front

Domestic Mobilization

Week 5 Sept 30 – the University is closed October 5

Social Change at Home

Atomic Bomb and Nuclear War

Victory Culture

Week 6 Oct 7

The Cold War

Anti-Communism at Home and Abroad

Week 7 Oct 14

The Korean War

Global Militarism

US Military Cultures Abroad

Week 8 Oct 21

Domestic Cold War

The Cold War in Popular Culture

The Cultural Cold War

Week 9 Oct 28

WW II, the US Military, and the Origins of Civil Rights

A second Civil War and a second Reconstruction?

Organized Racism and White Flight

Week 10 Nov 4
Global Anti-Communism
The Origins of Vietnam
Vietnam War and US involvement

Nov 11- 15 Remembrance Day and Fall Reading Break. No classes.

Week 11 Nov 18
Vietnam War, Escalation and Expansion
The War at Home
Vietnam War in Popular Culture and Memory

Week 12 Nov 25
The Other America and the Affluent Society
The War on Poverty

Week 13 Dec 2
Countercultures and Alternative Communities
Feminism
Homophiles and Gay Liberation,

HOLIDAY BREAK

Term 2

Week 1 Jan 6
Backlash Against the 1960s
New Right
War on Crime I

Week 2 Jan 13
Library session – preparing a research proposal
Cities as War Zones

Week 3 Jan 20
Roe vs Wade
Christian Conservatism
Gay Rights

Week 4 Jan 27
Disco Sucks – Cultures of Racism and Homophobia
Carter and Human Rights
Politics of Peace

Week 5 Feb 3

Iran and Afghanistan
Reagan and the Cold War
Cold War in Central America

Week 6 Feb 10

Reagan and the Cold War
Reagan and the wars in Central America

Week 7 Feb 17-21 Louis Riel Day and Mid-term Break

Week 8 Feb 24

War on Crime II
War on Drugs

Week 9 Mar 2

Reagan's Domestic Agenda and Culture Wars
Sex Wars
Cultural Politics of HIV AIDS

Week 10 Mar 9

Gulf War I
Militia Movement and Anti-Statism
Clinton and Genocidal Conflict

Week 11 Mar 16

9/11
Afghanistan
Iraq

Week 12 Mar 23

War on Terror
Human Rights and Ethics of War
Obama's Drone Wars

Week 13 Mar 30

Trump
White Nationalism

Week 14 Apr 6

Exam Review

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 instagram account www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/ or by emailing umhisau@gmail.com.