

**HIS 702 – Graduate Colloquium in U.S. History since 1865
Spring 2008**

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Course Objectives:

Simply put, you should emerge from this class with a broad understanding of the themes, interpretive models, methodology, and historiography of American History since 1865.

Attendance Policy:

It is an unwritten rule that you do not miss class in graduate school. If you anticipate a problem or encounter an emergency, contact me promptly.

Weekly Class Routine and Work Load:

I expect everyone to read the common titles listed for each week on the schedule. In addition, all participants in this colloquium should pull two or more reviews of the alternative titles. No later than 24 hours before class meets, you should post to our Blackboard discussion forum a 250 word entry that reflects upon some aspect of the assigned reading. Lastly, I expect you to have read all of the blackboard entries posted by your classmates by the time class meets.

Each of you will also select three different weeks from our schedule for which you will be responsible for reading the alternative titles in addition to the common reading. You will then write and submit an 8 to 10 page synthetic *Reviews in American History*-style essay that both compares these works and places them within the broader historiography of the topic.

When we meet for class each week, you should expect to participate in a rigorous examination of the works under consideration. I will expect those who have signed up to write a review essay for that week to take a leadership role in class discussion.

On the last day of class, you will write a “comprehensive exams-style” essay based on your selection from a list of historiography oriented questions. This will serve as not only twenty percent of your grade, but should serve as some preparation for your comprehensive examinations in the coming year.

Recapitulation of written work:

One weekly 250 word Blackboard posting for each week’s common readings
Three (3) 8 to 10 page synthetic review essays for selected weeks’ readings.

One (1) in-class exam essay.

Grading & Evaluation Weights:

Synthetic Review Essays (3) at 20% each =	60%
Discussion / Blackboard Posts =	20%
Final “Mini Comps” Essay =	20%

Weekly Readings

General Reader:

A Companion to 20th Century America (Blackwell Companions to American History) (Wiley, 2006) ISBN: 140515652X

Week 1 (Jan. 16): Enduring Intellectual Legacies of the Civil War

Common reading:

Louis Menand, *The Metaphysical Club: A History of Ideas in America* (FS&G, 2002) ISBN: 0007126905

(No alternate titles for synthetic analysis for week 1)

Week 2 (Jan. 23): Reconstructions of Reconstruction

Common readings:

Laura F. Edwards, “Emancipation and its Consequences,” and Michael W. Fitzgerald, “Political Reconstruction, 1865-1877” in *A Companion to the American South* (on Blackboard)

Thomas J. Brown, ed., *Reconstructions: New Perspectives on Postbellum America* (Oxford, 2006) ISBN: 0195175956

Alternative titles:

Laura Edwards, *Gendered Strife and Confusion: The Political Culture of Reconstruction* (Illinois, 1997) ISBN: 0252066006

Heather Cox Richardson, *The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Politics, and Labor in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901* (Harvard, 2001)

Week 3 (Jan. 30): Sectional Reconciliation

Common reading:

Nina Silber, *The Romance of Reunion: Northerners and the South, 1865-1900* (North Carolina, 1997) ISBN: 0807846856

Alternative titles:

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Belknap, 2002) ISBN: 0674008197

Jane Dailey, *Before Jim Crow: The Politics of Race in Postemancipation Virginia* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2000) ISBN: 0807849014

or

Kathleen Clark, *Defining Moments: African American Culture and the Politics of Commemoration in the South, 1863-1913* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2006) ISBN: 0807856223

Week 4 (Feb. 13 – skipping Feb. 6): The Progressive Era

Common readings:

Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of Progressivism in America, 1870-1920* (Oxford, 2005) ISBN: 0195183657

Eugene E. Leach, “1900-1914” in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 3-18.

Alternate readings:

Daniel T. Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (Belknap, 2000) ISBN: 0674002016

William A. Link, *The Paradox of Southern Progressivism, 1880-1930* (Chapel Hill, UNC Press, 1997) ISBN: 0807845892

Week 5 (Feb. 20): Defining Turn-of-the-Century Racial Consciousness and Segregation

Common readings:

Barbara Jeanne Fields essays (on Blackboard)

David Roediger, *Working Toward Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Become White*. (New York: Basic Books, 2005) ISBN: 0465070736

Roger Daniels, “Immigration,” and Hasia R. Diner, “Ethnicity,” in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 215-48.

Alternate readings:

Grace Elizabeth Hale, *Making Whiteness: The Culture of Segregation in the South, 1890-1940*. (New York: Vintage, 1999) ISBN: 0679776206

Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920* (Chapel Hill: Univ. Of North Carolina Press, 1996) ISBN: 0807845965

or

Jennifer Ritterhouse, *Growing up Jim Crow: The Racial Socialization of Black and White Southern Children, 1890-1945* (Carolina, 2006) ISBN: 0807856843

Week 6 (Feb. 27): Environmental History and the City 1865-1945

Common readings:

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (Norton, 1992) ISBN: 0393308731

Paul S. Sutter, “The Environment,” in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 179-97.

Alternate readings:

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1987) ISBN: 0195049837

Craig. E. Colten, *Unnatural Metropolis: Wresting New Orleans from Nature* (LSU, 1996) ISBN: 0807132004

Week 7 (Mar. 5): The Emblematic West and Cultural History

Common readings:

Richard Slotkin, *Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth Century America* (Oklahoma, 1998) ISBN: 0806130318

Anne M. Butler, "The West," in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 163-78.

Alternate readings:

Joy Kasson, *Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History* (Hill & Wang, 2001) ISBN: 0809032449

Garry Wills, *John Wayne's America* (Simon & Schuster, 1998) ISBN: 0684838834

Week 8 (Mar. 19): The New Deal and Uses of Biography

Common readings:

Alan Brinkley, *Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression* (Vintage, 1983) ISBN: 0394716280

Michael E. Parrish, "1929-1941," in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 36-53.

Alternate readings:

William Leuchtenberg, *Franklin D Roosevelt and the New Deal* (Harper, 1963) ISBN: 0061330256

T. Harry Williams, *Huey Long* (Vintage, 1981) ISBN: 0394747909

Week 9 (Mar. 26): World War II, Polemics, and Contesting Consensus

Common readings:

Paul Fussell, *Boy's Crusade: The American Infantry in Northern Europe, 1944-1945* (Modern Library, 2005) ISBN: 0812974883

Allan M. Winkler, "1941-1950," in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 55-70.

Alternate readings:

Stephen Ambrose, *Citizen Soldiers: The U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany* (Simon & Schuster, 1998) ISBN: 0684848015

Michael C. C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II* (JHUP, 1993) ISBN: 0801846978

Week 10 (Apr. 2): Post World War II Urbanization

Common readings:

Kevin M. Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism* (Princeton, 2007) ISBN: 0691133867

Jon C. Teaford, "The City," in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 198-212.

Alternate readings:

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton, 2005) ISBN: 0691121869

Robert O. Self, *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland* (Princeton, 2005) ISBN: 0691124868

Week 11 (Apr. 9): Alternative Narratives of the Civil Rights Era**Common readings:**

Jason Sokol, *There Goes My Everything: White Southerners in the Era of Civil Rights, 1945-1975* (Vintage, 2007) ISBN: 0307275507

Jama Lazerow, "1960-1974," in *A Companion to 20th Century America*, 87-101.

Alternate readings:

Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision* (Carolina, 2005) ISBN: 0807856169

Timothy Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* (Carolina, 2001) ISBN: 0807849235

or

Lance Hill, *The Deacons For Defense: Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement* (Carolina, 2006) ISBN: 0807857025

Week 12 (Apr. 16): The "Global" Quality of American-Style Civil Rights**Common readings:**

Thomas J. Jackson, *From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Martin Luther King and the Struggle for Economic Justice* (Penn, 2006) ISBN: 0812239695

Alternate readings:

Thomas Borstelmann *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena* (Harvard, 2003) ISBN: 0674012380

Ernesto B. Vigil, *The Crusade for Justice: Chicano Militancy and the Government War on Dissent* (Wisconsin, 1999) ISBN: 0299162206

Week 13 (Apr. 23): Interpretive Buffet Week

Select one to read, pull reviews of others.

Mark Anthony Neal, *What the Music Said: Black Popular Music and Black Public Culture* (Routledge, 1998) ISBN: 0415920728

Pete Daniel, *Toxic Drift: Pesticides and Health in the Post World War II South* (LSU, 2007) ISBN: 0807132454

David Carter, *Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution* (St. Martin's, 2004) ISBN: 0312200250

Week 14 (Apr. 30): Last Day of Class – “Mini Comps”

You will select a comps-style historiography question from a list provided and write an in-class essay that demonstrates your command of the topic.