COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines various American communities from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Some are as obscure as Sugar Creek, Ill., others as notorious as Salem, Mass. Each is distinct. The sources we will use are mostly historical monographs, but include sociological works and a novel. The aims of the course are two fold. First we shall consider the relationship between individualistic and communitarian ideals in different places and different times. Topics considered will include how communities are formed, who is involved in them, the relative degree of equality in them, and what forces make them functional or disfunctional. The other major thrust of the course is methodological. We will consider how the authors gathered and processed their data and its relative reliability.

GRADING: Students are expected to be prepared and to participate in class discussions. In addition, each student will prepare three brief papers (two of which will be revised and rewritten during the course).

REQUIRED TEXTS: 
Paul Boyer and Steven Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed
John Farrager, Sugar Creek
Christopher Jedrey, John Cleaveland and His World
Charles Joyner, Down by the Riverside
Suzanne Lebsock, The Free Women of Petersburg
Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
Lockridge, Kenneth, A New England Town
Robert Lynd and Helen Lynd, Middletown
Moody, Anne, Coming of Age in Mississippi
Kai T. Erikson, Everything in its Path
Robert N. Bellah, Habits of the Heart
CLASS SCHEDULE

January 23  Introduction to the seminar
January 30  Read: Lockridge, A New England Town
February 6  Read: Articles on the Cheasapeake
February 13 Read: Boyer and Nissenbaum, Salem Possessed
              Paper I due
February 20 Read: Jedrey, John Cleaveland and his World
February 27 Read: Lebsack, The Free Women of Petersburg
              Paper I (revised) due
March 6     Read: Farrager, Sugar Creek
March 13    Read: Joyner, Down by the Riverside

MIDTERM RECESS

April 3     Read: Lynd and Lynd, Middletown
April 10    Read: Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
April 17    Movie
            Paper II due
April 24    Read: Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi
May 1       Read: Erikson, Everything in its Path
            Paper II (revised) due
May 8       Read: Bellah, Habits of the Heart
May 13      Paper III due
History 571  
Mr. Coffman  

American Military Biography  

Jan. 20  
Jan. 27  
Feb. 3  
Feb. 10  
Feb. 17  
Feb. 24  
Mar. 2  
Mar. 9  
Mar. 23  
Mar. 30  
Apr. 6  
Apr. 13  
Apr. 20  
Apr. 27  
May 4  

Introduction  
Lecture  
Millis  
1775-1814  
1815-1860  Written report due  
Civil War  Written report due  
1865-1917  
1917-1940  Written report due  
World War II  
1945-1975  Written report due  
Oral History  
No class  
Term Reports  
Term Reports  
Term Reports  

Requirements  

Walter Millis, Arms and Men is the only required book. Each week, you are expected to read a book from the indicated time group and then give a brief (10 minute) oral report. The four written reports are review essays (750 words or three double-spaced typed pages) on two books (except for the one on the Civil War). The term paper is a review essay of (1500 words or six double-spaced typed pages) on three additional books. You will give a 20 minute oral report on it at one of the last three class meetings. The term papers are due on May 4. There is no final exam.

Grading  

A maximum of 18 points for each report and 28 for the term paper.