

HIST 256 Liberalism in the US

Saxe - Section 22351; MWF 1-1:50, Buckman 216

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Office Hours: 12-1, MW or by appointment, 207 Buckman

Liberalism in the US

Required Texts:

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform, New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War.*

Van Gosse, *The Movements of the New Left*

Alonzo L. Hamby, *Liberalism and Its Challengers: from FDR to Bush.*

Kevin Mattson, *When America Was Great: The Fighting Faith of Postwar Liberalism*

Bruce J. Schulman, *Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism: A Brief Biography with Documents* (2nd ed.).

There will be other readings throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

Exams

1st Exam, March 2 – 15% of final grade.

Final Exam, April 25 – 15% of final grade

Essays

1st Essay, due in class February 10 – 20% of final grade

2nd Essay– May 4 – 30% of final grade

Shorter Assignments – 10%

There will be a series of shorter essays throughout the semester.

Class Participation

Active participation in class discussion – 10% of final grade. Active participation in class discussion is the best way to achieve a good class participation grade. Class participation also includes good conduct. Please put all cell phones out of sight (not your lap!) before class begins. If you plan on using a laptop in class, you are required to pledge that it will only be used for taking notes. Failure to participate in class, neglecting to do the reading for the day, sleeping or leaving during class, playing games on your laptop or doing text messaging during class may all have a negative impact on your grade.

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 and exams 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. To demonstrate commitment to the Code, each student must write "pledged" and sign his/her name on every assignment.

Course Calendar:

January 11

What is liberalism?

January 13

The Occupy Movement

January 16 - MLK Day – no class

January 18, 20 Roots of Liberalism

Roots of the New Deal - the Progressive Era

Fighting Fear Itself - FDR and the Creation of New Deal Liberalism

(Brinkley, introduction, Ch. 1-2)

January 23, 25, 27 FDR and the Rise of Liberalism

FDR as Savior, Dictator, President - Creating the New Deal Coalition

(Brinkley, introduction, Ch. 3-5)

January 30, February 1, 3 The New Deal and its Discontents

Critics of the New Deal - The Left and the Right

(Brinkley, Ch. 4-7)

February 6, 8, 10 The End of the New Deal and World War II

America Rejects the New Deal?

The Arsenal of Democracy - Liberalism Goes to War

(Brinkley, Ch. 8-10, epilogue)

February 10

1st essay due

February 13, 15, 17 Communism and the Growth of Cold War Liberalism

Exorcising the Radicals - Henry Wallace and the Fracture of the Left

Going Global - International Liberalism and the Truman Doctrine

(Mattson, Introduction, 1-3)

February 20, 22, 24 Race and the Dilemmas of Liberalism

Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You - JFK, MLK, and the Movement
The Pinnacle of Liberal America - The Civil Rights Act
(Mattson, 4-6)

February 27, 29 LBJ and the Liberal Consensus
Landslide Lindy - 1964 as a Mandate
The War on Poverty - Implementing the Great Society
(Schulman, Introduction, Ch. 1-5 [documents1-9])

March 2
1st exam

March 5, 7, 9 Cancers in Consensus
Impeach Earl Warren - America's Response to the Liberal Court
Power to the People - The Generation Gap and the Roots of the New Left

March 12, 14, 16 - Spring Break

March 19, 21, 23 Dissent
The Vietnam War - The Credibility Gap and the Cold War Liberals
Say it Loud - Black Power and White Liberals
(Gosse, all; Schulman, Ch. 6 [documents 10-17])

March 26, 28, 30 The End of Consensus
Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll - Liberals Face the Counterculture
The Whole World is Watching - Chicago, 1968, and the Democrats in Demise
(Schulman, Ch. 7 [documents 18-20])

April 2, 4 Looking for Answers
Power to the People II - Whatever Happened to the New Left?
Grassroots Resurgent; Malaise - Carter and Liberalism

April 6 – Easter Break

April 9, 11, 13 Liberal Armageddon
The Rise of Reagan and the Liberal Response

April 16, 18, 20 The "L" Word
Are You or Have You Ever Been a Card-Carrying Member of the ACLU? - On 1988,
Willie Horton, and Tax and Spend
The Third Way - Bill Clinton Saves Liberalism or The Third Way - Bill Clinton Buries
Liberalism

April 23
The Future of Liberalism

April 25
2nd exam

Friday, May 4
2nd Essay due by 8:30 AM