

History 702: Colloquium in American History (Spring 2018)
Time and Place: R 3:30-6:20pm, MHRA 1304

Professor David M. Wight (dmwight@uncg.edu)

Office Hours and Location: TR 11:00 AM-Noon & by appointment, MHRA 2116

STRUCTURE & SCOPE

Welcome! This course examines issues of historical interpretation for the United States from Reconstruction to the beginning of the twenty-first century. The emphasis of the course will be on recent scholarship and the historiographies they are building upon.

REQUIRED READINGS

There are thirteen books assigned for the course, listed below. Books with a “****” after them are available for free as ebooks through the UNCG library. The books can also be purchased at the University Bookstore. Additional articles/excerpts will be provided on Canvas.

Stephen E. Nash, *Reconstruction’s Ragged Edge: The Politics of Postwar Life in the Southern Mountains* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016) ****

Kenyon Zimmer, *Immigrants Against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2015) ****

David W. Grua, *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016) ***

Jason Colby, *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansion in Central America* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011) ***

Victor Román Mendoza, *Metroimperial Intimacies: Fantasy, Racial-Sexual Governance, and the Philippines in U.S. Imperialism, 1899-1913* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015) ****

Lisa McGirr, *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2016)

William E. O’Brien, *Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2016) ****

Kathryn Olmsted, *Right Out of California: The 1930s and the Big Business Roots of Modern Conservatism* (New York: New Press, 2015) ****

Steven Ross, *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017)

Lisa Levenstein, *A Movement without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009)

Sean Malloy, *Out of Oakland: Black Panther Party Internationalism during the Cold War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2017) ***

Salim Yaqub, *Imperfect Strangers: Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s* (Cornell University Press, 2016) ***

Lawrence J. McAndrews, *Refuge in the Lord: Catholics, Presidents, and the Politics of Immigration, 1981-2013* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2015)

GRADING

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Participation	30%
Presentation	10%
Papers	60%

Grading will be on the following scale: A+ = 97 and up; A = 94-96; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87 to 89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- = 70-73; D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = <60

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

Daily class attendance and participation is mandatory. If you arrive late, leave early, or are absent, your participation grade for that day may be half or zero credit. You will be given one excused absence for any reason (i.e. your lowest participation score will be dropped), but no more, so plan accordingly.

You are required to complete the readings listed below each week **before** arriving to class on Thursday. Weekly readings will consist of a book and one or two articles. The “supplemental readings” are NOT part of the weekly readings.

The class will primarily consist of discussing the readings, with minimal guidance from my part. Discussions should cover the following four points, roughly sequentially: First, what are the main arguments of the book. Second, how does the arguments of the book fit within the historiographies of the historical subfields to which it pertains? Third, what evidence, sources,

methods, theories, and/or logics are utilized in the book to defend its arguments? Fourth, what critiques do you have of the book, and where might the field further advance after this work?

PRESENTATION

Each student will read one of the “supplementary readings” books and give a ten to fifteen-minute oral presentation in class, covering the four points outlined for class discussions as they pertain to this book. I will explain how books will be selected at the end of the first seminar.

PAPERS

You will submit nine papers, each 2-3 pages, double-spaced, on the readings for that week (thus you have four “free” weeks). The papers should focus upon the book for that week, addressing the four points outlined for class discussion. These papers will serve as a useful summarization of books and themes that you can use in your qualifying examinations and future research and teaching.

I require that you submit a hard copy of your paper at the start of class. Late papers will generally not be accepted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prohibits any and all forms of academic dishonesty. It is the student’s responsible to know what constitutes academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and to be familiar with UNCG policies on academic integrity laid out here: <https://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>. Students who engage in an academically dishonest act (such as plagiarizing part of a paper or cheating during an exam) will receive a grade of “F” in the course and be reported to the Academic Dean for possible additional disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the university. Do not attempt it.

CONTACTING ME

I encourage you to meet with me at my office hours or at another arranged time. You can also ask me questions by email. Please allow me a full day to respond (or two on the weekends), but I’ll usually reply sooner.

USEFUL WEBSITES

History Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory/>

History Department Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

I reserve the right to modify or alter any part of the syllabus as the course progresses. It is your responsibility to keep up with class announcements regarding any alterations.

CLASS TOPICS

Week 1 – 1/11 – Introduction to the Course

No Readings or Assignments Due

Week 2 – 1/18 – The Battle Over Reconstruction

Stephen E. Nash, *Reconstruction's Ragged Edge: The Politics of Postwar Life in the Southern Mountains* (2016)

“The Reconstruction Era: How Large Its Scope?,” in Francis G. Couvares, ed., *Interpretations of American History: From Reconstruction, Eighth Edition* (2008)

Gary Helm Darden, “The New Empire in the ‘New South’: Jim Crow in the Global Frontier of High Imperialism and Decolonization,” *Southern Quarterly*, v46 n3 (Spring 2009)

Supplemental Readings:

Kenneth M. Stamp, *The Era of Reconstruction, 1865-1877* (1965)

David Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001)

Eric Foner, *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877* (2002)

Bruce Baker, *What Reconstruction Meant: Historical Memory in the American South* (2007)

Week 3 – 1/25 – Labor, Immigrants, and the Rise of Industrial Capitalism

Kenyon Zimmer, *Immigrants Against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America* (2015)

Mae M. Ngai, “Immigration and Ethnic History,” in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Nan Enstad, *Ladies of Labor, Girls of Adventure: Working Women, Popular Culture, and Labor Politics at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (1999)

Mai M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005)

Thomas Andrews, *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War* (2008)

Jackson Lears, *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877-1920* (2009)

Week 4 – 2/1 – American Indians and Historical Memory

David W. Grua, *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory* (2016)

James T. Campbell, “Settling Accounts? An Americanist Perspective on Historical Reconciliation,” *American Historical Review*, Volume 114, Issue 4, October 2009

Ned Blackhawk, “American Indians and the Study of U.S. History,” in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Frederick Hoxie, *A Final Promise: The Campaign to Assimilate the Indians, 1880-1920* (1984)

Patricia Limerick, *The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West* (1987)

Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire* (2008)

Elliott West, *The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story* (2009)

Week 5 – 2/8 – The United States as Overseas Empire

Jason Colby, *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansion in Central America* (2011)

Paul A. Kramer, “Power and Connection: Imperial Histories of the United States in the World,” *American Historical Review*, Volume 116, Issue 5, December 2011

Emily S. Rosenberg, “America and the World: From National to Global,” in James M. Banner, Jr., ed., *A Century of American Historiography* (2010)

Supplemental Readings:

William Appleman Williams, *The Tragedy of American Diplomacy* (1959)

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American War* (1998)

Mary Renda, *Taking Haiti: Military Occupation and the Culture of U.S. Imperialism, 1915-1940* (2001)

Bruce Cumings, *Dominion from Sea to Sea: Pacific Ascendancy and American Power* (2009)

Week 6 – 2/15 – Sexual and Urban Histories of the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Victor Román Mendoza, *Metroimperial Intimacies: Fantasy, Racial-Sexual Governance, and the Philippines in U.S. Imperialism, 1899-1913* (2015)

Joanne Meyerowitz, “Transnational Sex and U.S. History,” *American Historical Review*, Volume 114, Issue 5, December 2009

Supplemental Readings:

George Chauncy, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World, 1890-1940* (1994)

John F. Kasson, *Houdini, Tarzan, and the Perfect Man: The White Male Body and the Challenge of Modernity in America* (2001)

Elizabeth Alice Clement, *Love for Sale: Courting, Treating, and Prostitution in New York City, 1900-1945* (2006)

Daniel Hurewitz, *Bohemian Los Angeles and the Making of Modern Politics* (2008)

Week 7 – 2/22 – Progressivism and Its Legacies

Lisa McGirr, *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State* (2016)

“The Progressive Movement: Elitist or Democratic?,” in Francis G. Couvares, ed., *Interpretations of American History: From Reconstruction, Eighth Edition* (2008)

Supplemental Readings:

Robert H. Wiebe, *The Search for Order, 1877-1920* (1967)

Thomas Knock, *To End All Wars: Woodrow Wilson and the Quest for a New World Order* (1992)

Alan Dawley, *Changing the World: American Progressives in War and Revolution* (2003)

Allison L. Sneider, *Suffragists in an Imperial Age: U.S. Expansion and the Woman Question, 1870-1929* (2008)

Week 8 – 3/1 – Jim Crow and the History of the Environment/Science

William E. O'Brien, *Landscapes of Exclusion: State Parks and Jim Crow in the American South* (2016)

Andrea Patterson, "Germs and Jim Crow: The Impact of Microbiology on Public Health Policies in Progressive Era American South," *Journal of the History of Biology* (2009)

Supplemental Readings:

C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955)

Glenda Gilmore, *Gender and Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920* (1992)

Crystal Feimster, *Southern Horrors: Women and the Politics of Rape and Lynching* (2009)

Peggy Pascoe, *What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America* (2009)

Week 9 – 3/8 – BREAK WEEK

Week 10 – 3/15 – The Great Depression and US Politics

Kathryn Olmsted, *Right Out of California: The 1930s and the Big Business Roots of Modern Conservatism* (2015)

Lisa McGirr, "The Interwar Years," in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl* (1979)

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War* (1995)

Ira Katznelson, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time* (2013)

Travis Byrd, *Unraveled: Labor Strife and Carolina Folk during the Marion Textile Strikes of 1929* (2015)

Week 11 – 3/22 – The United States, Fascism, and World War II

Steven Ross, *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America* (2017)

Richard Steigmann-Gall, “Star-Spangled Fascism: American Interwar Political Extremism in Comparative Perspective,” *Journal of Social History* (2017)

Supplemental Readings:

John W. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (1986)

Michael C.C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II* (1994)

Emily S. Rosenberg, *A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory* (2003)

Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through Twentieth-Century Europe* (2005)

Week 12 – 3/29 – Class, Gender, and Race in the Post-War Era

Lisa Levenstein, *A Movement without Marches: African American Women and the Politics of Poverty in Postwar Philadelphia* (2009)

Rebecca Edwards, “Women’s and Gender History,” in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era* (1988)

George Lipsitz, *Rainbow at Midnight: Labor and Culture in the 1940s* (1994)

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* (2001)

Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers’ Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (2003)

Week 13 – 4/5 – African American Identity and Activism in the Post-War Era

Sean Malloy, *Out of Oakland: Black Panther Party Internationalism during the Cold War* (2017)

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past,” *Journal of American History*, Volume 91, Issue 4, March 2005

Supplemental Readings:

Penny Von Eschen, *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (1997)

Timothy B. Tyson, *Radio Free Dixie: Robert F. Williams and the Roots of Black Power* (1999)

Thomas F. Jackson, *From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Struggle for Economic Justice* (2007)

Thomas Sugrue, *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North* (2008)

Week 14 – 4/12 – The United States in a Globalizing World

Salim Yaqub, *Imperfect Strangers: Americans, Arabs, and U.S.-Middle East Relations in the 1970s* (2016)

Ussama Makdisi, “The Privilege of Acting Upon Others: The Middle Eastern Exception to Anti-Exceptionalist Histories of the US and the World,” in Frank Costigliola and Michael J. Hogan, eds., *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations, Third Edition* (2016)

Supplemental Readings:

Alfred E. Eckes Jr. and Thomas Zeiler, *Globalization and the American Century* (2003)

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Intervention and the Making of Our Times* (2005)

Matthew Connelly, *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008)

Daniel Sargent, *A Superpower Transformed: The Remaking of American Foreign Relations in the 1970s* (2015)

Week 15 – 4/19 – The Recent Past as History

Lawrence J. McAndrews, *Refuge in the Lord: Catholics, Presidents, and the Politics of Immigration, 1981-2013* (2015)

Kim Phillips-Fein, “1973 to the Present,” in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Andrew Bacevich, *American Empire: The Realities and Consequences of U.S. Diplomacy* (2002)

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (2010)

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class* (2010)

Daniel T. Rodger, *Age of Fracture* (2011)