

Readings in 20th Century American History
Prof. David Greenberg
Spring 2014
HISTG9560

Class Time: Monday 2:10-4:00 **Room:** 301 Fayerweather
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Office Hrs: M 4:00-6:00 pm **Office:** 323 Fayerweather

Syllabus

Description. The course aims to acquaint students with important recent work in U.S. history. We will read one book each week, moving through the postwar period. We also try to identify what makes works of history distinctive and important as historiographical contributions.

Course Requirements.

- Regular attendance and completion of the readings. This course meets only two hours a week. Arriving on time and staying for the duration are essential. Students may miss one class during the semester, no questions asked. Students who miss more than one class—or substantial parts of more than one class—will be penalized one third of a letter grade for each class missed, even if they inform the professor in advance. (A student on track to receive an A will instead receive an A-, etc.) In case of severe illness or other extraordinary events that necessitate a second absence, students must provide documentation.

A seminar like this seeks to help students form their own ideas and share them with their peers. The very work of the course consists of engaging in a discussion of ideas. Students who abstain from discussion are missing the course's purpose. A class in which a student doesn't contribute at all is equivalent to a missed class.

- Presentations. Every week one student will present a historiographic overview that lasts *not more than fifteen minutes*. Each student will present *twice* during the semester. Students should consult with me *at least a week* in advance.

The presentations should do several things:

- (a) offer a *brief* synopsis of the main ideas of the assigned readings;
- (b) evaluate the merits and shortcomings of the works under review;
- (c) situate the readings in their historiographical context with reference to *at least one of the supplementary readings* (or comparable works) **and a historiographical essay you find on your own** (in some cases I can offer suggestions);
- (d) propose questions for the class to consider.

There is an additional, very informal presentation about the first paper assignment.

- Short Paper. The short paper will be a five-page review of a book from the list of postwar history syntheses. Each student should choose a different book. The review should identify the central argument or claim of the book and offer some critique.

You should also read some academic or popular reviews of the book. It is due February 24.

- **Term Paper.** The main paper for the course will be a 15-page historiographical essay. It may be based on the same readings as one of your oral presentations. However, where the presentation should focus on the book under review, using historiography as a way to explain the book, the term paper should *do the reverse*: use the books you've read as a way of saying something meaningful and original about the broader historical topic. The paper should deal with at least four books (or three books and a major article). The essays are due Monday, May 12. Please consult with me on your topic *before Spring Recess*.
- **Courseworks** will be our class website. Go to <http://cuit.columbia.edu/courseworks-login> and log in using your Columbia ID and password. On the site I will post announcements, assignments, readings, and so on. Please check regularly.
- **University email** should be checked regularly.

Academic Integrity. The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.


¶ Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.


¶ In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

¶ Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

Reading List.

 **Book** available at Book Culture or Butler library reserves.

 **Article** available at online on the class website at the Courseworks site.

 **Article** on the Web.

Books are on reserve in Butler Library and at the Book Culture. Additional articles, if assigned, will be posted on the class Courseworks website.

1. Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*. Faber & Faber. ISBN: 0-571-22464-4.
2. Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*. Liveright. ISBN: 0-87140-738-8. (Paperback. If not yet available, hardback ISBN is 0-87140-450-8.)
3. Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights*. Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0-674-02536-9.
4. Richard Pells, *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age: American Intellectuals in the 1940s and 1950s*. Wesleyan University Press. ISBN: 0-8195-6225-4.
5. Alexander Vassiliev & Allen Weinstein, *The Haunted Wood: Soviet Espionage in America*. Random House/Modern Library. ISBN: 0-375-75536-5.
6. Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0-691-09513-2.
7. Allen Matusow, *The Unraveling of America: A History of Liberalism in the 1960s*. University of Georgia Press. ISBN: 0-8203-3405-7.
8. Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Détente*. Harvard University Press. ISBN: 0-674-01763-3.
9. Thomas Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*. Random House. ISBN: 0-8129-7038-1.
10. Dorothy Sue Cobble, *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0-691-12368-3.
11. Philip Jenkins, *Decade of Nightmares: The End of the Sixties and the Making of Eighties America*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-19-534158-9.
12. Justin Vaïsse, *Neoconservatism: The Biography of a Movement*. Harvard University Press. 0-674-06070-9.
13. Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*. Harvard University Press. 0-674-06436-4.
14. James Mann, *The Rebellion of Ronald Reagan: A History of the End of the Cold War*. Penguin Books. 0-14-311679-7.

Weekly Schedule.

WEEK 1

M Jan. 27: INTRODUCTION

Required Reading:

📖 Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

WEEK 2

M Feb. 3: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEW DEAL

Required Reading:

📖 Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself*

Supplemental Reading:

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

📖 William Leuchtenburg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal*

📖 Ellis Hawley, *The New Deal and the Problem of Democracy*

→ **At 3:30 pm Ira Katznelson will join us to discuss *Fear Itself*.**

WEEK 3

M Feb. 10: CREATING THE POSTWAR WORLD

Required Reading:

📖 Elizabeth Borgwardt, *A New Deal for the World*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Mary Ann Glendon, *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

📖 Mark Mazower, *No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations*

📖 Sam Power, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*

→ **At 2:30 pm Liz Borgwardt will join us by Skype to discuss *A New Deal for the World*.**

WEEK 4

M Feb. 17: INTELLECTUAL CURRENTS

Required Reading:

📖 Richard Pells, *The Liberal Mind in a Conservative Age*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Neil Jumonville, *Critical Crossings: The New York Intellectuals in Postwar America*

📖 Alexander Bloom, *Prodigal Sons: The New York Intellectuals and Their World*

📖 Allan Wald, *New York Intellectuals*

WEEK 5**M Feb. 24: THE COLD WAR AT HOME***Required Reading:*

📖 Alexander Vassiliev & Allen Weinstein, *The Haunted Wood: Soviet Espionage in America*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes, and Frederic Firsov, *The Secret World of American Communism*

📖 Ellen Schrecker, *Many Are the Crimes*

📖 Richard Gid Powers, *Not Without Honor*

Short papers due. Second hour devoted to discussion of short papers.

WEEK 6**M Mar. 3: CIVIL RIGHTS AND ANTI-COMMUNISM***Required Reading:*

📖 Mary Dudziak, *Cold War Civil Rights*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena*

📖 William P. Jones, *The March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom, and the Forgotten History of Civil Rights*

📖 Penny Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anti-Colonialism, 1937-1957*

WEEK 7**M Mar. 10: THE TRIUMPH OF LIBERALISM***Required Reading:*

📖 Allen Matusow, *The Unraveling of America: A History of Liberalism in the 1960s*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 G. Calvin Mackenzie and Robert Weisbrot, *The Liberal Hour: Washington and the Politics of Change in the 1960s*

📖 Todd Gitlin, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*

📖 David Farber, *The Age of Great Dreams: America in the 1960s*

***** Monday, Mar 17 - Friday, Mar 21: Spring Recess *****

WEEK 8**M Mar. 24: THE CHALLENGE OF THE LEFT***Required Reading:*

📖 Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution and the Rise of Detente*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Tom Wells, *The War Within: America's Battle over Vietnam*

- 📖 Jussi Hanhimaki, *The Rise and Fall of Détente : American Foreign Policy and the Transformation of the Cold War*
- 📖 John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*

→ At 3:30 pm Jeremi Suri will join us by Skype to discuss **Power and Protest.**

WEEK 9

M Mar. 31: CIVIL RIGHTS: AFTER VICTORY

Required Reading:

- 📖 Thomas Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty*

Supplemental Reading:

- 📖 Mark Brilliant, *The Color of America Has Changed*
- 📖 Peniel Joseph, *Waiting Till the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*
- 📖 Dan T. Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: Race in the Conservative Counterrevolution 1963-1994*
- 📖 Tomiko Brown-Nagin, *Courage to Dissent: Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Rights Movement*

→ At 3:30 pm Tom Sugrue will join us by Skype to discuss **Sweet Land of Liberty.**

WEEK 10

M Apr. 7: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Required Reading:

- 📖 Dorothy Sue Cobble, *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America*

Supplemental Reading:

- 📖 Sara Evans, *Personal Politics*
- 📖 Alice Kessler-Harris, *In Pursuit of Equity: Women, Men, and the Quest for Economic Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America*
- 📖 Alice Echols, *Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975*
- 📖 Ruth Rosen, *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America*

WEEK 11

M Apr. 14: The 1970s

Required Reading:

- 📖 Philip Jenkins, *Decade of Nightmares: The End of the Sixties and the Making of Eighties America*

Supplemental Reading:

- 📖 Bruce Schulman, *The Seventies*
- 📖 Laura Kalman, *Right Star Rising: A New Politics, 1974-1980*
- 📖 Robert Self, *All in the Family*
- 📖 Jefferson Cowie, *Stayin' Alive*

WEEK 12**M Apr. 21: NEOCONSERVATISM***Required Reading:*

📖 Justin Vaïsse, *Neoconservatism: The Biography of a Movement*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Peter Steinfels, *The Neoconservatives*

📖 Jacob Heilbrunn, *They Knew They Were Right: The Rise of the Neocons*

📖 Murray Friedman, *The Neoconservative Revolution: Jewish Intellectuals and the Shaping of Public Policy*

WEEK 13**M Apr. 28: THE 1980S***Required Reading:*

📖 Daniel Rodgers, *Age of Fracture*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Sean Wilentz, *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974-2008*

📖 Gil Troy, *Morning in America*

📖 John Ehrman, *The Eighties*

→ **At 3:30 pm Dan Rodgers will join us by Skype to discuss *Age of Fracture*.**

WEEK 14**M May 5: REAGAN AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR***Required Reading:*

📖 James Mann, *The Rebellion of Ronald Reagan*

Supplemental Reading:

📖 Paul Lettow, *Ronald Reagan and His Quest to Abolish Nuclear Weapons*

📖 Frances FitzGerald, *Way Out There In the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars and the End of the Cold War*

📖 James Graham Wilson, *The Triumph of Improvisation: Gorbachev's Adaptability, Reagan's Engagement, and the End of the Cold War*

→ **At 3:30 pm James Mann will join us by Skype to discuss *The Rebellion of Ronald Reagan*.**