

HIST 151 Crisis of American Civil Liberties
Saxe - Section 19049, Clough 100, 12-12:50 MWF
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Office Hours: 11-12, MF or by appointment, 307 Clough

Course Description

This course will focus on the development of critical thinking and writing skills through the study of debates over civil liberties in 20th Century American history. Students will examine different historical moments where Americans have argued about definitions of acceptable dissent and struggled to interpret the meaning of important terms such as “patriotism” and “consensus.” By entering into these debates, students will be expected to express their own views about both the events being studied, but also the larger questions of civic participation in American democracy. The class will take students through the process of developing effective essays, including peer editing and multiple draft revisions, in order to produce college-level writing and to clearly express your ideas and research. By the end of the course, students will comment on the current state of debates about civil liberties in the United States and suggest future directions these discussions may take.

Required Texts

Ellen Schrecker, *The Age of McCarthyism*
Geoffrey Stone, *War and Liberty*

Course requirements

Essays

All essays should be typed, double-spaced, and should contain the following at the top of the first page: name, word count, date, and a meaningful title. Essays should have page numbers and be affixed with either a clip or staple. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a penalty on the essay’s grade.

In addition, any use of sources must be cited using Chicago-style footnotes (see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for help or you may ask the instructor. Class time will also be dedicated to discussion of good footnotes).

A title page and works cited page are not necessary. To demonstrate commitment to the Rhodes College Honor Code, each student must write “pledged” and sign his/her name on every assignment.

Essay 1 - 10% (1000 words)

Essay 2 - 15% (1500 words)

Essay 3 - 20% (2000 words)

Essay 4 - 25% (3000-3500 words) This will be a longer research essay.

A topic for this essay will be due February 9.

A bibliography for this essay will be due March 13.

An outline and intro/conclusion of this essay will be due April 13.

The final draft will be due April 29.

Short assignments – 10%. There will be a series of short writing assignment throughout the semester.

Take home final exam, May 6, 5:30 – 10%

Active participation in class discussion – 10% of final grade. Students may also improve their participation grade by meeting with the professor during office hours or by appointment.

Course Policies

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed three absences without penalty. Students are required to find out what they missed in class on the day of their absence. If students miss more than three classes, they are required to meet with the professor to discuss their absences. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of a student's final grade by one-third grade point for every absence over three. Please consider this policy when planning for extracurricular activities (sports, mock trial, etc.)

Due dates and times for writing assignments are fixed. All assignments are due in class, not in the professor's mailbox. Late assignments will receive a failing grade. All assignments must be turned in to the professor. Failure to complete an assignment will result in a failing grade for the class. If you have questions about plagiarism, please talk to me directly.

The professor supports the Rhodes College Honor Code.

Course schedule

January 14
Introduction

January 16
American Wars and Liberty (Stone, 1-40)

January 19
MLK Day

January 21
Essay Writing: Argument; Selection of Topic

January 23
WWI and 100% Americanism (Stone, 41-63)
Topic for First Essay due in class

January 26
Manufacturing Consent – the Committee on Public Information (Ads from WWI)
Outline for first Essay due in class

January 28

First draft of First Essay due in class; Workshop in class

January 30

WWI Continued (Randolph Bourne, "War is the Health of the State," 1918, and Eugene Debs, Canton, Ohio speech, 1918)

February 2

The Red Scare

(Stanley Coben, "A Study in Nativism," *Political Science Quarterly*, 1964 and Abramowitz, "The Press and the Red Scare," In Edsforth/Bennett, *Popular Culture*, 1991)

Final draft of First Essay due in class

February 4

The Red Scare Continued (Emma Goldman, selection from *Living my Life* and "Account from Centralia," 1919)

February 6

Essay Writing: Intro/Conclusion

February 9

Sacco and Vanzetti and the Immigration Act of 1924 (selection of news coverage of the case and letters from the accused; Congressional debate over Immigration Act)

Topic for Fourth Essay due in class

February 11

Mexican "Repatriation" (selections from Balderrama, *Decade of Betrayal*)

Topic for Second Essay due in class

February 13

Scottsboro (selections from James Goodman, *Stories of Scottsboro*)

February 16

Essay writing: Clarity

Outline of Second Essay due in class

February 18

First draft of Second Essay due; Workshop in class

February 20

WWII and the Four Freedoms (FDR, "Four Freedoms" speech; selections from Samuel Stouffer et. al, *The American Soldier*; Fleeger, "Forget All the Differences," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Winter 2008)

February 23

WWII and Japanese Internment (Stone, 64-84; John Dower, "Race, Language and War in Two Cultures: WWII in Asia," 1996)

February 25

McCarthyism before McCarthy (Schrecker, 20-30; 278-283; Stone, 85-106)

Final draft of Second Essay due

February 27

Anti-Communism and its Varieties (Schrecker, Introduction, 1-19, 31-62, 80-89, 95-103, 110-118, 122-125, 177-187, 221-225, 262-263)

March 2

Essay Writing: Research

March 4

Civil Liberties and the Media: Communists in Hollywood (Testimony from Kazan and Weschler; Schrecker, 63-79, 89-93, 126-133, 214-16, 226-241, 244-248)

March 6

Watch *Good Night and Good Luck* (2005)

March 9

Finish *Good Night and Good Luck*

March 11

Assessing McCarthy's Legacy (Schrecker, 93-95, 104-106, 166-168)

March 13

Discuss Film

Bibliography for Fourth Essay due

Spring Break

March 23

Essay writing: Evidence and Opinion

March 25

The Cold War and the 60s (JFK's inauguration speech; LBJ's "Great Society" speech; MLK's "I Have a Dream" Speech; selections from FBI reports on Malcolm X and MLK)

March 27

Anti-War, Anti-America? (selections from Norman Mailer's *Armies of the Night*; Richard Nixon's "Silent Majority" Speech; Stone 107-127)

March 30

The War on Terror or War on Liberty? (Stone, 128-165)

Topic for Third Essay due in class

April 1

Academic Freedom and The War on Terror (selections from Charlie Savage, *Takeover*, 2008; selections from Doumani, *Academic Freedom after September 11*, 2006)

Outline for Third Essay due in class

April 3

First draft of Third Essay due in class; Workshop in class

April 6

Torture and The War on Terror (Glen Greenwald, "Torture and the Rule of Law," *Salon*, 2008; *NYT* editorial, "There Were Orders to Follow, 4/4/08; Alan Dershowitz, "Tortured Reasoning," 2006)

April 8

War on Terror Continued

Final Draft of Third Essay due in class

April 10

Easter Break

April 13

Outline and Intro/Conclusion of Fourth Essay due, workshop in class

April 15

Privacy and the War on Terror (John Solomon and Barton Gellman, "Frequent Errors in FBI's Secret Record Requests," *Washington Post*, 3/9/07)

April 17

Effective Research Presentations

April 20

Racial Profiling and the War on Terror (Edley, "The New American Dilemma: Racial Profiling Post 9/11," 2003; Charles Krauthammer, "Give Grandma a Pass," *Time*, 2005)

April 22

The Future of American Civil Liberties (Stone, 166-184)

April 24

Research Presentations

April 27

Research Presentations

April 29

Research presentations

Final Draft of Fourth Essay due in class

Wednesday May 6, 5:30

Take Home Final Exam due at professor's office, 307 Clough