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HIST 233-01, The United States in the 20th Century, Spring 2007

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History 233
The United States in the Twentieth Century
Spring 2007
Palmer 205

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Office Hours: TR 12:30-2:00

Course Description

The twentieth century was a period of profound social, political, and economic change in the United States. What was once mainly a rural nation emerged as the world's leading industrial and military superpower. This course will survey the history of the United States from 1900 to the present time. What rights did the average American worker have in the new political economy? How do historians explain the transformation of American liberalism? How did the major social conflicts of the twentieth century change American perceptions of race, class, and gender in society? By studying these questions and others this class intends to provide students with a greater awareness of the complexity of American history and how "ordinary" Americans were able to shape the world we live in today.

Required Readings

Thomas Bell, *Out of This Furnace*.
Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice: Race, Murder, and Civil Rights in the Jazz Age*.
Alan Brinkley and Ellen Fitzpatrick, *American in Modern Times: Since 1890*.
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

*See the schedule of assignments for additional required readings

Course Requirements

Mid-Term Exam (20%); Final Exam (25%); Paper #1 (15%); Paper #2 (15%); Paper #3 (15%); and Class Participation and other (10%).

Papers: All written work out of class must be typed, double-spaced, and in 10 or 12 point font. All papers are due at the beginning of class.

Class Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. If students miss more than three class periods they must meet with the instructor. Failure to do so will result in a five point deduction from the student's final grade for every absence over three. Please keep this policy in mind when planning for all extracurricular activities, doctor's appointments, etc.

Make-up Policy: There will be no make-up exams unless arranged in advance with the instructor. Make-up exams without prior notice will only be allowed in cases of personal or medical emergencies, in which cases, documentation is required. In addition, all papers are due in class and not in the instructor's mailbox or by email. Students must contact the professor before turning in late papers, in which case, five points will be deducted from the total score every twenty-four hours. It is the sole responsibility of the student to keep up with all deadlines or any changes made throughout the semester.

Honor Code: All work turned in for this course is to be completed in accordance with the Rhodes College Honor Code. To demonstrate your commitment to the Code, each student must write "pledged" and sign his/her name on every assignment. If you have any questions about plagiarism you should talk to me directly.

Students who require special arrangements due to physical or learning disabilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, problems, or concerns about this course.

Schedule of Assignments: The following schedule of assignments is subject to change. Students are responsible for keeping track of all deadlines and any changes/additions made throughout the semester.

Week One

Jan. 11: Introduction: Review Course Materials and Expectations

The Rise of the Industrial-Capitalist System
Brinkley, Chapter One, 1-10; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 1-43.

Week Two

Jan. 16: Challenges of the New Industrial-Capitalist System
Brinkley, Chapter One, 11-19; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 1-54.

Jan. 18: The Crisis of the 1890s
Brinkley, Chapters Two and Three.

Week Three

Jan. 23: The Crisis of the 1890s, continued.
Brinkley, Chapters Two and Three, continued; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 54-117.

The Age of Industrial Violence
Haymarket Square and Homestead Strike

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ich.html/hayhome.html> (see 2 autobiographies of defendants, and on labor radicalism see, for example, Peoples Exhibits #16, 18, and 19).

<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/mmh/HomesteadStrike1892/default.cfm>

Jan. 25: Jim Crow in the American South
Brinkley, Chapter Three, 55-57; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 44-69.

www.americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering

(Listen to Audio for Parts I-III)

Richard Wright, "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow"

<http://newdeal.feri.org/fwp/fup03.htm>

Suggested Readings/Websites:

Without Sanctuary: Photographs and Postcards of Lynching

(Please be advised this website contains disturbing images)

<http://www.withoutsanctuary.org>

Ida B. Wells, *A Red Record*

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14977/14977-h.htm>

Photographs and Signs of Enforcing Racial Discrimination

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/085-disc.html>

Week Four

Jan. 30: American Imperialism: Debating Expansion
Brinkley, Chapter Four.

Feb. 1: Origins of Progressivism
Brinkley, Chapters Five; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 118-187.

Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*

<http://www.yale.edu/amstud/inforev/riis/contents.html>

(Skim text and see for example Chapters 12, 15, and 20)

Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/140/140-h/140-h.htm>

(Skim chapters 3-7)

Suggested Readings/Website:

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/>

(Photographs on Child Labor)

Week Five

Feb. 6: Reforming the System
Brinkley, Chapters Six and Seven; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 187-232.

Feb 8: Progressives Go To War and the Collapse of Progressivism
Brinkley, Chapter Eight; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 70-101.

Week Six

Feb. 13: Consumer Culture and the 1920s
Brinkley, Chapter Nine and Ten.; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 102-196.

Feb. 15: The First Sexual Revolution
Brinkley, Chapter Ten, continued; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 196-259.

The New Woman

<http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu.mmh/clash/NewWoman/newwoman-index.htm>

(See Images and Documents)

Suggested Readings/Websites:

Women Suffrage Collection, 1848-1921

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html>

By Popular Demand

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwhome.html>

Margaret Sanger Papers

www.nyu.edu/projects/Sanger

Emma Goldman Papers

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Goldman>

Suffragist Oral History Project

<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/suffragist/>

Week Seven

Feb. 20: Modernism and the Clash of Cultures, continued.
Brinkley, Chapter 11; Boyle, *Arc of Justice*, 260-346.

Feb 22: **Paper #1 Due** (Boyle, *Arc of Justice*)
The Crisis of Capitalism and the Coming of the Great Depression
Brinkley, Chapter 12; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 233-266.

Week Eight

Feb 27: **Mid-Term Exam**

Mar. 1: Relief and Recovery: The First New Deal
Brinkley, Chapter 13; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 267-348.

Studs Terkel, *Hard Times*

www.studsterkel.org

(Listen to two or three interviews)

Suggested Readings:

America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html>

Voices from the Thirties: Life Histories from the Federal Writer's Project

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wpaintro/exhome.html>

Week Nine

- Mar. 6: A New Deal Order: the Second New Deal
Brinkley, Chapter 14; Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, 348-413.
- Mar. 8: The Coming of World War II
Brinkley, Chapter 15.

Spring Break: March 9-18

Week Ten

- Mar. 20: World War II and the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb
Brinkley, Chapter 16.
- Mar. 22: **Paper Two Due** (Thomas Bell, *Out of This Furnace*)

Lessons from World War II: Race and Gender in American Society
Brinkley, Chapter 17.

Studs Terkel, *The Good War*

www.studsterkel.org

(Listen to one or two interviews)

Ansel Adams, *Born Free and Equal*

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/anseladams>

(Browse Photographs on Japanese Internment during WWII)

The Japanese American Legacy Project

www.densho.org

(Explore the Shite of Shame featured selection and listen to a personal account; also see The Civil Rights and Japanese American Section Historical Overview for other personal accounts)

Suggested Readings/Websites:

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

www.ushmm.org

After the Day of Infamy

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afcphtml/afcpphome.html>

Week Eleven

- Mar. 27: Defending Democracy: The Origin and Practice of the Cold War
Brinkley, Chapter Eighteen; Chapter Nineteen, 387-399.
- Mar. 29: Suburbia and the Rise of the Military-Industrial Complex
Brinkley, Chapter Twenty; Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*, 1-117.

Week Twelve

- Apr. 3: The Culture of the Cold War
Brinkley, Chapter Nineteen, 399-404; Chapter Twenty-Two; Moody,
Coming of Age in Mississippi, 121-214.
- Apr. 5: No Class

Week Thirteen

- Apr. 10: The Civil Rights Movement
Brinkley, Chapter Twenty-One; Chapter Twenty-Three, 474-481; Moody,
Coming of Age in Mississippi, 217-384.

Suggested Readings/Website:

www.lib.usm.edu/~spcol/crda/oh/

(Read 2 or 3 interviews and listen to audio clips of civil rights activists)

“Letter from Birmingham Jail,” April 16, 1963

www.stanford.edu/group/king/popular_requests/

- Apr. 12: The Dream of a Great Society: The War on Poverty Meets the War in
Vietnam
Brinkley, Chapter Twenty-Three, 463-474; and Chapter Twenty-Four

Week Fourteen

- Apr. 17: **Paper Three Due** (Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*)

The 1960s and American Liberalism

Brinkley, Chapters Twenty-Four and Twenty-Five

American Experience: Vietnam Primary Source

www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/psources/index.html

The Feminist Chronicles, 1953-1993

www.feminist.org/research/chronicles/chronicl.html/

(Read early documents from NOW)

Digital Images Radicalism Collection

www.lib.msu.edu/coll/main/spec_col/radicalism/index.htm

(Students for a Democratic Society, see documents by Tom Hayden and the National Vietnam Exam by Various)

Suggested Readings/Websites:

The War in Vietnam: A Story in Photographs

www.archives.gov/education/lessons/vietnam-photos/#documents

Vietnam Center/Oral History Project at Texas Tech.

www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/index.htm

The Vietnam War Declassified Project

www.ford.utexas.edu/library/exhibits/vietnam/vietnam.htm

www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/history.index.html

Apr. 19: The Crisis of American Power at Home and Abroad: The Malaise of the 1970s

Brinkley, Chapter Twenty-Six; Chapter Twenty-Seven, 552-558.

Watergate Revisited

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/watergate/splash1a.htm>

(View Primary Documents and Washington Post coverage)

Week Fourteen

Apr. 24: The Reagan Revolution: The Rise of the American Right
Brinkley, Chapter Twenty-Seven, 558-574.

Aids at 20

<http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/science/aids/aids-index.html>

(Read a few articles from the selection)

Apr. 26: Living in a Post-Industrial Age
Brinkley, Chapter Twenty-Eight

Robin Kelley, "Kickin' Reality, Kickin' Ballistics: Gangsta Rap and Postindustrial Los Angeles," in *Race Rebels* (See Handout).