

1-2010

HSTA 391.03: Intoxication Nation - Alcohol in American History

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Intoxication Nation: Alcohol in American History

University of Montana, Spring 2010

TR 3:40-5PM / LA 338

Professor Kyle G. Volk

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How beverage alcohol is produced, distributed, consumed, and regulated... offers a key to the nature of a society and how it changes over time.

- Jack S. Blocker, Jr., *Journal of Urban History* (2003)

I'm medicine and I am poison, I can help you up or make you fall, You had some of the best times, you'll never remember with me, Alcohol.

- Brad Paisley (2005)

Course Description: Throughout American history, beverage alcohol has played an important and often controversial role in political, economic, social, and cultural life. This course surveys that history beginning in the early 17th Century and ending in the recent past. Students are evaluated through class discussion, a mid-term and final examination, and a research paper.

Level & Goals: This is an advanced elective taught in the History department. It is intended for advanced sophomores, juniors, and seniors, particularly those with experience in history courses and a basic grasp of the key themes in American history. The course is designed to provide students with a thematic survey. Students should have taken and excelled in at least one of the two American history survey courses (HSTA 101 or 102) before enrolling in this course.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Attendance & Participation (15%):

This is a discussion class – **active, informed** participation is imperative! This means:

- A.) Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at every class meeting. Unexcused absences will lower your grade. Having more than four unexcused absences will result in a zero (0/15) in your participation grade. Diligent note taking while preparing for class discussion is imperative to your success.

- B.) Careful preparation for class. The thorough completion of assigned readings prior to class is a must. Take time to **think** critically about each text in its specifics, in its entirety, and as it relates to other course reading and class discussions. **Please come to class with the readings in hard copy** (Print out primary sources).
- C.) Thoughtful, constructive, and consistent participation in class discussions! This means both talking with *and* listening to your classmates.
- D.) It should go without saying that respectful and courteous behavior (to your classmates and the instructor) is required at all times. To that end, be sure to **turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices that might distract you and others. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior in either lecture or discussion will be reflected in your attendance & participation grade.**
- E.) Reading Quizzes – Simple quizzes periodically will be given at the beginning of class to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading. Students can use any notes they have taken for these quizzes but cannot refer to the original document or book. Quizzes will be factored into your participation grade.

****Please take note of the extended class days on 4/20 and 4/27. Attendance is required until 7PM. Please make the necessary arrangements to ensure that you will be able to attend the full session.**

2. Written Assignments:

- A.) Take-Home Mid-Term Exam (25%)
- B.) 10-12-page research paper (35%)
- C.) Final Exam (25%)

GENERAL PAPER GUIDELINES: Late papers will be down-graded (1/2 letter grade per day) and must be turned in within one week of the due date (at the very latest). *No paper will be accepted later than one week after it was originally due. No exceptions. You MUST turn in every writing assignment to pass this course.*

ACADEMIC HONESTY – It should go without saying that all the work you do in this course should be your own. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade in this course. The academic dean will also be notified and offenses could result in expulsion. Please consult University of Montana policies in this area. If you have questions, please ask the instructor or teaching assistants **BEFORE** turning in an assignment.

Books required for purchase:

W.J. Rorabaugh, *The Alcoholic Republic: An American Tradition* (1979) [ISBN: 0195029909]
 Michael A. Lerner, *Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City* (2007) [ISBN: 0674030575]
 Lori Rotskoff, *Love On the Rocks: Men, Women, and Alcohol in Post-World War II America* (2002) [ISBN: 0807827282]

You will find all other reading assignments on E-Reserve (accessible through the Mansfield Library Catalog):

E-RESERVE: <http://www.lib.umt.edu/students#eres> Password: Alcohol

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	R (1/28) – Introductions
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WEEK 2	<p>T (2/2) – The Atlantic World Distilled</p> <p>ASSIGNMENT: Bring 1-Paragraph Preliminary Statement of Research Topic</p> <p>Read: Cotton Mather, <i>A Monitory, and Hortatory Letter</i> (1700)</p> <p>R (2/4) – Booze Production and Culture in the Colonies</p> <p>Read: Sarah Hand Meacham, “They Will Be Adjudged by Their Drink, What Kinde of Housewives They Are”: Gender, Technology, and Household Cidering in England and the Chesapeake, 1690 to 1760,” <i>Virginia Magazine of History and Biography</i>, 111 (2003), 117-150.</p> <p>Rorabaugh, <i>Alcoholic Republic</i>, ix-57</p>
WEEK 3	<p>T (2/9) – MEET w/Jennie Burroughs, Government Documents Librarian, Mansfield Library</p> <p>R (2/11) – Spirits of ’76</p> <p>Read: <i>Reasons Against the Renewal of the Sugar Act as It Will Be Prejudicial to the Trade Not Only of the Northern Colonies But to Those of Great Britain Also</i> (Boston, 1764)</p>
WEEK 4	<p>T (2/16) – Benjamin Rush: Founding Father?</p> <p>Read: Benjamin Rush, <i>An Inquiry Into the Effects of Ardent Spirits upon the Human Body and Mind</i> (orig. 1784) [8th ed., 1823]</p> <p>R (2/18) – Whiskey & the Alcoholic Republic</p> <p>Read: Rorabaugh, <i>Alcoholic Republic</i>, 61-183</p>
WEEK 5	<p>T (2/23) – Temperance Crusaders</p> <p>Read: Rorabaugh, <i>Alcoholic Republic</i>, 187-222</p> <p>R (2/25) – Coercion, Resistance, and Problems of Democracy</p> <p>Read: John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> (1859) [excerpts]</p>
WEEK 6	<p>T (3/2) – The German Invasion & the Rise of Beer</p> <p>R (3/4) – Field Trip: <i>Bayern Brewery</i> – Brew Tour</p> <p>TAKE HOME MID-TERM DUE @ BEGINNING OF CLASS</p>

WEEK 7	<p>T (3/9) – Historical Archaeology & Saloons in the West [GUEST: Kelly Dixon, UM Anthropology]</p> <p>R (3/11) – Read: Lerner, <i>Dry Manhattan</i>, 1-95</p>
WEEK 8	<p>T (3/16) – Music & Saloon Culture in Industrial America [GUEST: Jeff Wiltse, UM History]</p> <p>***Topic for Final Research Paper Due</p> <p>R (3/18) – Read: Lerner, <i>Dry Manhattan</i>, 96-198</p>
WEEK 9	<p>T (3/23) – NO CLASS – One-on-One Meetings About Final Research Paper</p> <p>R (3/25) – Lerner, <i>Dry Manhattan</i>, 199-308</p>
	<p><u>SPRING BREAK</u> – 3/29-4/2</p>
WEEK 10	<p>T (4/6) – Alcohol in America, Post-Prohibition</p> <p>R (4/8) – NO CLASS – RESEARCH & WRITING DAY</p>
WEEK 11	<p>T (4/13) – Read: Rotskoff, <i>Love on the Rocks</i>, 1-104</p> <p>R (4/15) – NO CLASS – National Conference on Undergraduate Research</p>
WEEK 12	<p>T (4/20) – *Extended Film Day: <i>The Lost Weekend</i></p> <p>R (4/22) – Read: Rotskoff, <i>Love on the Rocks</i>, 105-242</p>

WEEK 13	<p>T (4/27) – *Extended Film Day: <i>Days of Wine & Roses</i></p> <p>RESEARCH PAPER DUE @ BEGINNING OF CLASS</p> <p>R (4/29) – Advertising Sin & Sickness</p> <p>Read: Janet Golden, “‘A Tempest in a Cocktail Glass’: Mothers, Alcohol, and Television, 1977-1996,” <i>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</i> 25 (June 2000), 473-498.</p>
WEEK 14	<p>T (5/4) – The Wine Revolution</p> <p>Read: “The Golden Age of Wine”</p> <p>Field Trip: Local Winery/Winemaker – Details to be Announced</p> <p>R (5/6) – Conclusions</p>
FINALS	FINAL EXAM

