

History 702-02: Colloquium in American History (Spring 2020)
Time and Place: W 6:30-9:20pm, MHRA 1304

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

Office Hours: M 12:45-1:45 PM, W 3:20-5:20 PM, and by appointment, MHRA 2117

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 fourteen 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) ****

Clare Sears, *Arresting Dress: Cross-Dressing, Law, and Fascination in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015) ****

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) ****

Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016) ****

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

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

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

Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013) ***

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

Teishan A. Latner, *Cuban Revolution in America: Havana and the Making of a United States Left, 1968–1992* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018) ***

Michael Koncewicz, *They Said No to Nixon: Republicans Who Stood Up to the President's Abuses of Power* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2018) ***

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

Anne E. Parsons, *From Asylum to Prison: Deinstitutionalization and the Rise of Mass Incarceration after 1945* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2018) ***

GRADING

Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Participation	30%
Presentation	10%
Papers	60%

Grading will be on the following scale: A = 94 and up; 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 Wednesday. 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 five “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 – 1/15 – Introduction to the Course

No Readings or Assignments Due

Week 2 – 1/22 – 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 et al., eds., *Interpretations of American History: From Reconstruction, Eighth Edition* (2008)

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 – 1/29 – Gender and Sexuality in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century

Clare Sears, *Arresting Dress: Cross-Dressing, Law, and Fascination in Nineteenth-Century San Francisco* (2015)

Joan Wallach Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis,” *American Historical Review* (1986)

Victoria Harris, “Sex on the Margins: New Directions in the Historiography of Sexuality and Gender,” *The Historical Journal* (2010)

Supplemental Readings:

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

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

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

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

Week 4 – 2/5 – Immigrants and Modern 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:

Vicki Ruiz, *Cannery Women, Cannery Lives: Mexican Women, Unionization, and the California Food Processing Industry, 1930-1950* (1987)

David R. Roediger, *Working Toward Whiteness: How America's Immigrants Became White: The Strange Journey from Ellis Island to the Suburbs* (2005)

Moon Ho-Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation* (2006)

Sarah Gualtieri, *Between Arab and White: Race and Ethnicity in the Early Syrian American Diaspora* (2009)

Week 5 – 2/12 – 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* (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 6 – 2/19 – Jim Crow and the Modern State

Sarah Haley, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity* (2016)

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

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 7 – 2/26 – The United States as Overseas Empire

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

Emily S. Rosenberg, “America and the World: From National to Global,” *OAH Magazine of History* (2007)

Paul A. Kramer, “Power and Connection: Imperial Histories of the United States in the World,” *American Historical Review* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

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

Julie Greene, *The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal* (2009)

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

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

Week 8 – 3/4 – BREAK WEEK

Week 9 – 3/11 – 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 et al., eds., *Interpretations of American History: From Reconstruction, Eighth Edition* (2008)

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

Supplemental Readings:

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

Emily S. Rosenberg, *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945* (1982)

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

Michael McGerr, *A Fierce Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920* (2003)

Week 10 – 3/18 – The Great Depression and Political Extremism

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:

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

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

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

Adam Hochschild, *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939* (2016)

Week 11 – 3/25 – World War II, the Cold War, and Science and the Environment

Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters* (2013)

Seymour Mauskopf and Alex Roland, “The Historiography of Science and Technology,” *The Oxford History of Historical Writing* (2011)

Sarah T. Phillips, “Environmental History,” in Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr, eds., *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Robert A. Divine, *The Sputnik Challenge: Eisenhower's Response to the Soviet Satellite* (1993)

Nick Cullather, *The Hungry World: America's Cold War Battle Against Poverty in Asia* (2010)

David Zierler, *The Invention of Ecocide: Agent Orange, Vietnam, and the Scientists Who Changed the Way We Think About the Environment* (2011)

Connie Y. Chiang, *Nature Behind Barbed Wire: An Environmental History of the Japanese American Incarceration* (2018)

Week 12 – 4/1 – 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)

Meg Jacobs, “The Uncertain Future of American Politics, 1940 to 1973,” 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)

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

Dorothy Sue Cobble, *The Other Women's Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America* (2004)

Week 13 – 4/8 – The New Left

Teishan A. Latner, *Cuban Revolution in America: Havana and the Making of a United States Left, 1968–1992* (2018)

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* (2006)

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

Week 14 – 4/15 – The New Right

Michael Koncewicz, *They Said No to Nixon: Republicans Who Stood Up to the President's Abuses of Power* (2018)

Julian E. Zelizer, “Rethinking the History of American Conservatism,” *Reviews in American History* (2010)

Supplemental Readings:

Alan J. Matusow, *Nixon's Economy: Booms, Busts, Dollars, and Votes* (1998)

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

Kim Phillips-Fein, *Invisible Hands: The Businessmen's Crusade Against the New Deal* (2009)

Laura Kalman, *Right Star Rising: A New Politics, 1974-1980* (2010)

Week 15 – 4/22 – The United States in a Globalizing World

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

Thomas W. Zeiler, “The Diplomatic History Bandwagon: A State of the Field,” *Journal of American History* (2009)

Supplemental Readings:

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

Jeremi Suri, *Power and Protest: Global Revolution in the Age of Détente* (2003)

Natasha Zaretsky, *No Direction Home: The American Family and the Fear of National Decline, 1968–1980* (2007)

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

Week 16 – 4/29 – Neoliberalism

Anne E. Parsons, *From Asylum to Prison: Deinstitutionalization and the Rise of Mass Incarceration after 1945* (2018)

Kim Phillips-Fein, “1973 to the Present,” in Foner, *American History Now* (2011)

Supplemental Readings:

Nelson Lichtenstein, *The Retail Revolution: How Wal-Mart Created a Brave New World of Business* (2009)

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)