Spring 2-1-2018

HSTA 553.01: Modern America: US Since 1920

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SYLLABUS

HISTORY 553

U. S. SINCE 1920

SPRING 2018

Professor Michael Mayer
Office: 253 Liberal Arts

Office Hours: Wed: 2:00-4:00
Fri.: 2:00-3:00
and by appointment

Required texts: Joan Hoff Wilson, Herbert Hoover: Forgotten Progressive
Paul Conkin, The New Deal (3rd ed.)
Allan Winkler, Home Front, USA (3rd ed.)
Thomas Paterson, On Every Front (revised ed.)
Ellen Schrecker, The Age of McCarthyism (2nd ed.)
Bruce Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism (2nd ed.)
James Patterson, Restless Giant
David Brooks, Bobos in Paradise

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING

January 22 Organization

January 29 The Twenties
Required Reading:
James Grant, The Forgotten Depression, pp. 1-9, 212-218
Robert Murray, The Politics of Normalcy
Arthur Link, "What Happened to the Progressive Movement in the 1920s?" AHR, LXIV (July 1959), pp. 833-851
Lynn Dumenil, The Modern Tempo, introduction and epilogue
George Marsden, Fundamentalism and American Culture, pp. 141-164
Ruth Schwartz Cowan, More Work for Mother, pp. 151-191
Paula Fass, The Damned and the Beautiful, Ch. 6
David Levering Lewis, ed., The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader, pp. xii-xl
Akira Iriye, After Imperialism, pp. 1-22

Suggested reading:
Nathan Miller, New World Coming: The 1920s and the Making of Modern America
William Leuchtenberg, The Perils of Prosperity
David Burner, The Politics of Provincialism
Amity Shales, Coolidge
Irving Bernstein, The Lean Years
John Higham, Strangers in the Land
Nancy MacLean, Behind the Mask of Chivalry
Lynn Dumenil, The Modern Temper
Stanley Coben, Rebellion Against Victorianism: The Impetus for Cultural Change in 1920s America
Nathan Huggins, The Harlem Renaissance
David Levering Lewis, When Harlem Was in Vogue
Dorothy Brown, Setting a Course: American Women in the 1920s
Beth Bailey, From Front Porch to Back Seat
Joan Hoff Wilson, American Business and Foreign Policy

February 5 Depression

Required reading:
Joan Hoff Wilson, Herbert Hoover
Caroline Bird, The Invisible Scar, Chs. 1-3, 11, 13
Anthony Badger, The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940, p. 11-41
Nancy Woloch, Women and the American Experience, pp. 439-452
Catherine McNicol Stock, Main Street in Crisis, pp. 1-16, 206-207
Elliot Brownlee, Dynamics of Ascent, pp. 409-418
Robert Sklar, Movie-Made America, Ch. 11

Suggested reading:
David Kennedy, Freedom From Fear
Gene Smiley, Rethinking the Great Depression
Robert McElvaine, The Great Depression
Amity Shales, The Forgotten Man
Kenneth Whyte, Hoover
Raymond Wolters, Negroes and the Great Depression
Susan Ware, Holding their Own: American Women in the 1930s
Lois Scharf, To Work or to Wed? Female Employment, Feminism, and the Great Depression
Donald Worster, Dust Bowl
Morris Dickstein, Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression

February 12  New Deal

Required reading:
Paul Conkin, The New Deal
William Leuchtenberg, The Roosevelt Reconstruction: Retrospect
David Kennedy, Freedom from Fear, pp. 361-380
Jim Powell, FDR’s Folly, Introduction
Ira Katznelson, Fear Itself, pp. 3-25 (Introduction)
Harvard Sitkoff, "the New Deal and Race Relations"
Susan Ware, "Women and the New Deal"
Graham D. Taylor, "The Indian New Deal"

Suggested reading:
Steve Fraser and Gary Gerstle, eds., The Rise and Fall of the New Deal Order
William Leuchtenberg, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal
Allan Winkler, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Making of Modern America
H. W. Brands, Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Irving Bernstein, A Caring Society
Alan Brinkley, The End of Reform
Kim Phillips Fein, Invisible Hands
Nancy Weiss, Farewell to the Party of Lincoln
Ira Katznelson, When Affirmative Actions Was White
Lawrence Kelly, The Assault on Assimilation: John Collier and the Origins of Indian Policy Reform
Mark Leff, The Limits of Symbolic Reform
Alan Brinkley, Voices of Protest
T. Harry Williams, Huey Long
Robert Cohen, When the Old Left Was Young
Richard Pells, Radical Vision and American Dreams
Susan Ware, Beyond Suffrage: Women in the New Deal

February 19 World War II

Required reading:
Paul Schroeder, The Axis Alliance and Japanese-American Relations, pp. 200-216
Robert Divine, Roosevelt and World War II, pp. 5-48
Robert Dallek, Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945, chs. 9-11, Epilogue
Frederick Marks, Wind Over Sand, pp. 277-288
Allan Winkler, Home Front: USA
David Wyman, The Abandonment of the Jews, preface and conclusion
Leisa Meyer, "Creating GI Jane: The Regulation of Sexuality and Sexual Behavior in the Women's Army Corps During World War II," Feminist Studies, vol. 18, no. 3 (Fall 1993), pp. 581-596

Suggested reading:
Justus Doenecke, Storm on the Horizon: The Challenge to American Intervention, 1939-1941
Gordon Prange, At Dawn We Slept
James MacGregor Burns, Roosevelt: Soldier of Freedom
Akira Iriye, Power and Culture
John Dower, War Without Mercy
Michael Adams, The Best War Ever
Arthur Herman, Freedom’s Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II
David Brinkley, Washington Goes to War
Patrick Washburn, A Question of Sedition
Roger Daniels, Prisoners Without Trial
Karen Anderson, Wartime Women
Susan Hartman, The Home Front and Beyond
Michael Davis, Politics as Usual: Thomas Dewey, Franklin Roosevelt, and the Wartime Presidential Campaign of 1944
Marilyn Hegarty, Victory Girls, Khaki-Wackies, and Prostitutes: The Regulation of Female Sexuality During World War II

February 26   Cold War

Required reading:
Thomas Paterson, On Every Front
Arnold Offner, "'Another Such Victory': President Truman, American Foreign Policy, and the Cold War," Diplomatic History, vol. 23, no. 2 (Spring 1999)
John Lewis Gaddis, We Now Know, pp. 27-46

Suggested reading:
Martin Sherwin, A World Destroyed
J. Samuel Walker, Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of the Atomic Bomb Against Japan
Frank Costigliola, Roosevelt’s Lost Alliances: How Personal Politics Helped Start the Cold War
Michael Neiberg, Potsdam
Fraser Harbutt, The Iron Curtain: Churchill, America and the Origins of the Cold War
Melvyn Leffler, A Preponderance of Power
John Lewis Gaddis, The Long Peace
Randall Woods and Howard Jones, Dawning of the Cold War
Thomas Paterson, Meeting the Communist Threat
Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas, The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Built
John McNay, Acheson and Empire

March 5   Harry S. Truman and the Fair Deal

Required reading:
Barton Bernstein, "America in War and Peace: The Test of
Liberalism," in Barton Bernstein, ed., Towards a New Past, pp. 289-312
Alonzo Hamby, "The Vital Center, the Fair Deal, and the Quest for a Liberal Political Economy," American Historical Review, vol. 77 (June 1972), pp. 653-678
Ellen Schrecker, The Age of McCarthyism, pp. 1-94

Suggested reading:
Alonzo Hamby, Beyond the New Deal
Alonzo Hamby, A Man of the People
William Berman, The Politics of Civil Rights in the Truman Administration
Francis Heller, Economics and the Truman Administration
David Pietrusza, 1948
Thomas Divine, Henry Wallace’s 1948 Presidential Campaign and the Future of American Liberalism
Athan Theoharis, Seeds of Repression
Mary McAuliffe, Crisis on the Left
Thomas Reeves, the Life and Times of Joe McCarthy
Jeff Broadwater, Eisenhower and the Anticommunist Crusade
William Bragg Ewald, Who Killed Joe McCarthy?
Richard Fried, Nightmare in Red
John Haynes, Red Scare or Red Menace?
Allen Weinstein and Alexander Vassiliev, The Haunted Wood
Ronald Radosh and Allis Radosh, Red Star Over Hollywood
Wendy Wall, Inventing the American Way: The Politics of Consensus from the New Deal to the Civil Rights Movement

March 12 The Eisenhower Administration

Required reading:
Michael S. Mayer, Presidential Profiles: The Eisenhower Years, introduction
Michael S. Mayer, The Eisenhower Presidency and the 1950s, pp. viii-xviii, 3-153

Suggested reading:
Stephen Ambrose, Eisenhower: The President
Shirley Anne Warshaw, ed., Reexamining the Eisenhower Presidency
Robert Griffith, "Dwight D. Eisenhower and the Corporate Commonwealth, AHR, 87 (February 1982), pp. 87-122
Elmo Richardson and Chester Pach, The Presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower
William Bragg Ewald, Eisenhower the President
Steven Wagner, Eisenhower Republicanism
David Nichols, A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution
Tim Thurber, Republicans and Race
Richard Melanson and David Mayers, eds., Reevaluating Eisenhower: American Foreign Policy in the Fifties
Robert Bowie and Richard Immerman, Waging Peace
Richard Immerman, The CIA in Guatemala
Richard Immerman, ed., John Foster Dulles and the Diplomacy of the Cold War
Stephen Rabe, Eisenhower and Latin America
Melanie Billings Yun, Decision Against War

March 19 Post-War Society and Culture
Required reading:
Michael S. Mayer, The Eisenhower Presidency and the 1950s, pp. 157-226
James Gilbert, A Cycle of Outrage, pp. 3-23, 162-211
Paul Gottfried, The Conservative Movement, pp. 1-29
Carol George, God's Salesman, pp. 128-154

Suggested reading:
Godfrey Hodgson, The World Turned Rightside Up
William Graebner, The Age of Doubt
Richard Pells, The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age
Lary May, Recasting America
Paul Carter, Another Part of the Fifties
Lizabeth Cohen, A Consumer’s Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America
Paul Boyer, By the Bomb's Early Light
Peter Biskind, Seeing is Believing
Alan Petigny, The Permissive Society
Cynthia Harrison, On Account of Sex
Rickie Solinger, Wake Up Little Susie
Henry May, Ideas, Faiths, and Feelings
George Nash, The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945
Lisa McGirr, Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right

April 2   New Frontier and Great Society

Required reading:
- Bruce Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism, pp. 5-152
- Thomas Reeves, A Question of Character, ch. 18 (pp. 413-421)
- Henry Fairlie, The Kennedy Promise, chapters 1, 7, 10
- Thomas Paterson, Kennedy's Quest for Victory, pp. 3-23, 123-155

Suggested Reading:
- G. Calvin Mackenzie and Robert Weisbrot, The Liberal Hour: Washington and the Politics of Change in the 1960s
- Allen Matusow, The Unraveling of America
- W. J. Rorabaugh, The Real Making of a President
- Seymour Hersh, The Dark Side of Camelot
- David Burner, John F. Kennedy and a New Generation
- Robert Dallek, An Unfinished Life
- Herbert Parmet, JFK: The Presidency of John F. Kennedy
- James Giglio, The Presidency of John F. Kennedy
- Victor Navasky, Kennedy Justice
- Michael Bechloss, The Crisis Years
- Frederick Kempe, Berlin 1961
- Robert Smith Thompson, The Missiles of October
- Michael Dobbs, One Minute to Midnight
Robert Dallek, Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and his Times, 1961-1973
Randall Woods, Prisoners of Hope
Sylvia Ellis, Freedom’s Pragmatist: Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights
Jeff Shesol, Mutual Contempt: Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the Feud that Defined a Decade
Robert Alan Goldberg, Barry Goldwater
Walter McDougall, The Heavens and Earth

April 9 Vietnam and ‘The Sixties’

Required reading:
Bruce Schulman, Lyndon B. Johnson and American Liberalism, pp. 152-178
Allen Matusow, The Unraveling of America, pp. 275-375
Rosalind Rosenberg, Divided Lives, ch. 6
Rebecca Klatch, A Generation Divided, Introduction, chs. 1, 4
Peter Braestrup, The Big Story, ch. 15 (‘An Extreme Case’)
Peter Collier and David Horowitz, "Who Killed the Spirit of '68: or, The Day the 'Ramparts' Fell," Encounter (September/October 1985), pp. 69-73
Rick Perlstein, "Who Owns the Sixties?" Lingua Franca (May/June 1996), pp. 30-37
Mark Lytle, America’s Uncivil Wars, Introduction

Suggested Reading:
David Farber, The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s
Klaus Fischer, America in Black, White, and Gray
George Herring, America's Longest War
Charles Nev, America’s Lost War
Pierre Asselin, Hanoi’s Road to the Vietnam War, 1954-1965
David Zierler, The Invention of Ecocide
Bryan Burrough, Days of Rage
Godfrey Hodgson, America in Our Time
Clayborne Carson, In Struggle
Todd Gitlin, The Sixties
Maurice Isserman, If I Had a Hammer
Susan Braudy, Family Circle: The Boudins and the Aristocracy of the American Left
Aldon Morris, The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement
Sara Evans, Personal Politics
Alice Echols, Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1962-1975
Mary Brennan, Turning Right in the Sixties
Thomas Frank, The conquest of Cool
W. J. Rorabaugh, American Hippies

April 16  Nixon and the 1970s
Required Reading:
  Joan Hoff, Nixon Reconsidered, pp. 1-144
  Bruce Schulman, The Seventies, chs. 3, 5
  Mark Gerson and James Q. Wilson, The Essential Neo-Conservative Reader, introduction (pp. vii-xxviii)
  Walter Isaacson, Kissinger, pp. 760-767
  James T. Paterson, Restless Giant, chapters 1, 3, 4
  Randall Rothenberg, The Neo-Liberals, pp. 40-78, 147-207

Suggested Reading:
  Stephen Ambrose, Nixon (3 vols.)
  Herbert Parmet, Richard Nixon and His America
  Iwan Morgan, Nixon
  Irwin Gellman, The Contender
  J. Brooks Flippen, Nixon and the Environment
  Stanley Kutler, The Wars of Watergate
  Max Holland, Leak: Why Mark Felt Became Deep Throat
David Garrow, Liberty and Sexuality
Richard Nixon, Memoirs (2 vols.)
Robert Dallek, Nixon and Kissinger
Henry Kissinger, The White House Years
Henry Kissinger, Years of Upheaval
Stephen Graubard, Kissinger: Portrait of a Mind
Philip Jenkins, Decade of Nightmares
Beth Baily and David Farber, eds., America in the Seventies
Bruce Schulman, The Seventies
Meg Jacobs, Panic at the Pump
Judith Stein, Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance in the Seventies
Robert Self, All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s
John Robert Greene, The Presidency of Gerald R. Ford
Douglas Brinkley, Gerald R. Ford
Peter Bourne, Jimmy Carter
Laura Kalman, Right Star Rising: A New Politics, 1974-1980
Gaddis Smith, Morality, Reason, and Power
Zbigniew Brzezinski, Power and Principle
Irving Kristol, Reflections of a Neo-Conservative

April 23  The Reagan Revolution

Required reading:
James Patterson, Restless Giant, chs. 5, 6, 7,
John Ehrman and Michael Flamm, Debating the Reagan Presidency, pp. 1-65
John Lewis Gaddis, The United States and the End of the Cold War, chapter 7

Suggested reading:
Michael Schaller and George Rising, the Republican Ascendancy: American Politics, 1968-2001
Henry Olsen, The Working Class Republican  
John Ehrman, The Eighties: America in the Age of Reagan  
Doug Rossnow, the Reagan Era  
William Berman, America's Right Turn: From Nixon to Bush  
Gil Troy and Vincent Cannato, Living in the Eighties  
Jules Tygiel, Ronald Reagan and the Triumph of American Conservatism  
Kiron Skinner, Annelise Anderson, and Martin Anderson, eds., Reagan in His Own Hand  
Samuel Freedman, The Inheritance: How Three Families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond  
William Hyland, ed., The Reagan Foreign Policy  
Michael Bechloss and Strobe Talbott, At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War  
Peter Schweizer, Reagan’s War  
Theodore Draper, A Very Thin Line  
Bincent Blasi, The Burger Court  
Sidney Blumenthal, The Rise of the Counter-Establishment  
Thomas Ferguson and Joel Rogers, Right Turn  
Irving Kristol, Reflections of a Neoconservative

April 30    Culture and Society Since the 1970s
Required Reading:

James Patterson, Restless Giant, chs. 2, 8, 9  
Bernard Goldberg, Bias, chs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 12  
Richard Sander and Stewart Taylor, Mismatch, preface, chs. 1, 6  
Steven Levitt, Freakonomics, ch. 4  
Peter Sacks, Generation X Goes to College, ch. 11  
David Brooks, Bobos in Paradise  
Naomi Schaefer, Riley, "'Market Penetration,'" *Commentary*, September 2017, pp. 46-47  
Claire Lehmann, "'Teenage Wasteland,'" *Commentary*, November 2017, pp. 50-52
Suggested Reading:
- Philip Jenkins, Decade of Nightmares
- Judith Stein, Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance in the Seventies
- Gil Troy and Vincent Cannato, Living in the Eighties
- Anthony Lukas, Common Ground
- Christopher Lasch, The Culture of Narcissism
- Christopher Lasch, The Revolt of the Elites
- Charles Murray, Losing Ground
- Michael Lewis, The Culture of Inequality
- Philip Green, The Pursuit of Inequality
- Marvin Olasky, The Tragedy of American Compassion
- Paul Sniderman and Thomas Piazza, The Scar of Race
- William Julius Wilson, When Work Disappears
- Jonathan Kaufman, Broken Alliance
- Shirley Rogers Radl, The Invisible Woman
- Susan Faludi, Backlash
- Naomi Wolf, Fire with Fire
- Daphne Patai and Noretta Koertge, Professing Feminism
- Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., The Disuniting of America
- Robert Hughes, Culture of Complaint
- Stephan Thernstrom and Abigail Thernstrom, America in Black and White
- John McWhorter, Losing the Race
- Robert Putnam, Bowling Alone
- Thomas Friedman, The World Is Flat
- Bernard Goldberg, Bias
- Susan Jacoby, The Age of American Unreason
- Bethany Moreton, To Serve God and Wal-Mart

May 7

In Our Time

Required Reading:
- James Patterson, Restless Giant, chs. 10, 11, 12
- Dick Morris, Behind the Oval Office, chapter 5
- Steven Gillon, The Pact, preface
- Steven Gillon, That’s Not What We Meant to Do, introduction
Andrew Bacevich, The Limits of Power, conclusion (pp. 170-182)

Suggested Reading:
Jack Germond and Jules Whitcover, Mad as Hell: Revolt at the Ballot Box, 1992
Michael Duffy and Dan Goodgame, Running in Place: The Status Quo Presidency of George Bush
Charles Kolb, White House Daze: The Unmaking of Domestic Policy in the Bush Years
Timothy Naftali, George H. W. Bush
Michael Tomasky, Bill Clinton
David Maranis, First in His Class
Nigel Hamilton, Bill Clinton
Howard Kortz, Spin Cycle
Steven Gillon, The Pact
George Stephanopoulos, All Too Human
Bob Woodward, The Commanders
Bob Woodward, The Agenda
Michael Isikoff, Uncovering Clinton
Kevin Phillips, Boiling Point
Jeffrey Toobin, Too Close to Call
James Mann, George W. Bush
Bob Woodward, Bush at War
David Frum, The Right Man
Gary Gregg and Mark Rozell, Considering the Bush Presidency
Dan Balz and Haynes Johnson, The Battle for America, 2008
John Heileman and Mark Halpern, Game Change
Julian Zelizer, ed., The Presidency of Barak Obama
Bob Woodward, The Price of Politics
Edward Klein, The Amateur
Robert Gates, Duty
David Maraniss, Barak Obama